



PEACE IS MORE THAN JUST SITTING AROUND

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Neil Parker
Second Sunday of Advent
5 December 2021



MEDITATION & PRELUDE
Tomasz Piętak, organ

WELCOME AND PEACE

Lighting Candles

Wash and Pray

Opening Song



Advent Candle Lighting



Peace

A Candle is burning, a candle of peace,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:
for Jesus is coming to show us the way:
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.

Note - "A Candle is Burning" is by Sandra Dean, 1986.
Music is "Away In A Manger" by James Murray 1887.

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One: The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light.

All: Christ is our light.

By grace he came,

in power he rose;

we wait for Christ to come again.

One: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for God has looked favorably upon God's people and redeemed them.

All: God has raised up a mighty savior for us, as promised through the mouth of the prophets

One: to save us from our enemies,

All: so we might serve God without fear in holiness and righteousness before God all our days.

One: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us

All: to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

WASH AND PRAY



0 Our Father in heaven,



1 hallowed be your name,



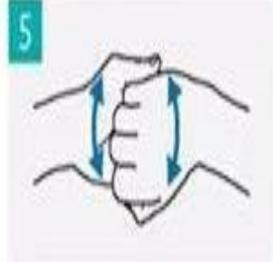
2 your kingdom come,
your will be done,



3 on earth as in heaven.



4 Give us today our daily
bread.



5 Forgive us our sins



6 as we forgive those who
sin against us.



7 Lead us not into
temptation



8 but deliver us from evil.



9 for the kingdom, the
power, and the glory are
yours



10 now and forever.



11 Amen.

OPENING HYMN - CH 124

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent

1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand.

Ponder nothing earthly minded,
for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descending
comes, our homage to demand.

OPENING HYMN - CH 124

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent

2 King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of heaven now incarnate
in the body and the blood,
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heav'nly food.

OPENING HYMN - CH 124

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent

3 Rank on rank the host of heaven
streams before him on the way,
as the Light of light descending
from the realms of endless day
comes, that pow'rs of hell may vanish,
as the shadows pass away.

OPENING HYMN - CH 124

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent

4 At his feet the six-winged seraph,
cherubim with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the Presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
“Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia, Lord Most High!”

GREETING ONE ANOTHER



A young child in a dark jacket is pointing at an open book. An adult's hand is resting on the child's shoulder, and another hand is pointing at the book. The scene is set in a church, with a wooden chair visible in the background.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Jesus Loves Me

FIRST READING: MALACHI 3:1-4 (NIV)

Read by Nicole Wrixon

“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. He

FIRST READING: MALACHI 3:1-4 (NIV)

Read by Nicole Wrixon

will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

SECOND READING: LUKE 3:1-6 (NIV)

Read by Nicole Wrixon

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene—during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of

SECOND READING: LUKE 3:1-6 (NIV)

Read by Nicole Wrixon

Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:
“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall

SECOND READING: LUKE 3:1-6 (NIV)

Read by Nicole Wrixon

be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth.

And all people will see God's salvation.””



VCC CHOIR
*Prepare the Way
of the Lord*

SERMON: PEACE IS MORE THAN JUST SITTING AROUND





RESPONSIVE HYMN-VCC CHOIR
Comfort, Comfort, You My People

1 Comfort, comfort you my people,
tell of peace, thus says our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness
bowed beneath oppression's load.

Speak you to Jerusalem
of the peace that waits for them;
tell them that their sins I cover,
and their warfare now is over.

2 Hark, the herald's voice is calling
in the desert far and near,
bidding us to make repentance
since the reign of God is here.

O that warning cry obey!

Now prepare for God a way;
let the valleys rise in meeting
and the hills bow down to greeting.

3 Make you straight what long was
crooked,
make the rougher places plain;
let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits God's holy reign.
For the glory of our God
now o'er earth is shed abroad;
and all flesh shall see the token
that God's word is never broken.

A high-angle, low-key photograph of a diverse group of people holding hands in a circle. The individuals are looking upwards, creating a sense of unity and shared purpose. The lighting is soft and warm, highlighting the textures of their clothing and the skin tones. The word "PRAYERS" is centered in a bold, green, sans-serif font.

PRAYERS

Photo by Delain Johnson([Unsplash](#))



OFFERING

Meditation-Tomasz Piętak, organ

DOXOLOGY - CH 46

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. Amen



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the right side of the slide, creating a modern, layered effect. The rest of the slide is a plain white background.

CLOSING HYMN-CH 129

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

Lift up your heads, O mighty gates;
behold the glorious Ruler waits!
The Sovereign One is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here.

CLOSING HYMN-CH 129

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

2 Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

CLOSING HYMN-CH 129

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

3 Redeemer, come! We open wide
Our hearts to you; here, Christ, abide!
Let us your inner presence feel,
Your grace and love in us reveal.

CLOSING HYMN-CH 129

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

4 So come, our Sovereign, enter in!
Let new and nobler life begin;
your Holy Spirit guide us on,
until the glorious crown be won.

A PRAYER AS I PUT ON MY MASK

Creator, as I prepare to go into the world, help me to see the sacrament in the wearing of this cloth - let it be "an outward sign of an inward grace" - a tangible and visible way of living love for my neighbours, as I love myself.

**Christ, since my lips will be covered,
uncover my heart, that people would see
my smile in the crinkles around my eyes.
Since my voice may be muffled, help me to
speak clearly, not only with my words,
but with my actions.**

Holy Spirit, As the elastic touches my ears, remind me to listen carefully - and full of care - to all those I meet.

May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner, and each breath that it holds, be filled with your love. In your Name and in that love, I pray.

May it be so. May it be so.

BLESSING

Go in peace to love
and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God



A photograph of a lit candle in a dark setting. The candle is on the right side, with a bright flame. The light from the candle reflects on a wet, dark surface in the foreground, creating a series of shimmering, elongated reflections. The background is dark and textured, possibly a wall or a large piece of fabric. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

Postlude Tomasz Piętak, organ



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