

Welcome
to Aurora United Church
...uniting hearts and hands on the journey.



Advent 2 (Peace)
December 5, 2021

I reckon every one of us has some idea where our own wilderness lies, as well as a long list of all the good reasons why we should not go there. We are comfortable here, after all. We know the ropes and we know we will be fed. Why should we hunt God anywhere else? I cannot imagine, unless it is that voice crying out in the wilderness, the one you cannot quite make out from here. If we only listen for God in church, we will miss half the message. The good news is always beginning somewhere in the world, for those with ears to hear and hearts to go wherever the way may lead. (Barbara Brown Taylor, Home By Another Way, 1999)

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You (*J. Althouse*) AUC Chancel Choir

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP *Lighting of the Christ Candle*

Acknowledgment of Territory/Candle of Remembrance-Every Child Matters

As we come into worship today, we acknowledge that we reside and worship on the traditional lands of the people of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation... and acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages.



CALL TO WORSHIP Debra & Grant Hilliard

Be with us, God,
in stone stillness
and quiet corners.

**Help us to be lights in the darkness,
lights that burn bravely
in the circle of your love.**

Hear our prayers, God,
our yearnings, our carings,
our concerns, our questions.

**Help us to be lights in the darkness,
lights that burn bravely
in the circle of your love.**

Be in us, God,
in our work, our calling,
our journeys, our wondering.

**Help us to be lights in the darkness,
lights that burn bravely
in the circle of your love.**

Let us worship!

(Ruth Burgess, Iona Community)

HYMN O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (*arr.H.Willan/trans. J.Neale*) VU 1

O Come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, O Wisdom from on high
who orders all things mightily,
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, O come great God of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law
in cloud and majesty, and awe.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,
from every foe deliver them
that trust your mighty power to save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, O key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING (Peace)

The Gilpin Family: Doug, Sylvia, Emily and Peter

This is the second Sunday of Advent—
our journey towards Christmas continues!

**Our Advent journey began last week
by lighting the candle of Hope.**

(first blue candle is relit.)

The candle of hope reminds us of the dreams and
wishes that we hold during this season of wonder.

**Today, we light the next candle of Advent—
the candle of Peace. It reminds us of God’s
vision of Shalom.**

We light this second candle of Advent—
the candle of *Peace*—as an invitation for each
of us to seek justice and truth—to become bearers
of God’s peace in the world.

(second blue candle is lit.)

Let every voice proclaim this peace.

Thanks be to God!

Thanks be to God!

SUNG RESPONSE Hope Is a Star (*B.Wren/J.C.Fogg*) VU 7

***Peace* is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth.**

When God is a child there’s joy in our song.

**The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.**

THEME STORY Children in Advent—Peace YouTube

RESPONSIVE READING Song of Zechariah (Luke 1:68-79) VU p.900 Paula Hanna

Blessed be the God of Israel,
 who has come to the people and set them free,
who has raised up for us a mighty savior,
 born of the house of the servant David.
Through the holy prophets of old
God promised to save us from our enemies,
 from the hands of all who hate us,
to show the mercy promised to our ancestors,
 to remember the holy covenant,
 the oath God swore to our ancestors
 Abraham and Sarah,
To set us free from the hands of our enemies,
 free to serve God without fear,
 holy and righteous in God's presence,
 all the days of our life.

And you, child,
will be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
 to give the people knowledge of salvation
 by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God,
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
 to shine on those who sit in darkness,
 in the shadow of death,
 and to guide our feet into the way of peace. Amen.

GIFT OF MUSIC Silent Night (*F. Gruber/Arr. C. Mocklebust*) AUC Handbells

GOSPEL Luke 3:1-6 (A voice in the wilderness.) NRSV

3In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the

prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Fore-runners

HYMN Put Peace into Each Other’s Hands (F.Kaan/R.Klusmeier) MV 173

Put peace into each other’s hands and like a treasure hold it,
protect it like a candle flame, with tenderness enfold it.

Put peace into each other’s hands with loving expectation;
be gentle in your words and ways, in touch with God’s creation.

Put peace into each other’s hands like bread we break for sharing;
look people warmly in the eye: our life is meant for caring.

Put thanks for strong-yet tender hands, held out in trust and blessing.
Where words fall short, let hands speak out, the heights of love expressing.

Reach out in friendship, stay with faith in touch with those around you.
Put peace into each other’s hands; the Peace that sought and found you.

SHARING GOD’S LOVE

A Statement about the gifts we bring in worship for the life of the church....

OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN There's a Voice in the Wilderness (*Milligan/Bancroft*) VU 18

There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod: prepare in the
desert a highway, a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills
brought low; make straight all the crooked
places where God, our God, may go!

O Zion, that bringest good tidings,
Get thee up to the heights and sing! Proclaim
to a desolate people the coming of their King.
Like the flowers of the field they perish, like grass
our works decay; the power and pomp of nations
shall pass, like a dream, away.

But the word of our God endureth,
whose arm is ever strong; God stands in the
midst of nations, and soon will right the wrong.
God shall feed the flock like a shepherd, the lambs
so gently hold; to pastures of peace will lead them,
and bring them safe to fold.

COMMISSIONING

God who leads by a star,
show us the direction to Bethlehem.

**Lead us to that place where love
is to be born into our lives.**

Give us signs along the road
as we make our journey,
that we may follow your way.

SUNG BLESSING Hope Shines as the Solitary Star (*C.F.MacLean/J.B.Tissandier*)MV 220

***Peace* shines as the solitary star. Faith is the inner light.
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,
and illumine the pathway home.**

POSTLUDE Little Drummer Boy/Peace on Earth (*arr.D.Bowie/B.Crosby*) David Pilkey



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Participating in Worship today...

Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar & Rev. Andrew Comar,
Debra & Grant Hilliard, Paula Hanna, Doug, Sylvia, Peter & Emily Gilpin,
AUC Chancel Choir, AUC Handbells, David Pilkey.

With thanks to... Noah Comar, videographer, and to Bob Kyriakides,
video editor...and to all who are filming at home in order to participate
in worship in some way! ☺

Images used in worship video...

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Hope Is A Star - landscape.jpg
Hope Shines As A Solitary Star - Markus-Spitske - Unsplash

The hymn recordings today are from...

More Voices: Audio CD (The United Church of Canada, 2007), *Sing Hallelujah!*
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YouTube.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel. Public Domain. Friends at First United Church, Kelowna BC. Soloist and conductor: Amy van Wemsem.

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Children in Advent – Peace. Memorial United Methodist Church. Fernandina Beach, Florida.

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