

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Second Sunday of Advent – December 7, 2024

Land Acknowledgement

I want to acknowledge I am leading worship from Treaty 4 Territory the traditional homeland of the Ojibwe, Saulteaux, Dakota, Nakota, Lakota, and the Métis Nations

Responsive Call to Worship

The psalmist dreamed of a world where leaders govern with righteousness, and the poor are treated with dignity and justice.

In this new creation, the oppressed are set free, the vulnerable are protected and peace flows like a river.

Today, too many experience violence, poverty and persecution. Yet, they yearn to know peace.

We long to live in that new creation, where God's glory is revealed on earth, through justice and peace. Today, on this second Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of peace as a prayer of longing.

(The candle of peace is lit.)

Let us pray together:

Living God, help us to recognize your presence wherever people work for peace. Teach us to be instruments of your peace in the world. Come, Lord Jesus.

Hymn 126 On Jordan's bank

- 1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.**
- 2. Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home
where such a mighty guest may come.**
- 3. For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward:
without thy grace, we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.**

**4. To heal the sick, stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.**

**5. All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
whose advent sets thy people free,
whom, with the Father, we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.**

Prayer of Praise (minister)

Hymn 165 O little town of Bethlehem

**1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by:
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**2. For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of
wondering love.**

**O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.**

**3. How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings born of
heaven.**

**No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters
in.**

**4. O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel.**

Prayer of Confession (congregation)

**God of peace and promise, we confess that we have taken
your commitment to us for granted. We assume what we do
is acceptable to you, yet we judge others more harshly. We
have been slow to welcome others, especially if their cultures
or convictions differ from ours. You call us to repentance,
but we resist seeing anything needing change in our hearts**

or our habits. Forgive our self-satisfied attitudes and challenge us with your vision of a peaceable kingdom where all can be made new.

Come, Lord Jesus.

- silent confession -

The Lord's Prayer (Debts/Debtors)

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory. For ever
and ever. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon (minister)

Responsive Reading Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 p. 519 NT & Psalms

¹Give your love of justice to the king, O God,
and righteousness to the king's son.

**²Help him judge your people in the right way;
let the poor always be treated fairly.**

³May the mountains yield prosperity for all,
and may the hills be fruitful.

**⁴Help him to defend the poor,
to rescue the children of the needy,
and to crush their oppressors.**

⁵May they fear you as long as the sun shines,
as long as the moon remains in the sky.
Yes, forever!

**⁶May the king's rule be refreshing like spring rain on freshly
cut grass,
like the showers that water the earth.**

⁷May all the godly flourish during his reign.
May there be abundant prosperity until the moon is no more.

**¹⁸Praise the Lord God, the God of Israel,
who alone does such wonderful things.**

**¹⁹Praise his glorious name forever!
Let the whole earth be filled with his glory.**

Amen and amen!

New Living Translation (NLT)

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Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 11:1-10 p. 562 pew Bible
Romans 15:4-13 p. 279 NT & Psalms
Matthew 3:1-12 p. 6 NT NT & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon What does peace look like?

Prayers of the People (*minister*)

Offering & Offertory

Doxology 830 Praise God from whom all blessings flow

**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.**

Prayer of Dedication (*congregation*)

**God, our Peace and our Promise, receive our gifts as
seeds of gratitude for your gift to us in Christ Jesus.
Bless these seeds with growth so that peace will take
root in people who face conflict and danger, and places
seeking to establish peace in the face of violence. Be
their peace and their promise, through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Communion Hymn 507 Break now the bread of life

- 1. Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
as once you broke the loaves beside the sea:
beyond the sacred page I seek you, Lord:
my spirit longs for you, O living Word.**
- 2. You are the bread of life, dear Lord, to me;
your holy word is truth redeeming me.
Give me to eat and live with you above;
teach me to love your truth, for you are love.**
- 3. Oh send your Spirit now, dear Lord, to me;
touch now my blinded eyes and make me see:**

**then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall,
and I shall find my peace, my all in all.**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you;

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts;

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God;

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God, Creator of light, Giver of life, Source of love. You guide the sun, cradle the moon, and toss the stars. At your word, the earth was spun on its course among the planets. You breathed life into humankind and set us among all your creatures, in a covenant of love and service. Even when we turned away from you, you did not forsake us. You sent your prophets to call us back to you. We give you thanks for your unending mercy to each and to all, as we join the song of creation to give you praise

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Mighty and tender God, in Jesus of Nazareth, you revealed your light, your life, and your love in words that confront and comfort us, in compassion that heals and frees us, in hope that challenges and changes us. We gather at this table to give thanks for his gifts to us. As we take the bread and cup at the table he prepares for us, fill us with such longing for your kingdom that our worship leads us to witness to his love through our lives.

God of peace and healing, we gather at your table to remember Christ's life and death, to proclaim his resurrection, and to await his coming again. But we also remember those who do not feast in joy today:

We pray for all who are in sorrow, loneliness or pain . . . (pause)

all who live in fear or hunger or poverty . . . (pause)

for nations that struggle for peace and justice . . .(pause)

and for world leaders facing the challenges of this present time. . .

(pause)

Inspire in them the hope we know in Christ Jesus as we recite the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died;

Christ is risen;

Christ will come again.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honour and glory are yours, Tender and Mighty God, now and forever.

Distribution

The Breaking of the Bread

The Pouring of the Cup

The Revelation

Partaking of the Bread

Partaking of the Cup

Prayer after Communion

Take us out to live as people of hope, transformed by sharing the living bread and cup of salvation to serve the world you love. Amen.

Hymn 110 Come, thou long-expected Jesus

**1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.**

**Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**

**2. Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever;**

**now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

*** Benediction**

Three-fold Amen

Piano Postlude