

Sunday, December 4, 2022
11:00 am Sanctuary Service

Advent 2: "Sacred Knowing;" Human Rights Sunday

Lector: David Bray

Prelude: *Lo, How A Rose* arr. K. Charlton

Welcome

Territorial Acknowledgement

Announcements

Hymn: MV173 *Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands* (1,2,5a)
Kaan/Klusmeier

Reflecting the Sacred

The shiny additions to our Advent and Christmas visuals remind us that we are called to reflect the sacred each and every day.

"Incarnation" is a word that means that God's presence came to dwell among all people, and we believe this happened in a special way in the birth of Jesus. All creation has always been imbued with the Creator's brilliance. This season, we will remember the call to shine with this holy light.

Call to Worship

The Advent Wreath

Family Member: Graham Hamilton
Please repeat after me [us]:

We pray for Peace this day.

We pray for the well-being of all creation

We open to see the Sacred reflected in all things.

We open to see each person as a gift of holy presence.

This is the gift of the Christ Mystery,

This is the gift of the Christ Mystery,

lighting the way to peace.

lighting the way to peace.

[The two blue candles are lit]

Upon this moment,

upon this people,

upon this place,

the holy comes.

And sacred knowing

brings sacred being

for sacred doing of God's plan.

Prayer of the Advent Wreath:

Family Member:

Living God, Christ Mystery, Spirit of Peace,

we give you thanks for this holy gathering of Beloveds.

As we take in the peace you offer,

may we be a reflection of your light,

expanding the sacred presence you have promised

into the sacred presence we can offer.

Amen.

Advent Wreath Hymn: VU 7 Hope is a Star (vs 2)

Brian Wren/ J. C. Fogg

Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth

Giving a promise of safety and worth.

When God is a child there's joy in our song.

The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,

and none shall be afraid.

Refracting the Sacred

As light passes through a medium, it can be redirected in ways that make its brilliance more visible, as in a prism. As we encounter the message today, we see the world and our own lives and loved ones in a different light, one that invites us to know more deeply the sacred nature of all things.

Introduction to Scripture

First Reading: *Romans 15: 4-13 (NRSVUE)*

Second Reading: *Matthew 3: 1-12 (NRSVUE)*

This is part of our story
Thanks be to God

Anthem: *Sleepers, Awake*

Larson

Reflection: Rev. Shelagh MacKinnon

Hymn: VU 9 *People Look East (1,2,3)*

Farjeon/Shaw

Refilling the Sacred

We are wells of the sacred. God's presence is poured into creation in a never-ending flow of love. We enter a time of prayer that invites us to be refilled in ways that can help us pour out our love throughout the week. All we must do in this moment is open our hearts to the Holy One.

Invitation to the Offering: Shelagh

Offertory: *Doxology* Tune: VU74

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
 Praise God all creatures here below
 Praise God all heavens and the earth

reflecting the sacred story.

This, this is Christ the One
who mirrors love for all of us.
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
the Word of time eternal.

Prayers of the People

Reframing the Sacred

We too often think that something "sacred" is far away and not available to us. This Advent season, we are "reframing" the way we recognize the sacred reflected all around and through us. As we prepare to move into the world, we begin to reframe our view of the world and our circumstances, illuminating new ways of being the Christ (Anointed One), tangibly present.

Hymn: VU29 Hark the Glad Sound (1,3,4)

Benediction

Postlude: *Sortie on 'Prepare the Way of Our God'* K. Charlton