

Season of Advent Week 2 - Peace



December 7th, 2025
St. Paul's United Church
308 King St, Midland ON, L4R 3M6 705-526-6077
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Worship Leader: Rev. Kirsty Hunter
Music Director: Victoria Warwick
Tech Team:
Glenn Erwin,
Gabriela and Rick Dell,
Bruce Wilcox,
Fran Hill,
Marina Comisso

Gathering and Preparation

Prelude: Christmas Carols 10 minutes before service

Processional: Glory to God

Glory, glory, glory to God in the highest,
Glory, glory, glory to God be praise!
Glory, glory, glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Welcome: Check In: How do you make peace?

Acknowledgement of the Land

Ahniin, We acknowledge that the land on which St. Paul's United Church is located is the traditional land of the Wendat and Anishinaabe First Nations.

Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous People from across Turtle Island, including Metis and our neighbours on Christian Island, Beausoleil First Nation. We are grateful to have the opportunity to worship and work on this land. We are all Treaty people.

This week, we give thanks for people like Chris Commandant from Wahta Mohawk First Nation. He is an award-winning chef who uses his cooking to teach respect for the land and its resources. For example, he has created a meal he calls, "The Duck's Home." It incorporates elements of the diet and environment they live in. Thus, he is creating a story honouring the life of the animal and encouraging respect and care for nature.

We commit ourselves to walking in a new way together: a path of healing and hope. Chi-Meegwetch

Call to Worship

While the sun endures

Let us praise God

While the waters cover the sea

Let us praise God

As the moon shines

Let us praise God

As rain and snow shower the earth

Let us praise God

And so, filled with God's love,

We praise Creator today in beloved community

Where all of us belong.

Opening Prayer Reader: Heather McDonald

Lighting of Advent Candles: Peace Candle

Sung Response: We Light This Candle

We light this candle for hope

Await the new life within.

May our hearts now live each day,

so hope can find a way,

so hope can find a way.

Peace of Christ

Stories for All Ages: When Sophie Gets Angry – Really Angry

Song of Praise: VU#38 Angels We Have Heard on High **Listening**

Scripture: Ezekiel 37:1-14 Reader: Herb van den Dool

Sermon: From Brittle Dry Bones to Living Breathing Peace

Song for Reflection: VU#44 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Life and Work of the Church (Announcements)

Offering of Thanksgiving:

Offertory Music: Choir

Offertory Response: VU#55 verse 4 In the Bleak Midwinter

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 I give Him, Give my heart.

Celebrations and Concerns

Communion

Communion Reader: Heather McDonald

May God give you hope.

May God grant you peace.

Let us lift our hearts to God who offers righteousness to all.

We open our hearts to the One who loves justice.

Children of God, rejoice in the One who calls us to live in harmony with everyone.

Amen and Amen! We give our thanks to God!

In those days when chaos reigned,
you appeared, Creating God,
as you spoke the Word
which caused snow to cap mountains;
as you breathed the Spirit
which give life to sheep and shepherds;

as your steadfast love shaped
all that is good and beautiful and good.
All this was intended for those clothed
in your image of grace and hope,
but we insisted on putting on sin's coat,
setting our boot prints away from your ways.

**Through the prophets of every age,
we heard your words of encouragement,
but chose to keep looking for life in the distractions
offered to us anyway but your way.**

So, in that moment we least expected, Jesus came, to baptize us
with the Holy Spirit's peace and hope.

With those who have trouble playing nice, with those who seek to
bear good fruit, together with one voice, we glorify you:

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God who gives hope to all.
All creation gathers your harvest of peace.
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who stands side-by-side with the most
vulnerable.
Hosanna in the highest!**

In your holiness, God who approaches,
we find righteousness and justice;
in your Child, Jesus, we discover our salvation and hope.
When the world dumps buckets of muddy meanness over us,
Jesus baptizes us in the Spirit's cleansing waters.
When those around us throw stones of bitterness and fear,
Jesus takes them to build homes of hope.

When people would try to divide us,
**Jesus builds a park where enemies push each other in swings,
and sit side-by-side on the grass for the Lamb's picnic.**

As we inch closer to Bethlehem,
as we wait for the kin'dom to draw near,
we sing of that mystery which comes as faith:

**This is the One who died, blessing those who feared him;
this is the One who was raised, the Spirit of resurrection resting on him;
this is the One who will come, to give justice to everyone.**

Now in these days, as we gather around the table
gifted with the bread and the cup,
may your Spirit of wisdom rest on us,
**so we may recognize our mutual vulnerability
and welcome all of your gifts in our lives;**
may your Spirit of might rest upon us,
so we may stand up, side by side to injustices around us;

may your Spirit of unity rest upon us,
**so we may resist all people,
all words, which seek to divide us;**

may your Spirit of compassion rest upon us,
**so we may remember, and serve one another,
when we are hungry, homeless, or lonely,
in this holiest of seasons.**

And when your harvest of peace comes at the end of all time,
and we are gathered with our siblings around your feast,
we will sing and glorify you forever,
God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

The Gifts of God for the People of God

Sending

As God has welcomed us in these moments,
let us go to embrace each person we meet.

As Jesus has been our servant of hope and grace,
let us go to serve the most vulnerable around us.

As the Spirit of hope has filled us,
let us go to empty ourselves of joy and peace for all.

Going Forth

Song for the Journey: VU#43 Go Tell it On the Mountain

Extinguishing of the Candles

Blessing

Closing: Gloria VU#37

Postlude



**The Poinsettias have been
Provided for the Glory of God in Memory of...**

Mel Brown
Doug & Lorraine Bumstead
George & Marjorie Burton
Rocco Commisso
Ken & Bessie Cowan
Don & Jean Craig
Millie Dell
Ellen Barber
Faragher & Price Family
Fred Earl
Helen French
Harold & Arlene French
Gunter & Ruth Freund
Doug Hill
Jake Just
Tom & Greg Rogers
Ginger & George Leck
George Leck Jr.

Marjorie & Clarence Lusk
Michael & Mark McConnell
Phyll & Jim McCullough
Bryson McQuirter
Jack & Edna Parker
Irene & Charles Payne
Christopher Payne
Cliff Pendlebury
Lorne Profit
John Steele
Eefie van den Dool
Aileen & Jim Wallace
Sue Webb
Whiteside & Rivét Family
Members
Bill & Jean Whitman
Marian Wilcox