

**St. Paul's United Church  
Sunday, December 5, 2021  
Advent 2**

**Minister: Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam  
Music Director: Victoria Warwick  
Readers: Don & Sharon Penrose,**

**Tech Team: Glenn Erwin, Rick Dell, Catherine Ladouceur, Noah Leis, Bruce Wilcox**



**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO THE GATHERED**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF PEACE:**

*Candle liturgy*

One: Last Sunday we lit the first candle—the candle of hope. Today we light the second candle, the candle of peace. We light it knowing full well that peace is elusive, and in some parts of the world, it is almost completely absent. Yet in this season of Advent, we trust that God is never absent from us. God is always preparing something new. And even where there is war and discord, whether between countries, within families, or within our own hearts, God is present, gently leading us to new possibilities.



**SUNG RESPONSE:** Words and music by Lisa Waites. [Gathering 2021-2022 Epiphany Year C](#)

**Light a candle for PEACE in the darkness, souls content we know we are near.**

**Advent watching and waiting for Jesus, God with us redeeming the years. Emmanuel, peace is here. Peace is here.**

**OPENING PRAYER:** read by Don Penrose

**Loving God, as we enter this Advent season,  
We open all the dark places in our lives and memories**

**to the healing light of Christ. Show us the creative power of hope.  
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,  
That we may walk in the light of Christ.**

**OPENING HYMN:** "All Earth is Waiting" sung by United Church of Christ in University Place musicians.

1. All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,  
and open furrows await the seed of God.  
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;  
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.
2. Thus says the prophet to those of Israel,  
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel."  
One whose name is "God with us." Our Saviour shall be,  
through whom hope will blossom once more within our hearts.

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Luke 1:39-56, read by Sharon Penrose

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** Bell A'Peal Handbell Choir ringing "Impressions on an Advent Carol" by Susan Ullom-Berns.

**SERMON:**

**REMINDER ABOUT GIVING OF OUR GIFTS**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER** read by Don Penrose written by Tanna Edwards, Bridgenorth U.C., from Gathering A/C/E/ 2021/22 pg. 33. Used with permission.

Creator God, as we experience the season of Advent, let us not practise Christmas for the sake of Christmas but attend to the longings of our hearts.  
Let us not focus on the despair of the world but look toward the light.  
Let us not pile on the "I should" but instead throw off that which encumbers and burdens.  
Let us not mindlessly envision creation as it is and has been but rather as you would have it.  
Let us not step over or turn our backs on anyone but explore a new vision  
where all humans are valued and respected equally.  
God who comes with the transforming power and gentleness of a baby:  
We long to experience our world differently.  
We long to envision the possibilities of your kingdom on earth.  
We long to live our calling as your people.  
Blessed One, who blessed us with the ultimate gift, we wait...  
Hear our prayer. Amen (followed by the Lord's Prayer)

**CLOSING HYMN:** "Mary Did You Know"

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water?  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?  
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?  
This child that you've delivered, will soon deliver you.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will calm the storm with his hand?  
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?  
When you kiss your little baby, you kiss the face of God

Mary, did you know? (Did you know?)  
Mary, did you know?  
Mary, did you know? (Mary, did you know?)  
Mary, did you know? (Mary, did you know?)  
Mary, did you know?

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again  
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the lamb!

Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day rule the nations?

Did you know that your baby boy is Heaven's perfect Lamb?  
That sleeping child you're holding is the great I am

Mary, did you know? (Mary, did you know?)  
Mary, did you know? (Mary, did you know?)  
Mary, did you know? (Mary, did you know?)

Source: [Musixmatch](#)

Songwriters: Greene Lee Rufus / Lowry Mark Alan

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## **COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

Take time, in the busyness of this season, for quiet reflection—  
For the light of God's love is discernable everywhere.

**We will let ourselves be surprised by wonder,  
And set aside time to offer quiet thanks.**

The good news of Advent is this:

Christ is coming. Christ is always coming.

**We will welcome Christ into our hearts.**

**We will let ourselves be guided by his ministry.**

**We will go forth from this place in hope.**

## **POSTLUDE**

THE OPENING PRAYERS, CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY AND BENEDICTION WERE USED WITH PERMISSION FROM PROCESS AND FAITH I- A MULTIFAITH NETWORK FOR RELATIONAL SPIRITUALITY AND THE COMMON GOOD.