



## **Second Sunday of Advent Dec 10, 2023**

### **GATHERING**

**Welcome and Announcements  
Acknowledgement of the Land**

**Advent Wreath: Lighting of the Candle of Peace**

*(as the first blue candle is lit)*

On the first Sunday of Advent, we lit a candle for Hope.

*(as a second blue candle is lit)*

Today, we light a candle for Peace.

**Opening Prayer: (unison)**

**As the flame of peace begins to burn,  
let our hearts be touched  
by the Holy Spirit  
who comes to us  
as the Child of Peace.**

**Let the Spirit burn in our hearts;  
Let God's ribbon of Peace  
draw us together into a circle of love. Amen.**

**Opening Hymn: Dream a Dream MV#158**

Dream a dream, a hopeful dream,  
as children do on Christmas Eve,  
imaginings, surprising things  
to hold and to believe.

Dream a time, this Christmas time,  
when no one's hungry or afraid;  
that weapons go and harvests grow,  
that friends are met and made.

Dream a peace, our planet's peace,  
the greening of the earth at play,  
the holy ground where life is found,  
where God has touched the clay.

Dream a gift, the Christmas gift  
that changes every thing we see:  
the shimmering of angel wing,  
the Child, the Mystery.

**Prayer of Approach (unison)**

O God, we thank you  
that Jesus showed your love for every person—  
infant and child, young and old,  
sick and healthy, strong and weak,  
rich and poor, stranger and friend.  
Come to us in this Advent season,  
and give us love in our hearts for all people. Amen.

**LISTENING**

**Scripture reading: Mark 1:1-8**

**Hymn for Reflection: There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying VU#18**

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 God, our God, may go!

- 2 O Zion, that bringest good tidings,  
get thee 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 endureth,  
whose arm is ever strong;  
God stands in the midst of nations,  
and soon will right the wrong.  
God shall feed the flock like a shepherd,  
the lambs so gently hold;  
to pastures of peace will lead them,  
and bring them safe to fold.
- 4 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 God, our God, may go!

### **Sermon: Spirit-filled**

On this second Sunday of Advent as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus we are provided with the text of Mark's gospel which has no birth story but instead speaks of the coming of one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit. In Our Song of Faith we proclaim:

we sing of God the Spirit,  
who from the beginning has swept over the face of creation,  
animating all energy and matter  
and moving in the human heart.

We sing of God the Spirit,  
faithful and untameable,  
who is creatively and redemptively active in the world.

The Spirit challenges us to celebrate the holy  
not only in what is familiar,  
but also in that which seems foreign.

We sing of the Spirit,  
who speaks our prayers of deepest longing  
and enfolds our concerns and confessions,  
transforming us and the world.

We offer worship  
as an outpouring of gratitude and awe

and a practice of opening ourselves  
to God's still, small voice of comfort,  
to God's rushing whirlwind of challenge.  
Through word, music, art, and sacrament,  
in community and in solitude,  
God changes our lives, our relationships, and our world.  
We sing with trust.

...  
The Spirit breathes revelatory power into scripture,  
bestowing upon it a unique and normative place  
in the life of the community.  
The Spirit judges us critically when we abuse scripture  
by interpreting it narrow-mindedly,  
using it as a tool of oppression, exclusion, or hatred.

...  
We sing of Jesus,  
a Jew,  
born to a woman in poverty  
in a time of social upheaval  
and political oppression.  
He knew human joy and sorrow.  
So filled with the Holy Spirit was he  
that in him people experienced the presence of God among them.  
We sing praise to God incarnate.

...  
The Risen Christ lives today,  
present to us and the source of our hope.  
In response to who Jesus was  
and to all he did and taught,  
to his life, death, and resurrection,  
and to his continuing presence with us through the Spirit,  
we celebrate him as  
the Word made flesh,  
the one in whom God and humanity are perfectly joined,  
the transformation of our lives,—the Christ.

### **Call for Offering**

#### **Doxology: Grant us God the grace of giving" VU#540**

Grant us, God, the grace of giving,  
with a spirit large and free,  
that ourselves and all our living  
we may offer faithfully.

### **Offertory/Prayer of Dedication**

### **Prayers for Peace on Earth**

### **Closing Hymn: All Earth is Waiting VU#5**

- 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.
- 3 Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain,  
open new highways, new highways for our God,  
who is now coming closer, so come all and see,  
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.
- 4 In lowly stable the Promised One appeared.  
Yet, feel that presence throughout the earth today,  
for Christ lives in all Christians and is with us now;  
again, on arriving, Christ brings us liberty.

**Closing Prayer:**

**Holy God, You come as light,  
grace-filled yet baby frail.  
May our hearts cradle you,  
our voices sing to you,  
our spirits leap to you,  
and our hearts dance with you.**

**Benediction:**

Go gladly into the world.  
for the love of God is yours to share,  
the peace of Christ is yours to extend,  
the power of the Holy Spirit is yours to offer.  
Amen

**SEASON OF ADVENT/CHRISTMAS**

- Dec 17 Advent 3 services: Stewart at 10:15 followed by Pioneer at 11:30 a.m.  
Knox to join Pioneer at 11:30  
Luncheon at 12:30 p.m. followed by Police led Info session Topic:  
Keeping safe on the Worldwide Web.**
- Dec 20 ZOOM Coffee and Conversation 10a.m.**
- Dec 21 Winter Solstice Sacred Circle Dance**
- Dec 24 Joint service of Lessons and Carols @ Stewart Memorial 10:30 a.m.**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight services**

**Knox United: 5 p.m**

**Pioneer Memorial 7 p.m.**

**Dec 31**

**New Year's Eve joint service Pioneer 10:30am This will be a unique service focused around entering the New Year by walking the path of a Labyrinth**

**VARIOUS STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

**1. In person and on the plate. 2. Via PAR (preauthorized remittance). Then you don't have to think about it again. Money is withdrawn monthly 3. By e-transfer. The email address for donations via e-transfer is [lobunitedchurches@gmail.com](mailto:lobunitedchurches@gmail.com) In the subject line/ comment please identify to which of the Churches you wish to donate. 4. By cheque: If you send a cheque, please make it out to Lake of Bays Pastoral Charge and mail it to: LOB United Churches,**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**