

**GATHERING FOR THE WORD**

Let us take this time to quiet our hearts and minds and prepare for worship.

\* Please stand if able Plain text = Leader **Bold text = People**

PRELUDE *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* setting by Paul Manz

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS The Rev. Dr. Laura S. Sugg

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Linda Valo and WPC Children  
*(As Candle Lighters come up please sing  
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus No. 2 v. 1)*

Advent is a time of wonder—the wonder of the surprising and remarkable Incarnation of God-with-us.

On this second Sunday of Advent we light this candle for peace and we wonder,

**“If God is with us, why is there no peace?”**

We light this candle for peace and we wonder,

**“God is with us even when there is no peace!”**

We light this candle for peace

**and we know the wonder of the surprising and remarkable Incarnation,  
of God-with-us; who strengthens us to work for justice and  
promises us peace.**

Arise as God’s people!

\* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) Elder

We gather in this comfortable place, to prepare for a new day:

**a day when the wolf and the lamb will get an apartment together.**

So prepare your hearts for the day when peace will rule the earth:

**when the leopard and the kid will share a mat at naptime.**

Prepare the way, the way where old notions are overturned:

**when the cow and bear will have coffee, their children playing in the backyard.**

Get ready! Prepare the way!

\* HYMN *People Look East* No. 12

CALL TO PRAYER & PRAYER FOR RENEWAL (Be seated) Matthew 3:2–3

*“A voice is crying out in the wilderness: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has  
come near.”* Trusting in God’s grace, let us pray... Elder

**Holy God, we confess that we do not walk in your light.**

**We hurt and destroy one another and neglect the poor and hungry.**

**We let evil grow among us and fail to bear good fruit.**

**Forgive us, God of grace.**

**Awaken us to your Word, so that we may be ready**

**to welcome you with joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*(A time for silent prayer)*

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S GRACE

Amen. *“The wilderness will rejoice; the dry land will blossom.  
The people of God will return with joy and singing.”*

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God.**

\*GLORIA Tune: Gloria No. 23

**Let the nations shout and sing: glory to their Savior bring;**

**All below and all above sing your praise with joyous love.**

**Glo—ria in excelsis Deo; glo—ria in excelsis Deo.**

**HEARING THE WORD**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 11:1-10 Pg. 654

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** Deacon

SPECIAL MUSIC *A Father’s Love, a Perfect Rose* Arr. Joseph M. Martin

TIME FOR CHILDREN *(As the children come forward, please join in singing.)*

***This, this is where children belong, part of our family, part of our song.***

***Be with us, pray with us, help us grow strong, this is where children belong.***

SERMON *The Peaceable Kingdom* Laura Sugg

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Please Stand) Elder

**We believe that God has entrusted the church**

**with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ.**

**We believe that the church is called to be the salt of the earth**

**and the light of the world.**

**We believe that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker.**

**We believe that the church is witness**

**both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth**

**in which righteousness dwells.**

*--Adapted from the Confession of Belhar*

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER Front of Hymnal Pg. 16

*(Pray, “Forgive us our sins...”)*

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

OFFERTORY *A Lovely Rose is Blooming* Johannes Brahms

\* PRESENTATION OF OFFERING No. 414 v.1.

***As those of old their first fruits brought of vineyard, flock and field  
to God, the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield.***

***So we today our first fruits bring, the wealth of this good land;***

***of farm and market, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand, Amen.***

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

Laura Sugg

**Eternal God, as we wait for the fulfillment of your reign,  
use these gifts and the gifts of our lives to bring justice  
to those who are oppressed, to set free those who are in prison,  
to lift up those who are bowed down,  
and to uphold those who are vulnerable. Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION  
INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE  
PRAYER OF CONSECRATION  
SERVING COMMUNION

*Bread is taken individually. Juice/wine is taken together; wine is in outer ring of tray.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (Unison)

**Patient God, thank you for accompanying us in our waiting  
and feeding us on our journey. We have received the bread of life  
and the cup of blessing with joy. As we await the full reality of your realm,  
may this food and drink sustain us and give us courage  
to be your faithful people bearing witness to your great love. Amen.**

\* HYMN *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

No. 9

\* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

\* SUNG CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: (All)



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.



Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered to - day.

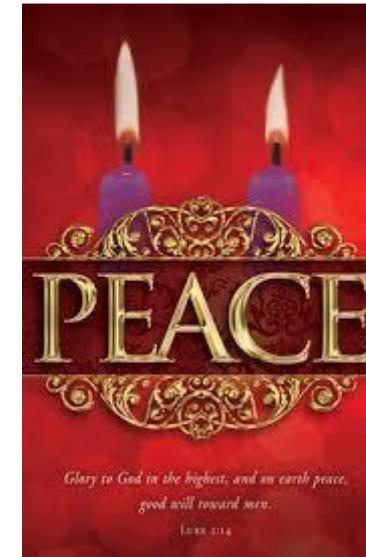
POSTLUDE *Gloria Patri* Johann Sebastian Bach  
Arr. William Irving Nevine

*Please come through to Fellowship Hall for refreshments and conversation.*

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Pulpit Elder: Jo Ann Flores      Deacon Reader: Lori Golightly  
Greeters: Jane Engle & Neil McKearnan      Ushers: Kerry Gardner & Chuck Miller  
Sound Engineer: Sean Mestdagh      Children's Time: Kevin Crowe  
Communion Servers: Anne Baker, Ralph Hecox, Jeanne Miller, Jeff Stimson

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*WPC Mission Statement  
To worship God through faith and action,  
to nurture the spirit of Jesus Christ in each of us,  
to be an extended family to all,  
and to serve the community  
through programs, education and prayer.*

***Second Sunday of Advent  
December 4, 2016***