



PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2023

Prelude

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz

Advent Candle Lighting

Matt & Henry Niksch

In the settlement and stir of a burnt-orange sunrise, in the lilting laughter or memory of a table full of friends, in the flash of clarity that turns on the light of insight and leads us towards wisdom, we find the peace that passes all understanding. But there are things we need to understand. Help us hear you in the stories of those who struggle. Peace is what the prophets foretold. Peace is what is sacrificed when profit takes precedence.

We light a candle for peace and pray for the courage to stand up for it.

In this second week of Advent, as the waiting and expectation heighten, deepen our desire for peace. Like the wise called to journey in those early dawning days, may we seek, strive, search for peace. Like the prophets old and new, may we cry out for its coming.

We light a candle for peace. May it light the way.

Greetings

Rev. Colin Knapp

Introit

Child of God

Hannibal/Nix

***Call to Worship**

Rev. Janet MacLean

A voice cries in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord;
Make God's way clear. Lift up every valley;
Lower every mountain.
For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed."
Come let us worship!

***Opening Hymn**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

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***Opening Prayer**

Rev. Janet MacLean

Confession

Rev. Colin Knapp

Faithful God,
we confess that we have not led lives of holiness.
We suffer from impatience, apathy, and greed;
we have not been at peace.
We repent of these offenses and turn to You in love.
Forgive our iniquity and pardon our sins,

that we may walk in righteousness to the glory
of Your name.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends,
by the mercy of Christ, your sins are forgiven,
for salvation is at hand for all who turn to God.

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT


83 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.



With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1744
MUSIC: Witt's *Psalmodia Sacra*, 1715, alt.

STUTTGART
8.7.8.7
(alternate tune: HYFRYDOL, 82)

Response	<i>Waiting for You</i>	Hannah Rand
A Reading	<i>Amazing Peace</i>	Maya Angelou
Children's Message		Maureen Deahl
New Testament Reading		Mark 1:1-8

One: This is the Word of God for us, the people of God. All: Thanks be to God

Waiting for You

Lenora Rand

Hannah Rand



Sermon

Peace in the Wilderness

Rev. Henrietta Brown

Anthem

Ososo: Come Now, O Prince of Peace

Lee/Navarro

Prayer for the Offering

Rev. Janet MacLean

***Doxology**

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow, praise God all creatures here below, Alleluia, alleluia! Praise God above you heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Prayers of the People Loving God, Hear our Prayer

Musical response a la Lisa Gaston

Lord's Prayer All are encouraged to pray the Lord's Prayer in the manner of their choosing, included below is one version:

Our Father (Mother, Creator), 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

Meditation

Song of Peace

Jean Langlais

Announcements

Closing Hymn

I've Got Peace Like a River

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ADORATION

623 I've Got Peace like a River

1 I've got peace like a riv - er; I've got peace like a
 2 I've got joy like a foun - tain; I've got joy like a
 3 I've got love like an o - cean; I've got love like an
 riv - er; I've got peace like a riv - er, in my
 foun - tain; I've got joy like a foun - tain, in my
 o - cean; I've got love like an o - cean, in my
 soul. I've got riv - er, in my soul.
 soul. I've got foun - tain, in my soul.
 soul. I've got o - cean, in my soul.

In the King James Version, the promise of "peace like a river" is twice mentioned in Isaiah (48:18; 66:12) as a blessing that comes from doing God's will. The water imagery of this African American spiritual also provides reminders of Christians' baptismal identity.

TEXT and MUSIC: African American spiritual

PEACE LIKE A RIVER
7.7.10

Nursery Care during worship is available for children ages 5 and under. Please see an usher for location. Today's Nursery Attendants are Katherine Obed & Otto Huber.

Today's Liturgist is Rev. Janet MacLean. Connect Leaders are Maureen Deahl and Kyle Kent. Ushers are Lee Capps and Jeff Petertil. Our Online Worship Coordinators are Delena Wilkerson, Chuck Behensky, and David Taylor-Glass. Our Sextons are Claudia Divis and Leslie Lauderdale. **We give our thanks** for their important contributions to our worship gathering.

A deacon will be available for **healing prayer** every Sunday, after worship, in the front pew.

Announcements

Women's Book Group

Friday, December 15, 2023, 7:30 PM

Book Club will be reading *The Thursday Murder Club*, by Richard Osman, facilitated by Sue Sporte. June Witzl is hosting at her daughter Tamara's home – 836 S. Ridgeland Blvd. Books are available for checkout at the Oak Park Public Library main branch – just look for the Pilgrim section on the book club selections wall. In addition to the book discussion, we'll be doing a book exchange.

New folks are always welcome! If any Pilgrim women or non-binary people would like to join the book club, and aren't on the email list, please email Karen Van Meter at karenavanmeter433@gmail.com.

All Pilgrim Wine and Cheese Gathering

Saturday, December 16, 2023, 5:00 - 7:00 PM

Join us for an ALL Pilgrim's Wine and Cheese gathering at Pilgrim in the Parlor. RSVP to Joycelin at cookinmama3@gmail.com or Molly at mollylknapp@gmail.com if you plan on attending. Bring your favorite appetizer, wine or non-alcoholic drink.

Sunday, December 17, 10:30 AM

Multi Generational Christmas Pageant

Nothing is more joyous than the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Come and experience the joy with us in worship as we share our Multi-generational Christmas Pageant. We will hear the story through Scripture, instrumental and vocal music, and congregation participation. And of course, we will see the story through shepherds, angels, a band of kings, animals of all sorts, Mary and Joseph, and the baby Jesus.

Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday, December 24, 5:00 PM

All are welcome to join us for a candlelight service of lessons and carols as we welcome the start of Christmas with joy and singing!

MIGRANT ASSISTANCE

Community of Congregations has established a Migrant Response Portal through which community members can volunteer their time, expertise and donate money and supplies to support our new neighbors. To volunteer time and talent; or donate, click here:

<https://www.communityofcongregations.org/migrant-crisis/>

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