

# **WORSHIP GUIDE for DECEMBER 5, 2021**

## **SETTING YOUR SPACE**

The Second Sunday of Advent is the Sunday of peace. I always feel like this Sunday, more than the others of this season, highlights the disconnect between the proclamation of the church and the realities of our world. And yet, each year it comes as a reminder of why we need the church – we need to remember this historic promise that hasn't yet fully come true, that requires each of us and all of us together to bring it to fullness.

So, once again, we will gather to sing and pray about peace, and we will acknowledge those places still in need, and we will consider how our own lives might help birth more peace in the world. If you're joining from home, consider what peaceful element you can add to your worship space. And make sure you've got something to eat and drink so we can all partake in communion together!

AND this Sunday, you're invited to stay after/come at 11:30am to the sanctuary for a showing of *Mission: Joy*, a film that follows the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu as they talk about finding happiness in troubled times, and as they delight in each other and in their treasured friendship. Snacks + drinks + discussion all offered.

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## **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**Prelude – Of the Father's Love, arr. Douglas , and O Come, Emmanuel, Plainsong – Muriel Dresser, Organist**

**Welcome – Rev. Erika Marksbury, Senior Pastor**

**Gathering Song: O Come, O Come Emmanuel (NC #116)**

**– Jesse Cromer, Lara O'Brady, Dave King, Muriel Dresser**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Child of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, O Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show, and help us in that way to go.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide your heavenly home;  
Make safe the way to endless day, to hell's destruction close the way.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer  
our spirits by your advent here;

Love stir within the womb of night,  
and death's own shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, Desire of Nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind;  
Make envy, strife, and quarrels cease;  
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

## **Candlelighting Liturgy - The Payne Family**

### **The Second Sunday of Advent:**

#### **The Sunday of Peace**

One: Advent is a time of expectation and honesty.

**All: So even when we are struggling and outraged,  
we remember the promise of God-With-Us.**

One: And while we wait and work for this promised peace,

**All: we repent of the violence in our world,  
the injustice in our streets and our systems,  
the meanness in our hearts.**

One: We know that we belong to each other,

**All: and the deep longing of our hearts is peace.**

**One: We light this candle and we pray:**

**All: May peace connect us this Christmas.**

### **Sung Response to Candlelighting**

Shine a candle into the darkness, Breathe new hope into our lives  
Wind your blessed peace around us 'til the day when Christ arrives

Shine a candle in the darkness, Blow your blessed life into us

Shine a candle into the darkness, Breathe new peace into our lives  
Wind your blessed joy around us 'til the day when Christ arrives

Shine a candle in the darkness, Blow your blessed life into us

### **Children's Time - Sean P. Williams, Children's & Youth Minister**

#### **Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25**

*This is how the birth of Jesus came about: When Jesus' mother, Mary, was engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her husband, an upright person unwilling to disgrace her, decided to divorce her quietly.*

*This was Joseph's intention when suddenly the angel of God appeared in a dream and said, "Joseph, heir to the house of David, don't be afraid to wed Mary; it is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived this child. She is to have a son, and you are to name him Jesus - 'Salvation' - because he will save the people from their sins."*

*All this happened to fulfill what God has said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and give birth, and the child will be named Immanuel" - a name that means "God is with us."*

*When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of God had directed him and went ahead with the marriage. He did not have intercourse with her until she had given birth; and she had a son, and they named him Jesus.*

**Sermon: “Peace Connects Us” – Rev. Erika Marksbury**

**Response Song: *Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old* (NC #108)**

**– Jesse Cromer, Lara O’Brady, Dave King, Muriel Dresser**

Isaiah the prophet has written of old  
how God's new creation shall come.

Instead of the thorn tree, the fir tree shall grow;  
the wolf shall lie down with the lamb, the lamb,  
the wolf shall lie down with the lamb.

The mountains and hills shall break forth into song,  
the peoples be led forth in peace;  
the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of God  
as the waters cover the sea, the sea,  
as the waters cover the sea.

Yet nations still prey on the meek of the world,  
and conflict turns parent from child.  
Your people despoil all the sweetness of earth;  
the brier and the thorn grow wild, grow wild,  
the brier and the thorn tree grow wild.

God, bring to fruition your will for the earth,  
that no one shall hurt or destroy,  
that wisdom and justice shall reign in the land  
and your people shall go forth in joy, in joy,  
Your people shall go forth in joy.

**Pastoral Prayer – Rev. Erika Marksbury**

## **Communion**

### **Litany**

One: Into our world, as into Mary's womb...

**All: Come, Emmanuel, God-with-us.**

One: Into the forgotten places, as into the stable...

**All: Come, Emmanuel, God-with-us.**

One: Into the lives of the poor, bringing hope;  
Into the lives of the powerful, bringing caution;  
Into the lives of the weary, bringing rest;  
Into the lives of the wise, bringing restlessness;

**All: And into all our lives and longings,  
whatever our estate,  
Come, Emmanuel, God-with-us.  
May we know you in the brokenness,  
in the love poured out all around us,  
in the hope born anew through our sharing together.  
Amen.**

## **Communion Hymn: *With Joy, Draw Water* (NC #109)**

**- Jesse Cromer, Lara O'Brady, Dave King, Muriel Dresser**

With joy, draw water from the spring; salvation's living well.  
The Holy One is in your midst; Glad praises sing and tell!

A shoot has sprung from Jesse's tree, of God the chosen One.  
A branch of knowledge and of truth; a gift of love has come!

With love the poor will be received; the proud will turn aside.  
And faithfulness will be a path, and righteousness the guide!

The wolf shall lie down with the lamb; the calf and lion play.  
God's peace shall dwell within the land; a child shall show the way!

With joy, draw water from the spring; salvation's living well.  
The Holy One is in your midst; Glad praises sing and tell!

### **Prayer After Communion**

O God, in gratitude for those we share this meal with – the growers and the bakers; the congregation gathered here, and around the world; those who came before us, and those who will come after – we receive these elements and we recommit ourselves to a world where all are fed, heard, seen, safe, free, loved, and celebrated. Amen.

### **Closing Words**

#### **Going Forth Song: *Circle Chant* –**

**– Jesse Cromer, Lara O'Brady, Dave King, Muriel Dresser**

Circle round for freedom, circle round for peace.

For all of us imprisoned, circle for release.

Circle for the planet, circle for each soul.

For the children of our children, keep the circle whole.

#### **Benediction – Rev. Erika Marksbury**

One: Friends,... may the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

#### **Postlude – Postlude in C by Hughes – Muriel Dresser**

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