



# Sunset United Church

December 5, 2021 – Advent 2  
Laying the Foundation/Peace

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*Sunset United, located on Treaty 4 Territory,  
is an Affirming community of faith. All are welcome here.*

## WE GATHER

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Centering Words

Hymn VU#1 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel<sup>1</sup> (vs. 3 & 4)

O come, O come, great God of might,  
who to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times once gave the law  
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.

*Refrain*

Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,  
from every foe deliver them  
that trust your mighty power to save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave.

*Refrain*

Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

## Call to Worship<sup>2</sup>

If life was a home, then we would pray -

May love be the foundation.

May God be the cornerstone.

May the Spirit be the windows

- wide open mystery.

And may hope be the walls -

Holding us together.

In this hour of worship, let us work toward building that home together.

We may not know the path ahead,

But God is here, even now.

Let us give thanks for a foundation of love.

Let us worship the Holy One.

## Advent Candle Liturgy

Sung Refrain VU#7 Hope is a Star<sup>3</sup> (v. 1 & 2)

Hope is a star that shines in the night,  
leading us on till the morning is bright.

*Refrain*

When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.

Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,  
giving a promise of safety and worth.

*Refrain*

When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.

## Prayer Seeking Reconciliation

In our scripture...

...let us pray the prayer seeking reconciliation together:

Holy One,

When John was born,

Zechariah leaned down and whispered

Words of love into his ear.

We know that you do the same for us,

Day in and day out,

Yet we sometimes fail to hear it.

**We forget that in the beginning we were made good.**

**We doubt that we could possibly be enough.**

**We hustle for our self-worth**

**And wear ourselves out aiming for perfection.**

**We deflect words of praise.**

**We hide behind shiny first impressions.**

**Forgive us.**

**Trusting our worth is the hardest job.**

**Open our ears as you open our hearts,**

**So that we might rest on the foundation**

**Of goodness you have laid for us.**

**Gratefully we pray, Amen.**

## Words of Assurance

Family of faith,

No matter how old we get,

God continues to say to us:

“You are loved; you are forgiven.”

That is the foundation of our lives.

That is the truth upon which we build our home.

So breathe deeply. There is grace and peace here.

Join me in proclaiming this good news:

We are loved.  
We are forgiven.  
We are claimed.  
This is our foundation.  
Thanks be to God.  
Amen.

Sung Response MV#92 Like a Rock<sup>4</sup>

Like a rock, like a rock, God is under our feet.  
Like the starry night sky God is over our head.  
Like the sun on the horizon God is ever before.  
Like the river runs to ocean, our home is in God evermore.

Sharing the Story

Hymn MV#48 I Can Feel You Near Me God<sup>5</sup>

I can feel you near me God I can feel you near  
Yes I know you're with me God I feel you here  
I can feel you near me God I can feel you near  
Yes I know you're with me God Heaven is here.

*Refrain*

And I'll jump for joy I'm singing Alleluia  
Jump for joy for you  
I will jump for joy I'm singing Alleluia  
Jump for joy for you.

I can feel you loving me yes I know you care  
God I know you're loving me always everywhere  
I can feel you loving me yes I know you care  
God I know you're loving me I know you're there.

*Refrain*

# WE LISTEN

## Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Malachi 3:1-4  
Luke 1:68-79 & 3:1-6

## Special Music

## Reflection

Hymn VU#18 There's a Voice in the Wilderness<sup>6</sup>

There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
a call from the ways untrod:  
prepare in the desert a highway,  
a highway for our God!

The valleys shall be exalted,  
the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places  
where God, our God, may go!

O Zion, that bringest good tidings,  
get thee up to the heights and sing!  
Proclaim to a desolate people  
the coming of their King.  
Like the flowers of the field they perish,  
like grass our works decay;  
the power and pomp of nations  
shall pass, like a dream, away.

But the word of our God endureth,  
whose arm is ever strong;

God stands in the midst of nations,  
and soon will right the wrong.  
God shall feed the flock like a shepherd,  
the lambs so gently hold;  
to pastures of peace will lead them,  
and bring them safe to fold.

There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
a call from the ways untrod:  
prepare in the desert a highway,  
a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted,  
the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places  
where God, our God, may go!

## Call to Offering

### Offering Prayer

Holy One,  
You are our home.  
You and your goodness are the place we return to,  
The place we long to lay our head.  
So today as we offer you these gifts,  
We pray that you would take this offering  
And turn it into ministry.  
Use these gifts to transform the world  
We live in to better reflect the home  
You have envisioned for us –  
A home of peace,  
A home built on the foundation of love.  
Gratefully we pray, Amen.

## Prayers of the Community and The 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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

## Hymn VU#68 All Poor Ones and Humble<sup>7</sup>

All poor ones and humble and all those who stumble,  
come hastening, and feel not afraid; for Jesus, our treasure,  
with love past all measure, in lowly poor manger was laid.  
Though wise men who found him laid rich gifts around him,  
yet oxen they gave him their hay, and Jesus in beauty  
accepted their duty; contented in manger he lay.

### *Refrain*

Then haste we to show him the praises we owe him;  
our service he ne'er can despise; whose love still is able  
to show us that stable, where softly in manger he lies.

The Christ Child will lead us, the Good Shepherd feed us  
and with us abide till his day. Then hatred he'll banish;  
then sorrow will vanish, and death and despair flee away.

And he shall reign ever, and nothing shall sever  
from us the great love of our King; His peace and his pity  
shall bless his fair city; His praises we ever shall sing.

### *Refrain*

## Sending Forth and Blessing

### *Postlude*



**Minister:** Rev. Tricia Gerhard (she/her)

**Children & Youth Minister:** Michelle McConkey (she/her)

**Choir Director:** Corinne Groff (she/her)

**Pianist:** Shirley Hill (she/her)



<sup>1</sup> Words: from the Latin antiphons for Advent, ca. 9<sup>th</sup> century; trans. John Mason Neale 1851, et al. Music: 15<sup>th</sup> century plainsong melody; arr. Healey Willan. Words copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Used by permission. Arrangement copyright © Concordia Publishing House. Reprinted under One License 605683.

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