**December 4, 2022 Second Advent, Communion**

Center

**Prelude (Colin Bonneau)**

Pulpit

**News and announcements**

Center +

**Candle lighting**

Once more we light candles, beginning with our Christ Candle, for the One we wait for is also the One already here.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Call to Worship**

The days are coming, and we are readying ourselves.
**As we make our pilgrimage to the manger in Bethlehem, we journey to the infant king, who leads us in the way of love.**

We begin this holy season of Advent in hope and anticipation.
**We are open and anticipating what God will do in our lives and in our world.**

Come as we feast and celebrate in hope.
**We gather in this season of waiting. We come to worship.**

**Opening Prayer**

The earth has turned once more, Creator God.

**The season of hope, peace, joy, and love** **returns**.

It is a reminder of how we should live the whole year through.

You have called us to be your people,

**asking us to take your hope, peace, joy and love, out into the world.**

Help us in our times of worship throughout this season of Advent to find the words and actions.

**We want to share the message of hope, peace, joy, and love.**

Show us how to be fully aware of your presence,

so that we might share your presence with others.
**In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.**

Center +

## **Opening Hymn: VU 1 *Come O, Come* (verses 4, 6 and 7)**

Center

Advent Wreath prayer **Stacie and Raelee**

Christ is at home in your heart.

Place your hand over your heart.

Rest in the Christ light of **Peace**.

God is beckoning.

breathe...

breathe...

breathe...

(a time of quiet)

Peace be with all who we will encounter this coming week of Advent.

Center

**Reading** **from Scripture**

Isaiah 11: 1-10

Matthew 3:1-12

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We respond:

In ages past, disciples, prophets, priests and historians wrote down their faith.

**This is a faithful witness of our ancestors.**

Word of God for us today.

**Thanks be to God.**

Center

**Anthem**: *Advent Prayer*

Pulpit

**Sermon** *Drawn to Peace*

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**Hymn** **VU 55** *In the Bleak Midwinter*

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**Invitation to Offering**

O God, just as the green shoot sprouts from the roots of Jesse, so too may these gifts allow for new growth to spring forth in the work of the church.

**Help us to also grow, in faithfulness and in love for our neighbours.**

We give to make Jesus’ promise of peace real, when the wolf shall live in harmony with the lamb.

**Amen**.

**Doxology one verse of VU 31**

Pulpit

**Prayers of the People**

Center +

Lord’s Prayer (Spoken)

**Our Mother-Father, who art in heaven, …**

Communion using **VU 10** AND **VU 932-933**

Leigh: As we make our way into the Advent season, we gather here for communion.

**ALL: VU 10** *Prepare the Way of the Lord*

**Prepare the Way of the Lord. Prepare the Way of the Lord.**

**Make a straight path for him, make a straight path, prepare the Way of the Lord**

Leigh: This table will be familiar to some; to others, it may be a new experience.

To some, the ritual will be comforting and familiar—

an ongoing source of strength; to others, it may seem strange.

But know that you are welcome here. Know that above all else.

There is nothing you have to believe to come here, nothing you have to do.

You see, it is Christ’s table, not ours. He is the one who invites and hosts and welcomes.

He is the one whose joy it is for us to join him. It is a table for all. So come and share this time.

**ALL: VU 10** *Prepare the Way of the Lord*

**Prepare the Way of the Lord. Prepare the Way of the Lord.**

**Make a straight path for him, make a straight path, prepare the Way of the Lord**

Come, let us gather as God′s people.

**We come, God′s children, to this table.**

Come, open up to God!

**We open ourselves to God.**

Let us offer praise and thanks to God.

**We shout our praise and thanks to God.**

Leigh: Blessed are you, gracious God, Creator of light, Giver of all life, Source of love.

Your song of wisdom rang out before the world began;

your ancient love still touches us and stirs within us.

Even when we turn away from you, you keep faith with us.

You send your messengers to prepare the way through the wilderness of our lives,

to guide us in the path of renewal, to call us to follow your path.

In Mary, woman of your promise, you showed us courage and faith;

and through her, you sent us your greatest gift, Jesus, the Christ, our prince of peace and herald of hope. So it is that we join in the Advent prayer of all your people,

“O come, Emmanuel.” and we sing with your angels our Holy Holy:

**ALL: VU 932-933**

**Holy, Holy, Holy God. 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.**

Leigh: Gathering with all your saints, we come before you ready to shed our fears and loneliness: Ready to accept your grace; Ready to have our spirits replenished;

Ready to partake in this shared meal.

**ALL: VU 10** *Prepare the Way of the Lord*

**Prepare the Way of the Lord. Prepare the Way of the Lord.**

**Make a straight path for him, make a straight path, prepare the Way of the Lord**

HOLD ON SLIDE WITH BREAD IMAGE

Leigh: We are preparing by hearing again the amazing story….

That you came to Earth, as a human, to live, love and serve.

That you followed that journey to its end, even when it meant dying

That on the last night with your disciples….

And after supper….

And so we open our hearts to you God, and to this community,

and in doing so

CHANGE TO NEXT SLIDE

…open our lives to the wheat, the juice, the story and the reality of our faith.

**ALL: VU 932-933** **Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.**

Leigh: Shower down on these elements your Holy Spirit.

Shower down on our partaking of this sacred meal your Holy Spirit.

Come so that our eating and drinking this day binds us to Christ.

Come so that our nourishment, from Christ, allows us to serve, like Christ.

Come and hear us pray

**ALL: VU 10** *Prepare the Way of the Lord*

**Prepare the Way of the Lord. Prepare the Way of the Lord.**

**Make a straight path for him, make a straight path, prepare the Way of the Lord**

Leigh: Come all you who are weary and I will give you rest.

Come all you who are thirsty and I will give you Grace.

The body of Christ and his very passion is poured out for you this day.

Center +

**Hymn: VU 6** *A Candle is Burning* **(verse 1 and 2)**

Pulpit

**Blessing**

We have received the story of John the Baptist, John the timely prophet.

**With the example of John,
we will be ready to repent.
With the courage of John,
we will confront the powerful ones.
With the devotion of John,
we will serve faithfully.**

God will keep your prophetic vision bright as you go from this place.
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Post Service Slides**

**Postlude** (Colin Bonneau)

Today’s prayers were written (or inspired by) Leigh Sinclair,Sharon Ballantyne*,* Roxanne Williams*,* Taylor Croissant*,* Sandy Ferguson *and* David Sparks*.* They are taken *Gathering*, Advent/Epiphany, 2022/2023 and used with permission**.**