VIRTUAL WORSHIP
December 12, 2021
Bread for the Journey – Third Sunday in Advent
An Act of Strength: Banana Bread

PREWORSHIP MUSIC

O Come, All ye Faithful
The Visitation

GREETING

Rev. Laura Bair-Baker

CONFESSIONAL LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor: Loving and Merciful God,
today we light the candles of hope, peace, and joy -
beacons of light that shine in the darkness.

All: Today, we confess the ways we cause others to feel hopeless. (Silent Confession)
Today, we confess the ways we crush people’s joy. (Silent Confession)
Today, we confess the ways we diminish peace. (Silent Confession)
Forgive us, gracious God.
This we pray in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: At the beginning, at the end, and in every time in between,
the Good News speaks of God's tender mercy and love for us.

All: God comes!
Not to punish, but to gift us with peace,
not to judge, but to save us.
Thanks be to God!

Pastor: Alleluia!
All: Amen.

HYMN

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People
Bulletin, Page 5
(Verses 1 & 2, only)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 12:2

PSALTER

Psalm 147:1-6

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:10-14

SERMON

An Act of Strength
Banana Bread
Rev. Bair-Baker

OFFERING INVITATION

Pastor: Even in difficult times we remember that God has done great things for us. We choose to live our
lives in hope, counting on the goodness of God in every age. As a sign of our trust in God, we
share our gifts to strengthen the ministries of this church, Starview United Church of Christ and
the wider church. In our tithes and offerings we extend hope, increase joy, and initiate peace. Let
us dedicate all we give with a prayer.

1 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ROvVv9F60U. Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained
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CCS License #1005524
PRAYER OF DEDICATION
All: God of our Salvation, we will not be afraid to offer our hopes, our hearts, our treasures to you, but do so willingly, trusting that you will use them to bring life, hope, joy, and peace to all around us. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Messiah. Amen.

HYMN Let There be Peace on Earth Bulletin, Page 3 & 4

BENEDICTION
Pastor: Be people of peace.
Let peace live in your heart and share the peace of Christ with all you meet.
Share peace by acting out of compassion and kindness, not fear or selfishness.
Share peace by listening to all sides of the story.
Share peace by praying for our world.
As you go out into the wonder of God’s creation, share peace, joy, and hope with all you meet.
All: Amen.

POSTLUDE Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
Let There Be Peace on Earth

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me; let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.

*With God our creator, children all are we. Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

*Original words: With God as our Father, brothers all are we. Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony.

WORDS: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson
MUSIC: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson, harm. by Charles H. Webb, 1987
Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow: to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gVKiIrcdcb6) CCLI Song # 93690
Jill Jackson | Sy Miller
Comfort, Comfort Now My People

1 “Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!” So says our God.
2 For the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.

“Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow’s load.
Calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God’s holy reign.

To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them!
O, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way.
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,

Tell them that their sins I cover; and their warfare now is over.
Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting,
and all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.

This 17th-century German paraphrase of Isaiah 40:1-5 was one of the texts translated as part of the 19th-century British interest in German religious poetry. It is set here to one of the most popular German Psalter tunes, probably derived from an earlier French folksong.