

Sunday December 6th 2020 – Orono

Second Sunday In Advent

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

One: A voice cries out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

All: Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

One: Speak to us, Lord. As you promised through your prophets Isaiah and John the Baptist, come to us now.

All: May all the barriers be removed so that we can receive your Word and worship you, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn **VU# 1** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Prayer of Approach (said together)

Loving God, in this season suspended between hope and fulfillment, let us never forget what you have done for us. May we be overwhelmed by your mercy, which flows in wave after wave.

May we be honest about the darkness within us, and perceptive of the light around us. May we make straight the path for the Lord, that together we may see your glory revealed. Amen.

Candle Lighting – The Candle of Peace

One: We light the Candle of Peace to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace and that through him peace is found. Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, Light of the World, give us peace in our hearts at Christmastime. We ask that as we wait for you to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today and everyday to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your peace with each other. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen

Our Candle Song

Good News Time

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn **VU# 74** "What Child Is This"

Advent Prayer (said together)

Edited from Rebecca Barlow Jordan's "A Prayer for Peace & Joy at Christmas"

Lord, in a season when every heart should be happy and light, many of us are struggling with the heaviness of life. Tragedy arrives as innocent victims suffer from this virus, and an inner voice whispers, "Be afraid!"

We need your peace, Jesus. This Advent, make it real in our hearts. Never have we needed Your joy and peace more than now. Thank You for the gift of Jesus, our Emmanuel, the Word made flesh. We not only need Your peace, Lord, we crave it.

We know that peace on earth can only come when hearts find peace with You. You are still our Peace. You are no longer a babe in the manger, You are Lord of lords and King of kings. And we still celebrate You as Lord—this Christmas and always. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 40: 1-11

Gospel Reading: Mark 1: 1-8

Anthem Slavic Chorale – "*I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day*"

Sermon: Peace and Quiet?

Hymn **VU# 44** "It Came Upon The Midnight Clear"

The Offering Dedication

Offering Response: VU #55 verse 3 only

***What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;***

***if I were a wise man, I would do my part.
Yet what I can I give him--give my heart.***

Prayers of the People

Hymn **VU# 30** “Hail To God’s Own Anointed”

The Blessing and Benediction

Go now in peace, never be afraid;
God will go with you each hour of every day;
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true;
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe;
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above!
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen. Amen. Amen.

Words: Don Besig and Nancy Price, Music: Don Besig © 1999

Postlude: Celtic Trio – “O Holy Night”