



first community

December 7, 2025

9 am NORTH

ADVENT 2

GREETING – Janelle

SONGS – Common Grace

*Angels We Have Heard On High*

*Midnight Clear*

WELCOME – Glen

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS – Glen

Brooke Myers

David Myers

Linda Vitale

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE 2

– Peggy and George Stokes with

Rev. John Girard

LEADER (clergy at lectern): Last week we lit the Candle of Hope, remembering that even small light can guide our steps.

R1: Today we light the second candle—the Candle of Peace.

*(Pause as the second candle is lit.)*

R2: The prophet Isaiah dreamed of peace so bold that even predators would forget to fear.

LEADER: John the Baptist carried that dream into the desert, crying out, “Prepare the way of the Lord!”

R1: Peace does not come by accident; it grows where hearts are willing to change.

R2: It begins with a single turning—a step toward forgiveness, a voice lifted for justice.

R1 AND R2: Holy Dreamer, plant your peace in us. Let our lives become rivers of reconciliation flowing through the world you love.

LEADER: Come, Lord Jesus—our Path and our Peace. Amen.

## PRAYER SONG- Common Grace

*All of Your Ways Are Peace*

## PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER – Sarah

## OFFERTORY

**Invitation to Dream – John**

**Offertory – Common Grace**

*Waiting for You*

**Prayer of Thanks - John**

ONE: God of Peace, bless these offerings and the hands that give them. Like seeds scattered in faith, may they take root in the soil of your kingdom— bringing reconciliation, healing, and hope to all who hunger for peace. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## AN INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE – Glen

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Glen

ONE: God of new growth, let the roots of your Word go deep within us. May old fears fall away like winter leaves and your peace take hold in our hearts. Through Christ, the Branch of Jesse, we pray. Amen.

## PROPHETIC LESSON–Deacon

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,

and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

<sup>2</sup> The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

<sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see  
or decide by what his ears hear,

<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor

and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,

and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

- <sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- <sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb;  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;  
the calf and the lion will feed together,  
and a little child shall lead them.
- <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
- <sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.
- <sup>10</sup> On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

## SERMON – Glen

*“Dreaming of Peace”*

## COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion – Sarah  
Receiving Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving – Sarah

ONE: Holy God, we give you thanks for this meal of grace, for the peace that Christ plants in us like a tender shoot, and for the promise that even in places that feel cut down, your dream is still growing. Nourished at this table, send us out as bearers of your peace—eyes open to your light rising in the dark, hearts ready to make room for reconciliation, and lives shaped by the hope of your new creation. Let the world glimpse your dream through us until wolf and lamb can truly rest together and all your children dwell in harmony. In the name of the One who is our peace, we pray. Amen.

## CLOSING SONG- Common Grace

*All of Your Ways Are Peace*

## CLOSING WORDS – John

ONE: Go forth as gardeners of peace. May the Christ who roots us in love water your spirit until peace blossoms wherever you walk.