

December 6, 2020
Second Sunday in Advent¹
Active Patience: Refine, Renew, Restore

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PRELUDE *The Advent Candle Shines Bright with Love* (Weller)

CALL TO WORSHIP *Refine, Renew, Restore* (Poetry Video)

Come back, Lord Jesus, and do not be slow.
Refine, renew, restore. We hope, we yearn.

When is this coming? Why can we not know
how long we have to wait for your return?
Come back, Lord Jesus, and do not be slow!

Or help us in the lingering to learn,
your saving way that savors love, and so:
refine, renew, restore. We hope, we yearn.

Come back, Lord Jesus, and do not be slow:
refine, renew, restore. We hope, we yearn.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Liturgist: The first candle in our advent wreath is lit for the first time Jesus came to earth.

All people: *A shining example of how we should live.*

Liturgist: We light the second candle for the second coming of Christ.

All people: *He will return, ending pain and fear -
refining, renewing, and restoring the world to life.*

Liturgist: Jesus, we trust in your return.

All people: *Come, O Long Expected Jesus.*

Liturgist: Help us to live in active patience.

All people: *Come, O Long Expected Jesus.*

ADVENT HYMN *Come, O Long Expected Jesus*

(Tune: Hyfrydol 8.7.8.7.D)

Come, O long expected Jesus, born a child and yet a king.
Born to reign in us forever, now your gracious kingdom bring.

By your own Eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone.

By your all sufficient merit, raise us to your glorious throne.

¹ For this 2020 Advent season, we, at Starview UCC, will draw upon multiple liturgical resources, but most upon a worship resource called *Worship in the Waiting*, which I hope will help us develop a “spirituality of holy waiting” for Jesus’ Second Coming, even as we remain faithful to his first coming. It is uniquely designed too, for both in person and virtual worship experiences – an important to consider when worship experiences may have to alternate periodically, due to the pandemic.

SCRIPTURE READING – 2 Peter 3:3-15

³ Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. ⁴ They will say, ‘Where is this “coming” he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.’ ⁵ But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. ⁶ By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. ⁷ By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

⁸ But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: with the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.

⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.^[a]

¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹² as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.^[b] That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.

¹³ But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

¹⁴ So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

¹⁵ Bear in mind that our Lord’s patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom that God gave him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

SERMON

Rev. Laura C. Bair

TIME OF PRAYER and COMMITMENT

Pastor: Jesus, Prince of Peace,

All people: teach us to walk in your rhythms of grace.

Pastor: Holy God, forgive our impatience with everyday life. We rush around, irritated at delays, frustrated with things and people which do not move at the pace we would like.

All people: Jesus, Prince of Peace, teach us to walk in your rhythms of grace.

Pastor: Holy God, forgive our impatience with answers to prayer. Sometimes we treat you like a vending machine or assume to know your will and your best

for us. Help us to trust your timing and your kindness.

All people: *Jesus, Prince of Peace, teach us to walk in your rhythms of grace.*

Pastor: Holy God, forgive our impatience with your coming again. You are not slow, you are patient, and you long for all to come to you willingly. May we live in holy anticipation of your return.

All people: *Jesus, Prince of Peace, teach us to walk in your rhythms of grace.*

Pastor: Holy God, thank you for being gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. You are patient with our mistakes and forgive our sins. We receive your peace afresh today.

All people: *Jesus, Prince of Peace, teach us to walk in your rhythms of grace.*

Pastor: Holy God, where there is fear in our world, grant calmness. Where there is rushing and anxiety, grant peace of mind, body, and spirit. Where there is restlessness, grant patience. Where there is illness and sorrow, grant healing.

All people: *Jesus, Prince of Peace, we are grateful that you walk with us as we try to match your rhythm of grace. In gratitude, we offer you the gift of our very selves – in addition to the gifts our time, talent, and money. We give it joyfully with the knowledge that in doing so, we support many ministries that proclaim your Good News and lead people on your path of peace, restoration, refinement, and renewal, even as we ourselves are being led along your path of grace and love. Amen.*

CHRISTMAS CAROL *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.

Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.

With ev'ry breath 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!

BENEDICTION

Pastor: In Christ we are a new creation:

All people: *remade, renewed, restored.*

Pastor: Jesus you *will* come again, perfecting all of creation:

All people: *remade, renewed, restored.*

Pastor: Help us live in the light of your coming, Jesus - lives of grace and peace:

All people: *remaking, renewing, restoring.*

Pastor: Send us out, to bless the earth and bless all people:

All people: *remaking, renewing, restoring. Amen.*

POSTLUDE

The Messiah will Soon Be Upon Us (Wright)