

Second Sunday of Advent
December 4, 2022

PREWORSHIP MUSIC

PRELUDE

**Mr. Cody Eckenrode, Organ
Acolyte**

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IS CARRIED INTO THE SANCTUARY

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Pastor: O come, O come, Emmanuel—

All: God with us.

Pastor: Come into our brokenness.

All: Come into our joy.

Pastor: Come into our captivity.

All: Come into our freedom.

Pastor: Come into our fear.

All: Come into our compassion.

Pastor: Our souls have had their fill.

All: Have mercy upon us, God.

Come to us, Emmanuel.

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*²

Hymnal, #89

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING³

Liturgist: Today, we light the second candle of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. Last week, we lit the candle of HOPE. Today, the candle represents PEACE.

THE CANDLE IS LIT

Liturgist: John 16:33 records these words of Jesus: “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

All: Eternal God, as we await the coming of our Savior, help us to find inner quietness and an awareness of your abiding presence. Let this season be a time when we concern ourselves with the spiritual blessings of hope, peace, joy and love, rather than material gifts. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Forgiving God, we welcome the coming of your light in a world filled with darkness. We confess to you the ways in which we have added to that darkness rather than obeyed our call to live as children of the light. We ask your forgiveness: for times when we celebrate violence and belittle peace; for times when we fight amongst ourselves; for times when we forget that we are all children of God; for times when we do not stand up for the most vulnerable and helpless among us. By your tender mercy, may the dawn from on high break upon us, and give light to those of us that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: The Lord fulfills his promises and is true to his Holy Word. We have confessed our sins. God has forgiven us. Be at peace – at peace with God, at peace with others, at peace with yourself.

All: Amen.

SPECIAL TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

Rev. Laura C. Baker

¹ Harader, Joanna. 2015. *Advent 2 Call to Worship* | *Spacious Faith* blog.

² Public Domain. Wesley, Charles. Prichard, Rowland H. CCLI Song # 31999

³ Baker, Rev. Laura C. 2022.

HYMN

Now Bless the God of Israel ⁴

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HEBREW READING

Numbers 13:26-14:10

EPISTLE READING

2 Peter 3:8-15

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:47-55

SERMON

Grasshoppers

Rev. Laura C. Baker

SPECIAL MUSIC

Breath of Heaven (Grant) ⁵ Duet, Cathy Rentzel, Faye Schaeffer, Guitar

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: Sharing ourselves and our resources is an essential part of being a disciple of Christ. When we each give according to our abilities, our faith is deepened, and the mission and ministry of God flourishes. Your financial gifts, offered through this church, Starview United Church of Christ, make a difference in so many ways. In this season of giving, may your giving and sharing be generous. Let us offer ourselves and our tithes and offerings with a song and prayer.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Hymnal, #551

OFFERTORY PRAYER

All: Gift-Giving God, we pray that through the gifts we present today we are truly reflecting the overflowing generosity we have received, from you, in our lives. Through both, these gifts and our actions, we are proclaiming the Good News of Jesus. And, it is through him that we continue to pray, saying: Our Father, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And, lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HYMN

Let There be Peace on Earth ⁶

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BENEDICTION PRAYER (Based on Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi)

Pastor: Lord, make us instruments of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon; where there is error, the truth;
Where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.

*All: O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled, as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

Pastor: Let it be as we have prayed...

All: Amen.

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IS CARRIED INTO THE WORLD

Acolyte and All People

POSTLUDE

⁴ Jill Jackson, Sy Miller. CCLI SONG #93690

⁵ One License, #72264. Amy Grant. Text: © 1992-2002, Hal Leonard Corporation

⁶ One License, permission granted to print and stream. Ruth Duck, © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

NOW BLESS THE GOD OF ISRAEL

All make the sign of the cross.



For this hymn we will use the optional word "FAMILY" and phrase: "... walk with EACH OTHER"

Let There Be Peace on Earth



Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me.



Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be. With



God as our Fa - ther, broth - ers
 fam - 'ly all are we.



Let ^{me}_{us} walk with my broth - er in per - fect har - mo - ny.
 each oth - er



Let peace be - gin with me; let this be the mo - ment now.



With ev - 'ry step I take, let this be my sol - emn vow; To



take each mo - ment, and live each mo - ment in peace e - ter - nal - ly!



Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me.