



St. Paul's United Church, Sun. December 4, 2022

Advent 2 and Communion

Minister: Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam

Music Director: Victoria Warwick

**Music: The Bell A'Peal Handbell Choir, St. Paul's Choir,
Rebecca Amadei**

Readers: Marlis Dupuis, Ian Sutherland,

**Tech Team: Glenn Erwin, Gabriela and Rick Dell,
Bruce Wilcox**

PRELUDE WELCOME

CALL TO THE GATHERED ACCOMPANIED BY THE BELL'A'PEAL HANDBELL CHOIR

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

OPENING HYMN: VU#18 "There's a Voice in the Wilderness Calling"

1. There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places where the Lord our God may go!
2. O Zion, that bringest good tidings, go up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people the coming of their King.
Like the flowers of the field they perish, like grass our works decay,
the power and pomp of nations shall pass like a dream away.
3. But the word of our God is steadfast; the arm of the Lord is strong;
God stands in the midst of nations, and soon will right the wrong.
God shall feed the flock like a shepherd, the lambs will gently hold,
to pastures of peace will lead them, and bring them safe to the fold.

OPENING PRAYER: Read by Ian Sutherland

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: Light a Candle

Light a candle, a symbol of hope. Light a candle, and warm in its glow.
Light a candle to shine in the dark. Light a candle, open your heart.
Light a candle and open your heart.



SCRIPTURE READINGS: Isaiah 11:1-10; Matthew 3:1-12 ,
read by Marlis Dupuis

SERMON:

SPECIAL MUSIC: Bell A'Peal Handbell Choir ringing
"Stille, Stille, Stille"

COMMUNION HYMN: "We Gather Here" VU#469 sung by Rebecca Amadei

1. We gather here in Jesus' name,
his love is burning in our hearts like living flame;
for through the loving son, God fashions us as one:
come take the bread, come drink the wine,
come, share the Lord. No one is a stranger here,
everyone belongs; finding our forgiveness here,
we in turn forgive all wrongs.

2. He joins us here, he breaks the bread,
the One who pours the cup is risen from the dead;
the One we love the most is now our gracious h
Come take the bread, come drink the wine,
come, share the Lord.
We are now a family of which Christ is the
head; though unseen he meets us here
in the breaking of the bread.

3. We'll gather soon where angels sing;
we'll see the glory of our Lord and coming King;
now we anticipate the feast for which we wait:
Come take the bread, come drink the wine,
come, share the Lord.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS VU# 93

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory,
Hosanna in the Highest!**

**Blessed is the one who comes in your name.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION VU#933

**Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come, come again.**



SHARING THE BREAD AND WINE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: Read by Dan Donaldson

In this Advent time, O God, we know that you call us to work for peace. We also know that without justice there is no peace. May this bread and this wine remind us that you are with us in our work and ministry in Jesus' name. Amen.

REMINDER ABOUT GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER: Read by Ian Sutherland

CLOSING HYMN: VU#20 "On Jordan's Bank"

1. On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry announces that the Lamb is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of Kings.
2. Then cleansed be every life from sin; make straight the way for God within;
and let each heart prepare a home where such a mighty guest may come.
3. In you, we find abundant life, our refuge in the midst of strife;
without your grace we waste away, like flowers that wither and decay.
4. Stretch forth your hand, our health restore, and help us rise to fall no more.
O let your face upon us shine, and fill the world with love divine.
5. All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won;
and praise to God whom we adore, with Holy Spirit evermore.

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 peace.

POSTLUDE: The Bell A'Peal Handbell Choir ringing "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

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.