

Sunday Worship

Westminster United Church

Over 125 years of ministry in the community -

Moving forward in a tradition of service

Sunday Dec. 8, 2019

**Sacrament of Baptism,
and second Sunday in Advent**

10:30 am

Words printed in **bold type** are to be spoken by the congregation.

Organ Prelude

Lighting the Christ Candle

Welcome and News

Centering Music

Call to Worship

In this season of “to do lists” and rising stress,

We are called to live in Advent time.

In this season that calls us to live generously, yet in our busy lives often we neglect to offer compassion,

We are called to live in Advent time.

In these days of eyes focussed downwards on phones and devices, meaning we easily miss moments of joy,

We are called to live in Advent time.

In this season of anticipation and waiting for the holy to be birthed in the unlikely and the unexpected,

We are called to live in Advent time.

And so, as we gather this day, as we lean into this Advent time, we are called to slow down, breathe deeply, wait, reflect and prepare.

Friends, let us worship.

Hymn VU 232

Joyful, Joyful We Adore You

Advent Candle Lighting

Rebecca McIntosh and Jennifer Turner

(one candle is already lit, the candle for Hope)

Isaiah spoke of the Wonderful Counsellor,
and the Prince of Peace.

The one whose authority shall grow and grow

And there shall be endless peace.

This Advent, we seek and search for peace: peace in our hearts - or inner peace, and peace for the world. We light our second Advent candle as a sign and reminder of God's gift of peace.

We pray for peace this Advent time.

A peace that embraces all creation,

A peace that is found in prayer and caring actions,

A peace that comes from trusting we are not alone.

(light second Advent candle)

