

Melville United Church
December 8, 2019
2nd Sunday of Advent

* *Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today - Rev. Marion Loree

We acknowledge with respect the history, spirituality and culture of the Indigenous peoples with whom Treaty 4 - also known as the Haldimand Tract - was signed and the territory wherein our church resides, and we acknowledge our responsibilities as treaty members.

Prelude

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

Welcome & Announcements

Joys, Concerns & God Moments/Moments of Awe

Sharing the Light

We light a candle

**in the name of the God who creates life,
in the name of the Christ Presence who loves life,
in the name of the Spirit who is the fire of life.**

Centering words: - Helen Keller

I believe that God is in me as the sun is in the colour and fragrance of a flower - the light in my darkness, the Voice in my silence.

Gathering Hymn: There's a Voice in the Wilderness **VU 18**

Time with the Younger Ones: John the Baptist

Lighting of the Advent Candle:

Voice 1: On this second Sunday of Advent, we light two candles.
Our first light was for hope, our second is for peace.

Voice 2: *(read while the second candle is lit)*

We wait, and we travel together in this Season of Advent.
This week, our light is for peace. We remember the promise and vision of prophets long ago who spoke of a time when there would be no more war, no more fighting, no more violence, and all creation would know the light of God's peace.

All: May the light of hope and peace guide our way as we travel through Advent. Amen.

Advent Song: The Light of the World - Paul Chappel

**Peace is what we pray for this holy day,
As we wait for the coming of Christ,
And we light the candle of peace today,
As we wait for the light of the world.**

**The light of the world that comes at Christmas,
The light of the world that loves us all,
But we only see this light as a candle
as we wait for the light of the world.**

Children's Prayer:

WE WORSHIP TOGETHER

Call to Worship: (adapted from Isaiah 11:1-10)
God's Anointed One is coming;
the spirit of wisdom is upon him.

**There will be no rush to judgement,
And the powerless will know acceptance.**

God's Anointed One is coming;
the spirit of understanding is upon him.

**The poor will receive confidence
but the oppressors will be confronted.**

God's Anointed One is coming;
the spirit of just action is upon him.

**There will be peace at home,
and there will be peace abroad.**

God's Anointed One is coming;
the spirit of faithfulness is upon him.

**The earth will be full of the knowledge of God,
just like the waters cover the sea.**

Come, let us worship God together.

Opening Prayer:

God of peace, in the gathering of your people,
in the companionship that we share,
in the reading of scripture, and the reflecting on it,
in the praying and singing,
and in the beauty of this privileged time together,
**we ask that we may grow in greater love
with you and with each other.**

Search us God,

and help us honestly reflect on our actions.

Open us to the ways we behave toward others
that reflect how we often put ourselves first.

**Help us to dig deep, and rediscover
who you wish us to be.**

Grant us the wisdom and courage to turn back toward you.

Forgive us and open our hearts to your love. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

Hear the words of the prophets -
for unto us a child is born.

**Even as we wait - we can trust in God's future,
we can trust in God's healing forgiveness.**

Hear and be glad.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Ministry of Music: Waiting and Longing

-Lloyd Larson

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-18 (The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition)
(The peaceable reign of God)

Then a shoot will sprout from the stump of Jesse; from Jesse's roots, a branch will blossom: the Spirit of YHWH will rest on you - a spirit of wisdom and understanding, a spirit of counsel and strength, a spirit of knowledge and reverence for YHWH. You will delight in obeying YHWH, and you won't judge by appearances, or make decisions by hearsay.

You will treat poor people with fairness and will uphold the rights of the land's down-trodden. With a single word you will strike down tyrants; with your decrees you will execute evil people. Justice will be the belt around your waist - faithfulness will gird you up.

Then the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat; the calf and the lion cub will graze together, and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear; their young will lie down together. The lion will eat hay like the ox.

The baby will play next to the den of the cobra, and the toddler will dance over the viper's nest. There will be no harm, no destruction anywhere in my holy mountain, for as water fills the sea, so the land will be filled with the knowledge of YHWH.

Words to Ponder: Holding Lightly (Tom Stella - CPR for the Soul)

There was once a monk who happened upon a priceless gem which he put in his pocket. A thief accosted him shortly after, searched his travelling bag, and found nothing of value. The monk then took the stone from his pocket, gave it to the man, and wished him well. The next day the thief returned, gave the jewel back to the monk, and said, "Take back this jewel and give me what enabled you to let go of it so freely."

Scripture: Romans 15:4-13 (The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition)

(May the God of hope fill you)

Everything written before our time was written for our instruction, that we might derive hope from the lessons of patience and the words of encouragement in the scriptures. May God, the source of all strength and encouragement, enable you to live in perfect harmony with one another according to the Spirit of Christ Jesus so that with one heart and one voice, you may praise the God of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Accept one another as Christ accepted us, for the glory of God. Christ became a servant of the chosen people to live out the truth of God's promise to them, and at the same time to give the Gentiles cause to glorify God for showing mercy. As scripture has it, "Therefore I will praise you among the nations and I will sing to Your Name."

Again, it says, "Rejoice, all you nations, with God's people."

And again: "Praise our God, all you nations, and let all the peoples praise the Most High."

And Isaiah too says: "The root of Jesse is coming and will arise to rule over the nations, and they will place their trust in the Coming One."

May the God of hope fill you with such peace and joy in your faith, that you may be filled with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reader: Shawna Dunsmore

Message: The Peaceable Kin-dom

Hymn: This Day God Gives Me (vs 1,2,3) **VU 410**

WE RESPOND

Offering:

***Offering Hymn:** Grant Us, God, the Grace **VU 540**

**Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully.**

*Offertory Prayer:

Peace is your gift, Holy Presence,

**the peace of generosity,
the peace of compassion,
the peace of recognition,
the peace of friendship.**

Bless these gifts, O God, let them convey the peace of Christ.

Amen.

Prayer Prelude: God, Listen to Your Children **VU 400**

**God, listen to your children praying,
God, send your Spirit in this place;
God, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace!**

Prayers of the People: (beginning with "Advent Unity" -Bruce Sanguin, *If Darwin Prayed*)

Lord's Prayer:

WE PREPARE TO LEAVE

***Hymn:** May the God of Hope Go with Us **VU 424**

***Blessing:**

As long as the sun burns in the sky,

God is the warm love between us.

As long as the tides of the ocean ebb and flow,

God is the constant peace in our lives.

As long as the mountains stand and the plains spread wide,

we will live the love and peace of God in our world.

You are the sprig of hope,

the shoot of promise bursting forth in our day;

go to enliven the realm of God's peace.

Amen.

Parting Song: Take Up His Song **MV 213**

Take up his song of peace and go into the world.

Take up his song of peace in ev'ry moment.

In ev'ry moment of the journey,

we're laying down our lives;

lay them down, in peace lay them down,

and take up his song.

Postlude:**Prayer of the Week:**

Open us, O God, to your unfolding vision of peace. Shape us for shalom by the power of your Spirit. Make us bold to hope and dream, living as your trusting children. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Bethel Baptist Church, Fergus
Western Ontario Waterways: Southampton-Mount Hope
Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Graeme Chalmers, Mark Andrews, Vivian and Havey
 Andrews

Counters: Kaillie Rawn and Norm Porritt