

DECEMBER 6, 2020, 10:30 AM

WORD OF WELCOME,

OPENING PRAYER

PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: WEEK 2 – “PEACE” (CONGREGATION SPEAKS RESPONSES IN BOLD PRINT)

Listen! Can you hear?

We can hear the sound of God's comfort!

We can hear God's tenderness to the people.

We can hear God's mercy and forgiveness.

The prophet tells us that God makes straight what is crooked.

We know that God's glory will be revealed in Peace.

Today we light the Peace candle.

****CALL TO WORSHIP**

When we are dead, lifeless in sin and despair,

God hears our cries for deliverance.

When we are without hope, without a future,

God breathes a new spirit into us.

And then we know that God is the Lord.

To God be the glory; we have been restored!

****HYMN:** “IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR”

1 It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they
come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains,
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

3 And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing!

4 For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the
song
which now the angels sing.

CALL TO OFFERING

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here below,
praise Him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.***

****PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Out of dried up bones you can make a whole nation alive again. Out of lifelessness you can create vibrant abundance. Take our humble offerings and make of them an overflowing blessing from which the thirsty may drink and the downtrodden may find revival. Amen.

JOYS, CONCERNS AND PRAYER ENDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER (BELOW)

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen**

REFLECTION HYMN: "BE THOU MY VISION"

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess our sins before God and one another. Pause for silence and reflection.
Faithful God,

Your promises have never wavered, and yet we are not always willing to believe them. We descend into our own despair, unable to see past our immediate concerns. We drag others down with us and live to complain and commiserate. We ignore the miracles in front of our face. Forgive us for living such small lives, O Lord, and restore in us the wonder of what it is to be your people. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God is faithful; God is merciful; God does not hold our sins against us! For this we give you thanks, O Lord. Receive the assurance of your deliverance by the One who promised from of old to set us free, and who seeks and finds us to this very day. Alleluia! Amen.

SCRIPTURE: JOEL 2:12-13, 28-29

MESSAGE: God's Promised Spirit

****HYMN: "HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING"**

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With th'angelic host proclaim:
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ by highest heav'n adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,

Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

**THE BENEDICTION