

St. Mary Anglican Church

Together in Christ, Sharing God's Love

December 6, 2020

The Second Sunday of Advent



WELCOME

Reaching out. Welcoming in.



Prelude	Three chorale preludes from the 16th to 19 th century
Interludes	"Taizé Gloria In Excelsis Deo" Jacques Berthier, SKU 07615 One License
Reflection	"Creator of the Stars of Night" Ancient plainsong "There a Voice in the Wilderness" Henry Hugh Bancroft © 1938 Church Publishing Inc SKU 87773 One License
Postlude	"People Look East" Susan Rucker, SKU 79551 One License

Service of Holy Eucharist

Celebrant: Rev. Selinde Krayenhoff

Musician: Margaret Nelson

We gather today on the traditional lands of the Nanoose Bay First Nations.



Prelude

Welcome

Silence *(as we open our minds and hearts in preparation for worship)*

The Bell Rings

Opening Sentence

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.
All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Luke 3.4, 6

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

In our homes and in our church
we gather around wreaths
to pray our lost hopes,
broken peace, missing joys,
and love so hard to find and share
in this season of coronavirus.

We affirm that our candles mean
we claim the power to call this season Advent
when God's light comes into the world
nothing can overcome it.

We light the candle of hope.

All: *And now we light the candle of peace*

in spite of violence, anger, political strife, depression, addiction
For God's peace illuminates the possibility
of reconciliation and healing
and brightens the path to joy.

**All: *Emmanuel, God be with us, in the week to come,
lighting hope and peace on the wick of our lives
so that we may shine on our world. Amen***

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 40:1-11
The Gospel of Mark 1:1-8

Sermon



Contemplative music – time to reflect

Prayers of the People (response)

All: ***Be at peace.***

Our Father

The Peace

Prayer

God for whom we wait, your peace creates and sustains us.
Keep us ever watchful that we may be ready
to stand before the Son of man.
We ask this in the name of Christ the Lord. Amen.

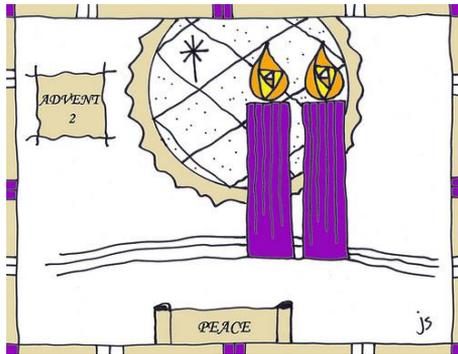
Announcements

Advent blessing

Sending forth: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: ***Thanks be to God!***

Postlude



*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
I do not give as the world gives." John 14:27*

Peace can be referred to as the absence of conflict; just as silence can be thought of as the absence of sound. But both are much, much more. They require our participation.

The peace we are called to by Jesus is not the absence of conflict but an active expression of the abundant nature of God: love, justice, reconciliation, & compassion. We have been given the peace of Christ, and we are asked to extend that peace in real & creative ways.

Not only to those whom we love, but to those we might call "our enemies." Those we know, but also those groups of people we write off or dismiss. It's not enough to distance ourselves from them or to ignore the people who trouble us. We are called to actively work towards understanding and compassion.

The Trappist monk, Thomas Merton wrote: "We are not at peace with others because we are not at peace with ourselves, & we are not at peace with ourselves because we are not at peace with God."

There is much to reflect on here.

"The peace of God is transformative. It changes us from those who would use oppressive power to a people who nurture and tend. The peace of Christ moves us into new places. This holy peace requires that we change & move, not stay stagnant."

Laurie Brock

***May the Holy Peace that passes all understanding inform all you do
this Advent season.***