



St. James United Church

An Affirming Ministry

Centre for Faith, Arts & Multiculturalism

Advent 2 – Peace

Weekly Service Bulletin – December 8th, 2024

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**Please stand as you are able*

PRELUDE / WELCOME / THE LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH / INTROIT

WE GATHER

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Iris Muir

“We respectfully acknowledge that St. James is located on the Treaty 20 Michi Saagiig territory and in the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa Nations, collectively known as the Williams Treaties First Nations, which include: Curve Lake, Hiawatha, Alderville, Scugog Island, Rama, Beausoleil, and Georgina Island First Nations.

Our St. James congregation respectfully acknowledges that these Nations are the stewards and caretakers of these lands and waters, and that they continue to maintain this responsibility to ensure their health and integrity for generations to come.”

Curve Lake First Nation Land Acknowledgement (adapted slightly for use)

*GATHERING SONG

Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope

MV#33

Words and music: traditional song, Cameroon; arr. More Voices, 2007

1. Jesus came bringing us hope, Jesus came bringing us hope,
Jesus came bringing us hope, hallelujah forever more!
2. Jesus came bringing us peace, Jesus came bringing us peace,
Jesus came bringing us peace, hallelujah forever more!
3. Jesus came bringing us love, Jesus came bringing us love,
Jesus came bringing us love, hallelujah forever more!
4. Jesus came bringing us joy, Jesus came bringing us joy,
Jesus came bringing us joy, hallelujah forever more!

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING, GATHERING WORDS, OPENING PRAYER

Maeve O'Neill

One: On this second Sunday of Advent, we come in peace as a family of faith.

All: We watch, we wait, we wonder.

One: Let peace begin with us. In every breath we take, may we live in the peace
Of God's promise to be with us always.

All: We wait for Jesus, the Prince of Peace, to come into the world.

One: As we light the second candle in our wreath, we take a moment to breathe in
The Spirit of peace.

(Take a deep breath in and out, then light the candle.)

One: Let us pray:

**All: God of peace, on this second Sunday of Advent,
May you fill us with the peace that only you can bring.
Help us to live each moment in peace with one another. Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE

Hope is a Star

VU#7 vs 1 & 2

Words: Brian Wren 1985 Music: Joan Collier Fogg 1987. Words, Music: © 1989 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A- 723161. All rights reserved.

1. Hope is a star that shines in the night, leading us on till the morning is bright.

When God is a child there's joy in our song.

The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be afraid.

2. Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth, giving a promise of safety and worth. R

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*in unison*)

VU#921

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 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, the power, and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

***HYMN**

Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands

MV#173 vs. 1,2,4,5

Words: Fred Kaan, 1989, rev. 2001 Music: Ron Klusmeier, 2004. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A- 723161. CCLI License No. 1918298. All rights reserved.

1. Put peace into each other's hands and like a treasure hold it,
protect it like a candle flame, with tenderness enfold it.

2. Put peace into each other's hands with loving expectation;
be gentle in your words and ways, in touch with God's creation.

4. Give thanks for strong- yet tender hands, held out in trust and blessing.
Where words fall short, let hands speak out, the heights of love expressing.

5. Reach out in friendship, stay with faith in touch with those around you.
Put peace into each other's hands; the Peace that sought and found you.

THEME CONVERSATION *Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem* **by Maya Angelou**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EDBwX2Vyv8I> (Read by Mr. Wolfe, 2022)

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

Jesus, you are the light of the world. Fill my mind with your peace,
and my heart with your love. Amen.

WE REFLECT

ANTHEM

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:6-20

Peggy Fillier

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*HYMN

Hark the Glad Sound

VU#29 vs. 1, 3, 4

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1. Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes, the Saviour promised long;
let every heart prepare a throne, and every voice a song.
3. He comes, the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace to bless the humble poor.
4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, your welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring with your beloved name.

REFLECTION

WE RESPOND

OFFERING & OFFERTORY MUSIC

*SUNG OFFERTORY RESPONSE

In the Bleak Midwinter

VU#55 vs 4

Words: Christina Georgina Rossetti ca. 1872. Music: Gustav Theodor Holst 1906.

**What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can give him—give my heart.**

*OFFERTORY PRAYER *(in unison)*

God of many gifts, we thank you for your gift of **peace**

May our giving today be a sign of **peace here and everywhere. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Written by Moderator Richard Bott – 2021. Adapted for use at St. James United Church

WE GO FORTH

*HYMN

A Candle is Burning

VU#6 vs 1-2

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1. A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
a candle of hope in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.
2. A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.

*BLESSING

One: As we go forth in this Advent season,

All: let there be peace and light!

One: Salaam, Shalom, Peace, Mir Migwetch. Amen.

Carman McClelland, *Gathering – Advent 2022* (adapted for use at St. James United Church)

*SUNG BLESSING

Peace Be with You

MV#215

Words and music: Alison L. Wesley (Slaats), 2000

Hope be with you, hope forever, hope be with you, my friend.
Till we meet again, may God be with you. Hope. Hope. Hope.

Peace be with you, peace forever, peace be with you my friend.
Till we meet again, may God be with you. Peace. Peace. Peace.

POSTLUDE