May peace light our world this Christmas time. **Amen!**

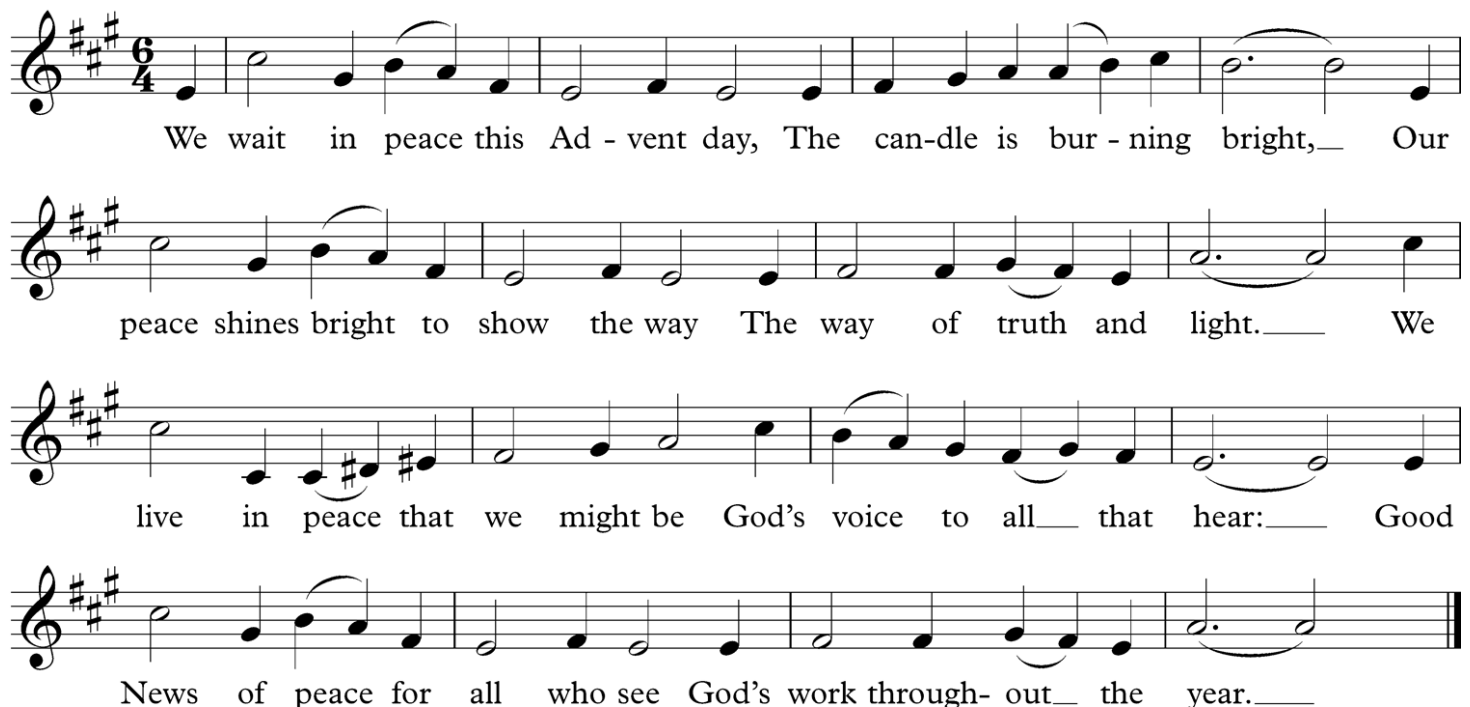
Sung Response

Advent Carol

Peace

words by
NATHAN POOLE
BRANDON JOHNSTON

music by RICHARD SORIS WILLIS 1850



The musical notation is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 6/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff ends with a comma, the second with a period, the third with a colon, and the fourth with a double bar line.

We wait in peace this Ad - vent day, The can - dle is bur - ning bright, — Our
peace shines bright to show the way The way of truth and light. — We
live in peace that we might be God's voice to all — that hear: — Good
News of peace for all who see God's work through - out — the year. —

Prayer of Confession (inspired by Romans 15:4-13)

God of steadfast love, forgive us for the many ways we create conflict instead of seeking harmony; for the many times we are dismissive instead of encouraging, disgruntled instead of hopeful, and selfish instead of kind. Fill us with courage and daring so that we may follow in your way instead. Help us walk your path of peace and hope and generosity with our lives, and help us care for others as you care for us always....

Moment of silence for personal confession.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Words of Assurance

Friends, in this season of waiting, our Good News is this: mercy and compassion, new life and hope, joy and forgiveness are the gifts God gives every moment of every day.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Anthem

Morning of Promise

by Joseph M. Martin

The Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

The Sacrament of Baptism

Ophelia Ingrid Burton Kristjanson

daughter of Jennifer Burton and Johann Kristjanson

Godparents – Richard and Mykaila Finck

THE CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

(Children can come forward to watch the baptism if they wish)

THE PRESENTATION

Liz Witjkamp, a representative of the church, will introduce the baptism family.

THE TEACHING "The Sacrament of Baptism"

The sacrament of baptism proclaims and celebrates the grace of God.

*By water and the Spirit, we are called, claimed and commissioned:
we are called God's own, welcomed as children of God;
we are claimed by Christ, united with Christ, with one another and the
Christian community of every time and place;
we are commissioned to Christ's ministry of love, peace and justice,
and strengthened by the Holy Spirit for the work of the church in the
world.*

PROFESSION OF FAITH AND PROMISES

Do you believe in God, Source of love;
in Jesus Christ, love incarnate;
and in the Holy Spirit, love's power?

Parents/Godparents/representative of church respond:

I DO, BY THE GRACE OF GOD.

Will you share your faith with your child, growing with her in faith, hope and love, encouraging her by your words and actions in the way of Jesus Christ?

Parents/Godparents/representative of church respond:

I WILL, GOD BEING MY HELPER.

CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENT *(stand as you are able)*

Let us pledge to these persons our support and care:

**AS A BAPTIZED AND BAPTIZING PEOPLE, WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO
SUPPORT AND UPHOLD YOU WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH.**

May God grant us all the grace to live our baptism.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH, A NEW CREED (VU 918)

We are not alone; we live in God's world.

**We believe in God: who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

**to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND POURING OF WATER

Gracious and Holy God,
we bless you for the gift of life, and within it, the gift of water.
Over its unshaped promise, your Spirit hovered at Creation.
By water, comes the growth of the earth.
Through water, you led the children of Israel to freedom.
In the waters of the Jordan, your Child Jesus was baptized.
Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do,
that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen.

THE ACT OF BAPTISM

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES and CHRIST CANDLES

THE BLESSING *(VU 965, sung by all)*

**The Lord bless thee, and keep thee:
the Lord make his face shine upon thee,
and be gracious unto thee:
the Lord lift up his countenance upon thee,
and give thee peace. Amen.**



**Children will go to the Chapel for Sunday School following the Baptism.*

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 11: 1-10

Matthew 3: 1-12

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

Katherine Abra

Hymn VU 448

We Know That Christ Is Raised

Message

Rev. Sherri McConnell

Solo But Who May Abide
given by Fred Simpson

from MESSIAH by G.F. Handel

Collection of Offerings and Offertory

After the offering is introduced, an offertory will be played and the collection taken. Thank you for your gift, whether given today or through other means of supporting ministry at Westminster Church.

