

**Sunday, November 28, 2021
11:00 am Sanctuary Service**



Second Sunday of Advent
"A Place at the Table (Peace)"

Pat Dykes, Lector

Prelude

Greetings: Rev. Shelagh MacKinnon

Territorial Acknowledgement: Shelagh

Announcements: Joan Mason

We Open the Door

Shelagh: Like the childhood game of "musical chairs," we are easily convinced that there are not enough places at the table. And so we shrink the guest list just in case there is not enough, and we scramble to occupy the chairs first. And yet our sacred texts invite us to imagine and make real the gathering of all people to the table, robed in the garments of a Peace that

comes with justice. This is what really matters–this is the fruit of what is right and good.

Choir:

*Peace waits for us at Advent
Peace waits for us to rest.
Peace waits for our acceptance
of the truth that we are blessed.
In this time of preparation
for the work of co-creation,
for the birthing of a world
of gentleness and play.
Peace is born in us each day!*

Pat: Today we offer the Light of Peace to illumine the Door of Welcome.

May this light shine in our hearts, in our lives, and in our church.
May Peace awaken us to possibilities and lead us to greater hospitality.

There *IS* room in this Inn, a House for the Holy.

Choir and Congregation:

**Peace waits for us to rest.
Peace waits for our acceptance
of the truth that we are blessed.
In this time of preparation
for the work of co-creation,
for the birthing of a world
of gentleness and play.
Peace is born in us each day!**

The Peace: Pat

The Peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

Hymn: VU 9 *People Look East (1,3,5)*

Children's Time: The Advent Wreath Peace

As this season of "sparkle and bright" unfolds around us, the silent prayers of peace lie like stars hidden in a clouded night, May we inspire the world with peace. May we touch it to our lives that in every place of stress, frustration, or fear, we might feel the presence of peace easing our hearts and transforming our lives. And may we share its healing power with our children, that they might become the inspiration through which peace makes its way to a new yet-dreamt-of world. Each week in Advent, we will visit with a different family as they light their Advent wreath. At home, we invite you to do the same. May Peace light the world this Christmas.

Video

Scripture: Baruch 5: 1-5 (CEB) Pat

*Take off your mourning clothes
and oppression, Jerusalem!*

*Dress yourself in the dignity
of God's glory forever.*

*Wrap the justice that comes from God around yourself like a
robe.*

*Place the eternal one's glory
on your head like a crown.*

God will show your brilliance everywhere under heaven.

*God will give you this name
by which to be called forever:
The Peace That Comes from Justice,
The Honor That Comes
from Reverence for God!*

Get up, Jerusalem!

*Stand on the high place,
and look around to the east!*

*See your children gathered
from the west to the east*

*by the holy one's word,
as they rejoice that God has remembered them.*

Anthem: *Every Valley*

J.N. Beck

Reflection: Rev. Shelagh MacKinnon

Hymn: VU 5 *All the Earth is Waiting*

Prayers of the People: Pat

[Sung]

**Make of my heart a stable,
a house for the holy,
a warm and sturdy place
for [peace] to live and grow.**

In this moment we open the doors of our hearts to honesty
before God
about what we've done and left undone that created less peace in
a hurting world.

Let us breathe out this regret... *[pause to breathe out]*

and breathe in the life-giving, for-giving Spirit of God... *[pause
to breath in]*

and out again with the Peace of Christ... *[another breath out].*

In this moment we open the doors of our lives to the call of the
Spirit,

inviting us to become more than we can ask or imagine.

Let us breathe out our fear... *[pause to breathe out]*

and breathe in the courage of the Spirit of God... *[pause to
breath in]*

and out again, with the Peace of Christ... *[another breath out].*

(Continuing...)

[Sung]

**Make of our church a stable,
a house for the holy,
a warm and sturdy place
for [peace] to live and grow.**

A Story of Innkeeping: Offering Shelagh

Holy Communion: Pat and Shelagh

Angels Among Us

I believe there are angels among us
Sent down to us from somewhere up above.
They come to you and me to show us how to live, to teach us
how to give
To guide us with a light of love.

In this moment of gathering together,
we gather in spirit those who are not here with us this day:
loved ones that seem too far away,
those who have little food, shelter or company this night,
those who are suffering in body, mind or spirit,
those who are living in fear and threat or reality of violence,
those who wonder if they are loved.
In this silence, we call them to mind in the quiet of our hearts.

Silence

Response:

**"We hear the message of God,
Do not be afraid."**

Shelagh: Some time later after Jesus' birth, there were magi from the East who had observed a star of a new king rising and set out to pay him homage. They followed it until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

As a community of Faith, we come to share in the gifts of God. For the life of Jesus became the true gift, more precious than any gold. The gift of God's grace, God's Spirit, God's presence is ours to share, then, now and always. All are invited to the table of Jesus Christ.

God be with you!

And also with you!

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to God!

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

In the beginning you created light to shine in the void of darkness.

The light of each day has become your reminder that you are with us always,

bringing peace in the midst of fear.

In this season of Advent, we remember the light of the star you set in the sky,

pointing to the sign of your Love-made-flesh.

We look around and we are reminded that your Spirit moves among us still.

And so we proclaim this ancient song with all of the saints and angels:

Choir: VU 934

Holy, holy, holy God!

God of power!

God of might!

Heaven and earth are full of your glory!

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed are you!

Pat: Blessed are you!

You sent your Son, Jesus—

your message-made-flesh to dwell among us:

Harbinger of Hope, Prince of Peace,

Cup of Joy, Bread of Love.

Through Jesus you gave birth to your church

and sealed a new covenant by water and the Spirit.
With more anticipation and awe
than any gift under our tree can give,
we remember your gift of Love and Grace for all:

[Communion]

*On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my Bread of Love which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."
When the supper was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you;
this is my cup of joy,
poured out for you and for all.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me."*

And so as we celebrate the birth of hope anew,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Open us to your promise of resurrection from fear and death.
In partaking of these elements,
let us become your messengers of hope for an anxious world
in all that we say and do.
Make us one in this purpose, O God.
Make us one in your Son Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray:

[The Lord's Prayer]

Closing Carol: VU 44 *"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"* (1,3,4)

Benediction: Shelagh

May God's Door of Welcome
swing open in your heart and in your life.

May Christ's humble first dwelling
remind you of the plenty you already know.

And may the Spirit lead you into
more possibility and hospitality than you can imagine,
making room in The Inn for all.

May it be so for you.

May it be so for us.

May it be so for this church.

Amen.

Postlude