

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE Creator of the Stars of Night *(M. McCabe)*

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters

Brian Walter

INTROIT I was glad when they said let us go to the house (The Giver) *(M. M. McClain)* Then Let Us Sing Sampler

CALL TO WORSHIP

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, O 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!

***HYMN** All Earth is Waiting VU 5

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING (Peace)

The Armitage Family: Joe, Katie, Hunter & Charlotte

Advent is a season of waiting: waiting for the hope, peace, joy and love of God to break into our lives anew through the story of the birth of Jesus, and through acts of hope, peace, joy and love. Today we light the second candle, the candle of Peace...and we wait.

We wait— not because we do not know the story of Jesus, and not because we are not ready. We wait because to wait is to expect something more.

To wait is to expect that the story might enter our hearts and our world in new ways, to bring the change for which we long.

Two blue candles are lit.

As we light the candle of Peace,
we remember the stories of times you have been our comfort, when you have heard our cries for justice, for certainty, for peace, and you have led us home; and we know we can trust that you are leading us forward, as we wait for Peace to be born, anew, in us. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE We Light This Candle *(Mayberry/Kai)*

We light this candle for Peace.

Await the new life within.

**May our hearts now live each day,
so Peace can find a way,
so Peace can find a way.**

THEME CONVERSATION

SONG Be Still and Know *(J.Bell) MV 77*
Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 40:1-11 p.667 *Pew Bible OT*
(Comfort, O comfort my people.) Pat Innes

ANTHEM It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
(Ian W.Bevell)

GOSPEL Mark 1:1-8 p.34 *Pew Bible NT*
(The preaching of John the Baptizer.)

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Everything, Everywhere, All at Once

***HYMN** Jesus Christ is Waiting VU 117

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY The First Nowell *(arr. Bernard Dewagtere)*
Mehraeen Safari, violin

***DEDICATION** As We Offer Gifts *(Tune: VU 81)*

**As we offer gifts most rare
at your stable crude and bare,
and we bend our knee before
Christ, whom heaven and earth adore;
so our humble hearts we bring,
Christ, to you our praise we sing.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER & Prayer Shawl Blessing

PRAYER PRELUDE Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ (J.Bell)
MV 166

Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, Son of God among us,
thank you for every sign showing that you love us.
(sing twice)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER
VU p.910

***HYMN** There's a Voice in the Wilderness VU 18

*** COMMISSIONING**

And now, let us remain in the spirit of peace—
God bless us with a holy peace;
and gift us with open hearts
to give and to receive blessing.
We go in peace.

***SUNG BLESSING** Hope Shines as the Solitary Star
**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.** (MV 220)

POSTLUDE The Little Drummer Boy
(Katherine Davis arr. Colette Mourey) Mehraeen Safari



MISSION AND SERVICE
Religion in the Service of Humanity

The entanglement of religion and politics in the Middle East often divides communities and leads to conflict, particularly among young people. "We all agreed that it is important to focus on universal values and ethics, reject extremism, and make the necessary efforts to develop practical formulas for fruitful cooperation," says Rima Bayan Sleem, a 33-year-old judicial assistant from Chouf, Lebanon.

"We all agreed that it is important to focus on universal values and ethics, reject extremism, and make the necessary efforts to develop practical formulas for fruitful cooperation."

Thanks to your Mission & Service gifts, Rima and 36 other young adults gathered in Beirut, Lebanon, for the World Student Christian Federation-Middle East Region (WSCF-ME) 2021. They participated in an Interfaith Dialogue program that develops leaders skilled in preventing violence and fostering peace between communities.

WSCF-ME's role is to be a mediator of peace and understanding amid all the overwhelming regional issues that include sectarian strife. "The Interfaith Dialogue program's importance lies in the fact that it brings together youth from different religious backgrounds...to engage in a constructive peace-facilitating dialogue," says Mira Neaimeh, Regional Executive for WSCF-ME. "I personally believe that change is done in small steps, starting from our regional gatherings that sow seeds of peace to be reaped in the future."

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Your [Mission & Service](#) gifts help leaders in the Middle East and across the world collaborate and promote peaceful dialogue.



The United Church of Canada acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast to coast, are on traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples.

**AURORA UNITED
CHURCH**

Church Office 905-727-1935
www.auroraunitedchurch.ca

Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar & Rev. Andrew Comar
Music Coordinator—Margaret Heney



ADVENT 2— PEACE

A Thrill of Hope— the Weary World Rejoices

December 10, 2023
11:00 AM

*God, make me an instrument of thy peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love.*
(Francis of Assisi)

All Earth Is Waiting

All earth is waiting to see the Promised One, and open furrows await the seed of God.
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty; it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

Thus says the prophet to those of Israel, 'A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel.'
One whose name is 'God with us', our Saviour shall be, through whom hope will blossom once more within our hearts.

Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain, open new highways, new highways for our God, who is now coming closer, so come all and see, and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.

In lowly stable the Promised One appeared. Yet, feel that presence throughout the earth today, for Christ lives in all Christians and is with us now; again, on arriving, Christ brings us liberty.

Jesus Christ Is Waiting

Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets; no one is his neighbour, all alone he eats.
*Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too. Make me, friend or stranger, fit to wait on you.

Jesus Christ is raging, raging in the streets, where injustice spirals and real hope retreats.
*Listen, Lord Jesus, I am angry too. In the Kingdom's causes let me rage with you.

Jesus Christ is healing, healing in the streets; curing those who suffer, touching those he greets. *Listen, Lord Jesus, I have pity too. Let my care be active, healing just like you.

Jesus Christ is dancing, dancing in the streets, where each sign of hatred he, with love, defeats. *Listen, Lord Jesus, I should triumph too. On suspicion's graveyard let me dance with you.

Jesus Christ is calling, calling in the streets, 'Who will join my journey? I will guide their feet.' *Listen, Lord Jesus, let my fears be few. Walk one step before me; I will follow you.

* or 'Listen, my Jesus'

There's a Voice in the Wilderness

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.

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!

