



# Sunset United Church

December 6, 2020 – Advent 2B- Peace

Minister: Rev. Tricia Gerhard

Children & Youth Minister: Michelle McConkey

Choir Director: Corinne Groff

Pianist: Shirley Hill

Special Music: Shirley Hill and Pam Norman



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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 Music

Call to Worship\*

John the Baptist said “Prepare the way.”

So family of faith, how do we prepare our minds for worship?

**We silence the inner critic.**

**We let go of busy thoughts.**

**We make space for God to speak.**

How do we prepare our hearts for worship?

**We bless all emotions.**

**We feel what we feel.**

**We open ourselves up to be moved.**

How do we prepare our bodies for worship?

**We take in the scent, sight and feel of our space. We  
breathe in God's mercy.**

**We exhale God's love.**

How do we prepare our souls for worship?

**We bring our full selves into this time.**

**We wear our hearts on our sleeves.**

**We trust that even now, God is here.**

Family of faith what we practice in worship, we must live out  
in our daily lives. So prepare the way. Let us worship God.

### **Lighting the Advent Candles\***

I dream of the first pitch of opening season.

I dream of a laundry day, where each sock finds its mate.

I dream of family home for the holidays.

I dream of good books and homemade meals.

I dream of sunset drives with the windows down.

These are beautiful dreams, but I also have urgent dreams.

I dream of conversations across party lines.

I dream of more bridges and less walls

I dream of more laughter and less fear.

I dream of more listening and less tears.

But most of all, I dream of peace like a river.

Today we light the candle of peace. (*light candle*)

May it remind us that there is another way. Amen

### **Hymn: MV#220 Peace Shines as the Solitary Star**

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*Peace shines as the solitary star,*

*Faith is the inner light.*

*You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,*

*And illumine the pathway home.*

## **Prayer Seeking reconciliation\***

Holy One,

I wish that peace was something I could buy.

I wish that peace could be ordered in a subscription service,

Found on a map,

Downloaded in an app,

Or voted for on a ballot.

I wish that peace was as easy as a one-time choice when I was feeling my best.

However, what I have found that peace involves everyday decisions over and over,

Whether or not I am feeling my best.

So today I confess, with this community of faith,

That I need your help in this Advent season.

Prepare the way for greater peace,

And teach me how to be part of it.

**May God forgive you. May God's guiding hand surround you. May you know comfort. May you know peace.**

Amen.

**Holy God,**

**We wish peace was something we could buy.**

**We wish that peace could be ordered in a subscription service,**

**Found on a map,**

**Downloaded in an app,**

**Or voted for on a ballot.**

**We wish that peace was as easy as a one-time choice when we are feeling our best.**

**However, what we have found that peace involves everyday decisions over and over,**

**Whether or not we are feeling my best.**

So today we confess,  
That we need your help in this Advent season.  
Prepare the way for greater peace,  
And teach us how to be part of it.

May God forgive you.

May God's guiding hand surround you.

May you know comfort.

May you know peace.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Sung Response: MV#33 Jesus Came Bringing Us**  
Hope \*\*\*

1. *Jesus came bringing us hope,  
Jesus came bringing us hope,  
Jesus came bringing us hope,  
hallelujah forever more!*

2. *Jesus came bringing us peace,  
Jesus came bringing us peace,  
Jesus came bringing us peace,  
hallelujah forever more!*

3. *Jesus came bringing us love,  
Jesus came bringing us love,  
Jesus came bringing us love,  
hallelujah forever more!*

4. *Jesus came bringing us joy,  
Jesus came bringing us joy,  
Jesus came bringing us joy,  
hallelujah forever more!*

## Sharing the Story

Hymn: VU#35 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

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1. *Good Christian friends rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice!  
Give ye heed to what we say:  
News! News!  
Jesus Christ is born today.  
Ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.*

*(Christ is born today!) repeat*

2. *Good Christian friends rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice!  
Now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Joy! Joy!  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath opened heaven's door,  
And we are blest forever more.  
(Christ was born for this!) repeat*

3. *Good Christian friends rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice!  
Now we need not fear the grave:  
Peace! Peace!  
Jesus Christ was born to save!*

*Call you one and calls you all,  
to gain his everlasting hall.*

*(Christ was born to save!) repeat*

## WE LISTEN

**Scripture:** Isaiah 40: 1-11  
Mark 1: 1-8

### **Reflection**

**Special Music: Cradle Song-**  
Instrumental Piece by Shirley Hill and Pam Norman

**Dedication of gifts given during this time of COVID-19:**

**Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn: VU#18 There's a Voice in the Wilderness** \*^\*

1. *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!*

2. 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.
  
3. 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.
  
4. 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!



# Commissioning and Benediction

## Postlude



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