

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

Interim Minister: Rev. Dr. David Thompson

Music Director: Suzanne Strahan

* We continue to be mask friendly, but it is now a personal decision. Thank you.
** The offering can be placed in the offering plates at the back of the church in the narthex prior to it being brought forward.

PRELUDE:

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent Liturgy:

Voice 1: The prophets call, and an apostle writes, that peace comes from God.

Voice 2: “For a child has been born for us...and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ...and there shall be endless peace.” (Isaiah 9) “The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4)

Voice 1: The world, our relationships and our lives are all too often torn by conflict and injustice. Advent calls us to pray and work for peace—shalom—in the world God loves and to which Christ came. But God’s shalom is not simply the absence of conflict. Shalom is the peace that comes when we live life in balance, loving God and one another.

Voice 2: Holy are you, Source of all new life among us.

All: Jesus Christ comes as the Prince of Peace. We join with all creation and lift our hearts in joyful praise.

All: We light this candle to shine for peace. (while we light the candle of peace)

Sing verse 2 of #119 Hope is a star (This hymn is not announced)

(The Candle of Peace is lit.)

Responsive Call to Worship:

Now is the time to get ready:

Let us prepare the way of the Lord!

Now is the time to be changed:

Let us repent and seek God's forgiveness.

Now is the time to welcome God into our midst:

We will worship God in humble expectation of the Great Presence.

PRAYER OF APPROACH *(together)*

God of purpose and promise,

You love the breadth and depth of Your creation
and care for us like shepherds tend their sheep.

You set pathways for us to follow,
clearing the way in the wilderness of the world.

And yet we break Your heart by wandering off,
pursuing our own purposes.

Still, You keep calling us back.

You call us by name

You set us in the world to serve You,
each one with a purpose You imagine for us.

And so we come to worship You, O God,
knowing that in You, we will find our true purpose,
and the path You set will lead to peace and well-being
in Your deep love, revealed for us in Christ Jesus. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *(together)*

God of mercy,

**We confess that we resist change,
even when your Word compels us
to reconsider our actions or opinions.**

**We are set in our ways,
and prefer to consider the changes others should make.**

Forgive us.

**By the power of your Holy Spirit,
give us new eyes for seeing, new ears for hearing
so that we follow Jesus more faithfully day by day.**

Assurance of Pardon: (Minister)

Friends, trust that peace and forgiveness are God's gift to you this day through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Receive the renewing power of the Holy Spirit and be at peace with God, with yourselves and with each other.

PASSING OF THE PEACE:

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you

Congregation: And also with you.

(Please turn and greet one another)

Anthem

STORY: The radio signal

HYMN: #110 Come, Thou long expected Jesus. Verse 1 and 2.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 9:6-7

Psalms 34: 13-18

St. John 14: 27

SERMON: Seek Peace and Pursue it

OFFERTORY:

306 Praise God from Whom all blessings flow

PRAYER OF DEDICATION ((together))

God of promise, we offer our gifts in Jesus' name, for we know peace through His forgiveness and faithfulness. Bless our gifts and our lives. Help us share the peace You offer with lives that touch ours throughout the world You love. Amen.

PRAYER of Intercession (Minister and Congregation together)

Our Loving God,

We pray for those who are waiting for something significant –

for a birth or a death,

for diagnosis or treatment,

for important news or a new opportunity:

Draw near to them in peace and faithfulness

We pray for those who struggle with their faith

and those who have given up on You

because of actions taken in Your name that betrayed Your love;

Draw them back to You in this season of wonder and love

as we pray, Amen.

For healing:

We also ask for those in our congregation who need Your healing touch

We bring their names before You now in silent prayer.... Amen.

Hymn # 118 Hark the glad sound v: 1 and 4.

Benediction

POSTLUDE: