

ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29 2020

*Growing and Deepening our Spiritual Lives in an Affirming and
Inclusive Community*

ADVENT SERIES

'I Believe Even When.....'

"Raise your voice... do not be afraid." — The Messenger

Advent 1
"I Believe in the Sun: Hope for Tomorrow"

WE GATHER

Prelude
Welcome

Crossing the Threshold
Soloist (Ruth Cross)

I believe in the sun, I believe in the sun,
even when, even when it's not shining.
I believe in the sun, I believe in the sun,
even when, even when it's not shining.

Lay Leader (Dianne Trew)
Leader: The place without light
All: The place without light
Leader: The depth of night
All: The depth of night
Leader: The pit of unknowing
All: The pit of unknowing

You are invited to light your Advent candle of Hope during the prayer, at the same time as we light the candle).

Prayer of Opening

Lay Leader:

Holy One,

we thank you for the glimpses we catch
of your gift of untiring hope.

Even in the midst of fear,
of challenge, of struggle—

even when our view is obscured
by clouds of doubt,

ignite the flame of hope within us, *(candle is lit)*

People: ... **that we might glow with its brilliance
from the inside out.**

[Congregation joins soloist in unison]

I believe in the sun,

I believe in the sun,

even when... even when... it's not shining.

Lay Leader: God of Hope may the light of this Candle of Hope
lighten our way with hope as we face the many challenges of
life and embrace these as a womb of rebirth.

Amen.

Opening Hymn

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” #2 VU

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set they people free:
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver; born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever; now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

The Peace

WE PROCLAIM

Our Time to Shine

Advent is a season of waiting for the rebirth of the great light of love to shine its healing and transformative light into all our dark places. Throughout Advent we are encouraged to find ways to let our light shine every day in ways that bring light to the hearts of others.....

Song: "This Little Light of Mine"

This little light of mine
I'm going to let it shine
Oh, this little light of mine
I'm going to let it shine

This little light of mine
I'm going to let it shine
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine

Prophetic Reading from Isaiah Video

Isaiah 40: 1-11 (CEB)

The Witness of Music

Video

"I Believe, Even When"

By Mark A. Miller

(Permission granted by University of Laverne Chamber Singers to use online/streaming worship)

Gospel Readings from Mark
Mark 13:24-27; 33-37 (NRSV)

Reflection

'I Believe in Hope Even When.....'

WE RESPOND

Litany of Belief

In times when humanity disappoints,
perhaps when even our own thoughts and behaviors
disappoint,
it is an important act to call out, name and claim, the
consequences of our wrongs.
And in times of distress it is a prophetic act to call out,
name and claim, our belief in the hope for tomorrow.
Hear these statements of belief:

[Congregants are invited to write a couplet such as the following and send via email to the minister to use in the services)

"I believe that [fill in the blank with a lament, a sorrow, a confession] " AND

"I believe that [fill in the blank with a prophetic word of change]. "

I believe that we have looked the other way too many times
AND

**I believe that we can face reality and work for
change.**

I believe that our fear of difference has robbed us of
compassion AND

**I believe that we can look deeper and hold onto the things
that we have in common.**

I believe that our fear of doubt makes us stop asking tough questions AND
I believe that asking tough questions in the face of injustice is faithful.

We believe, even when we are discouraged.
**We believe, that when we are discouraged,
raising our voices for justice will offer us hope!**

Prayers in the Stillness

I invite you to get in a comfortable position of rest.

I invite you to get as quiet and still as you can.

I invite you to a deep breath and a deep listening posture—perhaps eyes closed or fixed on a candle—as we prepare for a time of prayer.

“Stillness” Song

The gentle pull of God
is often lost amidst the rush
of all the obligations which lay a claim on us.

Yet just beyond the frantic pace
our restless feet have trod
lie deep still pools of quietness—
the dwelling place of God.

Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Be the air I breathe
Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Free me to receive

O take me to that secret place
where lost in wonder and in awe,
the moment comes and I rejoice
to be and be with God.

Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Be the air I breathe
Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Free me to receive

Prayers of the People

*Sung Coda: Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Free me to receive, to receive.*

Offering and Announcement

M & P Committee is looking for somebody who might be available to help Wally with some snow removal (salting, shoveling, etc.) this winter.

This would be a paid casual/on-call basis. It would be any day (except Wednesday and Thursday for the month of December). In the new year it would any day that removal is required.

If this is something you are interested, please call the office.

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HEALING TOUCH

*Healing Touch is the first Wednesday of every month via Zoom. Contact the office to sign up on the Monday prior.
Thanks*

WE GO FORTH

Carol of Resistance

"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play;
In music sweet the tones repeat,
"There's peace on earth, good will to men."

I thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along th' unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:
“There is no peace on earth,” I said,
“For hate is strong, and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.”

Then pealed the bells louder and deeper:
“God is not dead, nor does He sleep,
The wrong shall fail, the right prevails,
With peace on earth, good will to men.

Then happy, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day
Your heart will feel the message real,
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

Benediction

You are invited to pick up this week's candle and prepare to take it to
reside in the wreath you have made if that is situated somewhere
else from where you are seated.

We wait for justice
but we do not wait to work for change;
We wait for restored health
but we do not wait to work to heal;
We wait for wholeness
but we do not wait to work at binding brokenness;
We wait for peace
but we do not wait to work to eliminate hatred.

And so, my friends, like bells ringing out the news
that the sun still shines even on cloudy days,
fill the night left by sadness with messages of hope.
Go into your lives humming the tunes that keep that hope alive
in you
and that spur you on in your work of justice and reconciliation.
Raise your voices and repeat after me...

“do not be afraid!”
“do not be afraid!”
We will not be afraid.
We will not be afraid.

Amen!

CLOSING BLESSING VU #964

Go now with hope, go now with hope,
May the love of God surround us
Everywhere, everywhere, we may go.

Postlude

Worship Notes

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