Offering Doxology

Glory to God

first time: one voice

second time: all voices



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, hal - le - lu - jah, ha - le - lu - jah!

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Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Let us pray,

**Holy One, accept these gifts, and the gifts that are our lives;
and with these gifts may the hungry be fed,
the lonely find comfort,
and the despairing find hope.
In Christ's we pray, Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

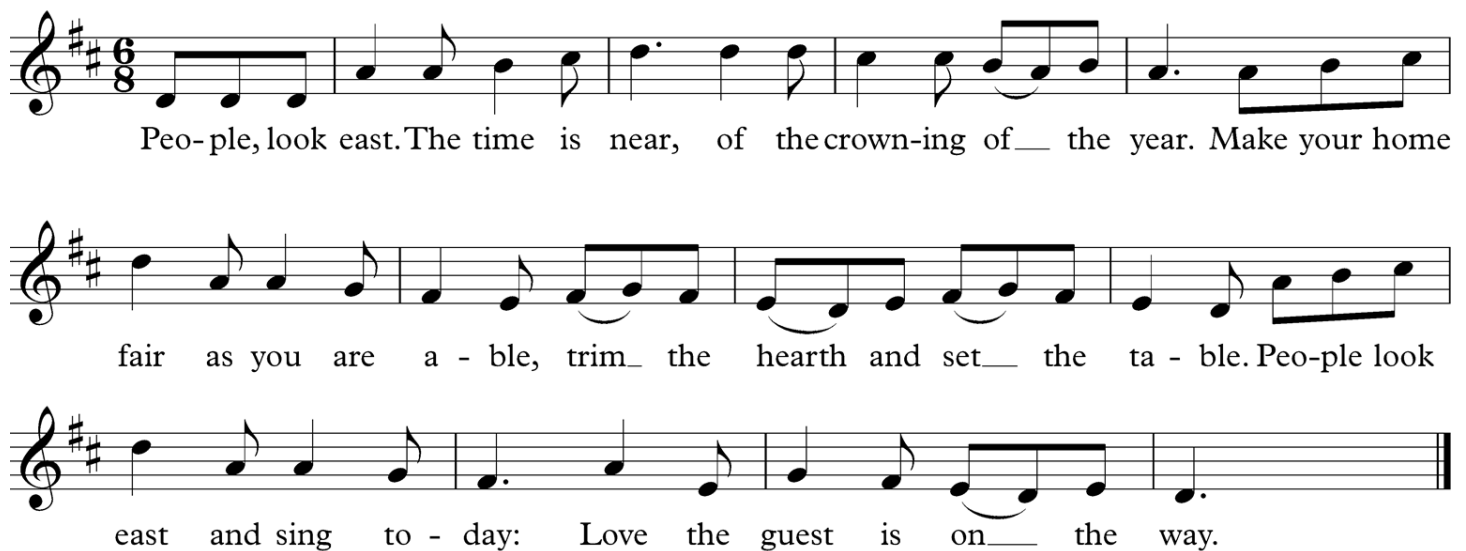
The Lord's Prayer (spoken, unison)

Our Father/Mother, 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 18 There's a Voice in the Wilderness

Commissioning and Sending Forth

Choral Response People Look East



Peo-ple, look east. The time is near, of the crown-ing of__ the year. Make your home
fair as you are a - ble, trim__ the hearth and set__ the ta - ble. Peo-ple look
east and sing to - day: Love the guest is on__ the way.

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Organ Postlude

Lectionary Readings (*Gathering*, ACE 2019-2020, page 8. Used with permission.)

December 15 – Advent 3

Worship materials for Advent were contributed by Taylor Croissant, Kitscoty-Marwayne P.C., Kitscoty, Alta.

Isaiah 35:1–10

The desert blooms and rejoices.

Psalms 146:5–10 (VU p. 868)

God's reign brings justice.

or **Luke 1:47–55** (VU pp. 898–899)

Mary's song of justice.

James 5:7–10

Wait patiently for the coming of the Lord.

Matthew 11:2–11

John's disciples visit Jesus.

To Ponder

With whom do you identify most in the narrative of the birth of Jesus?

