



Sunday Worship

Westminster Church

The United Church of Canada

Sunday, November 27, 2016

1st Sunday Of Advent 10:30 a.m.

They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Isaiah 2: 4

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

** indicates invitation to stand, as you are able*

ASL Interpreter – Terry Janzen

Our service begins with the Prelude, inviting us to prepare for worship.

PRELUDE

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

As we light the Christ Candle we are reminded that Christ is the light of the world.

He came to give us light, so that we might give light to others.

WELCOME AND NEWS

* CALL TO WORSHIP

* **INTROIT** I am Walking a Path of Peace MV 221

**I am walking a path of peace,
I am walking a path of peace,
I am walking a path of peace,
lead me home, lead me home.**

* GREETING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

* **ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING – Katherine Abra, Scott Janke and Teddy Janke**

We are all on this Advent journey together. Travel with us God, during this time of waiting.

Awaken our hearts to your peace.

(First candle is lit.) We light a new candle each Sunday in Advent, reminding us that you, God, are the light along our paths leading us to a more just world.

Awaken our hearts to your peace.

Holy One, as we wait, help us to stay awake and present to your love. Help us unlearn ways of harm, and practice ways of kindness.

Awaken our hearts to your peace.

* **HYMN** VU #6 A Candle Is Burning verse 2

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Moment of silence for personal confession.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Holy One, you are always giving yourself to us.

You never leave us.

We are forgiven and cherished again and again.

Awaken us to this knowledge, that our hearts may know your peace.

That your peace will flow through our words and actions.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

ANTHEM “Morning of Promise” words and music by Joseph M. Martin

THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

FOR THE CHILD IN US

Isaiah 2:1–5

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalms 122 NRSV p. 571 read by Doug Abra

Matthew 24:36–44 NRSV p. 27 read by Kenneth Anderson

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

All: Thanks be to God.

* **HYMN VU #2** Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

REFLECTION

SOLO Bereite dich, Zion from the Christmas Oratorio by J.S. Bach
given by Cathryn Harrison

COLLECTION OF OFFERINGS

God of holy peace, may our Advent offerings be linked with Advent lives that follow your leading.

Transform our implements of death-dealing into tools for life-giving.

May we attend to prophets, old and new, who bid us toward you.

“Bless the Lord, O My Soul and all that is within me bless God’s holy name.”

Psalm 103

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.

OFFERTORY

*** OFFERING DOXOLOGY** Glory to God MV 36

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory in the Highest.

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory in the Highest.

To God be glory forever!

To God be glory forever!

Alleluia, amen!

Alleluia, amen! (x 3)

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Friends, we are called to travel on God’s paths, with people from every nation.

Let us live in the light of God that we may unlearn war and learn peace.

We bring the best of ourselves and our offerings,

to God’s church and world.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

... during this time of waiting – waiting for someone special.

Today, we are reminded that we need peace in our lives.

THE LORD’S PRAYER spoken

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 #27** Tomorrow Christ Is Coming verses 1,2,4

*** BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH**

Into the waiting time we go,
open and ready for the days ahead.

Into the listening time we go,
attuned and attentive for voices of hope.

And into the seeing time we go,
alert to the unfolding presence of love.

Now may the grace of the Promised One, the love of God who calls all things into being and abiding friendship of the Holy Spirit, lead, uphold, and strengthen us, now as always.

*** CHORAL RESPONSE**

Hymn #1 O Come, O Come Emmanuel verse 1

ORGAN POSTLUDE AND HYMNS ON THE CARILLONIC BELLS

If departing before the end of the postlude, please do so quietly for the benefit of those remaining to enjoy the music.