

Order of Worship
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
9:30 am – December 3, 2023

Participating Live?

Text your prayer requests to 805-309-6867 before the end of the first hymn.

PRELUDE

Gott, durch deine Güte, BWV 600
Kyle Hanks, organ
Music: J. S. Bach, Public Domain

J. S. Bach

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Fran Turner, liturgist

So often lately the world can look cold and dark.

We long to feel your presence near.

We read of war in many places,

And we long for peace.

We see injustice and cruelty,

And yearn for your righteousness.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Yes, come Lord Jesus, come.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Salas Family

How does a weary world practice peace?

By listening before we speak and saying sorry when we need to.

By advocating for justice and caring for our neighbor.

By practicing Sabbath and forgiving seventy times seven.

By choosing grace over hate and opening the door for each other.

There are a million ways to practice peace.

So today we light the candle of peace as a reminder and a charge.

With God's help, may we bring peace into a weary world. Amen

Liturgy by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

OPENING HYMN

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

TFWS 2171

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1 Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

2 Make me a channel of your peace. Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light, and where there's sadness, ever joy.

3 Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love with all my soul.

4 Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving of ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life

PASTORAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE*Luke 1: 24-45*

Fran Turner, liturgist

The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.****A TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN** (Children and Youth come to the steps for a word from the pastor)**PREPARATION HYMN***To a Maid Engaged to Joseph*

UMH 431

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1. To a maid engaged to Joseph, the angel Gabriel came.
“Fear not,” the angel told her, “I come to bring good news,
good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news.

2. “For you are highly favored by God the Lord of all,
who even now is with you. You are on earth most blest,
you are most blest, most blessed, God chose you, you are blest!”

3. But Mary was most troubled to hear the angel’s word.
What was the angel saying? It troubled her to hear,
to hear the angel’s message, it troubled her to hear.

4. “Fear not, for God is with you, and you shall bear a child.
His name shall be called Jesus, God’s offspring from on high.
And he shall reign forever, forever reign on high.”

5. “How shall this be?” said Mary, “I am not yet a wife.”
The angel answered quickly, “The power of the Most High
will come upon you shortly, your child will be God’s child.”

6. As Mary heard the angel, she wondered at his words.
“Behold, I am your handmaid,” she said unto her God.
“So be it; I am ready according to your word.”

MESSAGE

Pastor Diane Rehfield

MUSICAL RESPONSE*An Advent Garden* from *Tapestry of Light*

VFUMC Chancel Choir; Clara Johnson, Director; Kyle Hanks, Pianist

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A tender rose is blooming, a flower pure as snow. The winter air perfuming, heaven’s graceful winds will
blow. The gift of love sent from above will like a garden grow.

The desert sands will come alive as streams begin to flow. The barren lands will bloom and thrive. The hills
will be made low. In ev’ry place, God’s gift of grace will like a garden grow.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Let the earth lift its voice; for a new rose is blooming in Zion. Let the garden rejoice.

The lion and the lamb will rest. The bear will feed on straw. In Zion hope will reign at last. A Child will lead
them all. The gift of peace will be released and like a garden grow.

Then peace, like a garden, will grow.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God almighty, we pray for peace, and yet there is war. Help us to do what we can to be among the peacemakers. Bless this morning's offering we pray, that in big ways and small, it might be a sign of your peace, breaking into this world that sometimes seems intent on violence. Bless us too, that we might follow ever more closely in the footsteps of your son, the Prince of Peace. Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Christ our Lord invites to His table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another.
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Family of faith, one of the ways we find joy in a weary world is through connection. The prayer of confession is a place of connection with God. In the prayer of confession, we get to come before God with our full, messy, honest selves. And in the midst of that mess, God tells us that we are loved, claimed, and forgiven. There is no greater joy than that. So join me in the prayer of confession, not because you have to, but because you can. Let us connect with our merciful God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: God of laughter, God of open front doors and family reunions,
we confess that we often doubt good news.

People: We move through this world waiting for the other shoe to drop, waiting for life to fall apart, waiting for our humanity to get the best of us.

Leader: Instead of leaning into joy, we lean into scarcity.

People: We lean into fear. We lean into isolation.

Leader: Forgive us for forgetting that joy is amplified when shared.

People: Heal the wounds we have from past hurts, and teach us how to throw open our doors like Elizabeth. Show us how to find joy in connection. Amen

(Some moments of reflective silence)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Faith family, I imagine that when we come before God with the truth of our lives, God meets us like Elizabeth meets Mary in our scripture today. The door is thrown open. There is laughter. There is joy. There is embracing-and it is holy. So trust this; believe this: You are claimed. You are loved. You are forgiven. And you are sent to serve. Find joy in that. Amen!

Liturgy by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION (found on p. 17 of The United Methodist Hymnal)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us lift up our hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

... And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Sung: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth
are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one
who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

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... As we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Sung: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

... All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Sung: Amen.

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LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

***BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND RECEIVING OF THE ELEMENTS**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

SENDING HYMN

She Comes Sailing on the Wind

TFWS 2122

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Refrain: She comes sailing on the wind, her wings flashing in the sun; on a journey just begun,
she flies on. And in the passage of her flight, her song rings out through the night,
full of laughter, full of light, she flies on.

1. Silent waters rocking on the morning of our birth, like an empty cradle waiting to be filled.
And from the heart of God the Spirit moved up on the earth, like a mother breathing life into her child.
2. Many were the dreamers whose eyes were given sight when the Spirit filled their dreams with life and form.
Deserts turned to gardens, broken hearts found new delight, and then down the ages still she flew on.
(Refrain)
3. To a gentle girl in Galilee, a gentle breeze she came, a whisper softly calling in the dark,
the promise of a child of peace whose reign would never end, Mary sang the Spirit song within her heart.
4. Flying to the river, she waited circling high above the child now grown so full of grace.
As he rose up from the water, she swept down from the sky, and she carried him away in her embrace.
(Refrain)
5. Long after the deep darkness that fell upon the world, after dawn returned in flame of rising sun,
the Spirit touched the earth again, again her wings unfurled, bringing life in wind and fire as she flew on.
(Refrain)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Advent

Everett Titcomb.

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Prayer Requests

Knollwood UMC —Pastor Kalesita Tu'ifua

Woodland hills UMC—Pastor Seung-il Whang

Gloria Lewis—health concerns

All those suffering from illness or loss of loved ones.