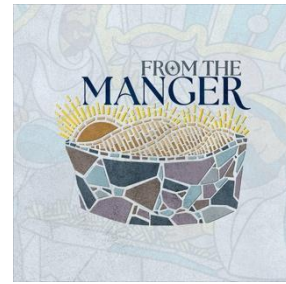


The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
December 8, 2024
Second Sunday of Advent



Preparation: “Compassion is born from proximity. To truly care for others, we must live near their experiences—not just geographically, but emotionally and spiritually. Jesus didn’t stay removed from human suffering; he lived among the people, walking alongside the poor, the sick, and the outcast. He reminds us of the sacred power of proximity, showing that to love others well, we must see them, hear them, and stand with them in their struggles.” Rev. Cameron Trimble, *Proximity and Compassion*, December 4, 2024

Gathering As a People of God

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Prelude

Voluntary and Fughetta on *Stuttgart*
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

Charles Callahan

Lighting the Advent Candle of Peace

One: A long time ago, a baby was born in a town called “House of Bread.” His name was Jesus. Before his birth, his mother, Mary, sang of God’s goodness: “God has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; God has filled the hungry with good things.”

All: **We have lit the candle of hope. Today, we light the candle of peace. Peace is what happens when everyone treats each other, themselves, and the world kindly.**

One: As we light this candle, we are reminded that, from the manger, peace is growing... growing to be God with us. His name is Jesus, Bread of Life.

Choral Introit

From the Manger
PCO Chancel Choir
Westin Sorrel, director

Amanda Meisenheimer
Arr. Andrea Hamilton

A starry sky breaks forth with light. The angel says, Be not afraid.
Gloria to the highest heights; heavenly hosts are singing praise.
You’ll find him as the angel said,
Peace from the heavens to the breaking of bread.
From the manger peace grows. He will be God with Us.
From the manger peace grows. Bread of Life, Jesus.

*** Call to Worship**

Emma Roya, Liturgist

One: As we begin this second week of Advent, focused on peace, may we remember what the angel said,

All: “Be not afraid, Glory to God in the highest!”

One: Born to bring peace, the Spirit of Christ says, “Peace to this house.”

All: Born to bring peace, the Spirit of Christ says, “Blessed are the peacemakers.”

One: In this season of long nights and expectant hearts, how do we find this peace?

All: Peace happens when we treat each other, ourselves, and the world kindly.

One: Peace emerges when the work of justice is done, when all are free to be who God made us to be.

All: Let us worship in a spirit of peace, proclaiming the coming of the Prince of Peace!

*** Hymn #83**

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus, vs. 1-4
[Stuttgart]

Prayer of Confession

Rebecca Mattern

One: Let us confess the ways in which we have opposed peace in ourselves and our communities.

All: Holy God, you created us to be at peace with each other and creation, but we confess we have disrupted your good peace. We have not allowed your peace to nourish us, shunning the healthy disciplines and relationships that would bring us internal peace. We have not allowed your peace to nourish us when we choose to hold petty grudges for small grievances, allowing friendships to slip into cold conflict. We have drowned out the cries of the hungry, imprisoned, war-ravaged, and abandoned with the mundane noise of our everyday lives, and instead, create false peace in the silence of intentional ignorance. In your mercy, help us let go of these sins and move forward in faith, trusting peace will be our reward. May the world be fed with peace.

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Rebecca Mattern

One: Hear the good news: God is a Loving Parent with endless compassion, desiring all people to flourish. Even when conflict and anxiety abound and peace seems elusive, God’s love remains steadfast.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

One: It is because we receive God’s pardon that we can be at peace. So take this moment to pass peace to your family, friends, and neighbors, for we cannot make this long Advent journey to the manger alone. May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you. Please greet your fellow worshippers in ways you feel comfortable.

*** Act of Praise #583**

Gloria, Gloria
[Gloria]

Jacques Berthier

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

The Word

Children's Message: Journey to the Manger

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Prayer of Illumination

sung

#88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, vs. 7*

O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

Old Testament Scripture

Isaiah 11:1-10

Rebecca Mattern

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Special Music

Go Tell it on the Mountain

Arr. Sandra Eithun

PCO Handbell Choir

Irene Shutt, Director

New Testament Scripture

Luke 2: 1-14

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

From the Manger: Hungering for Peace

Pastor Lisa Schrott

*Affirmation of Faith: Peace

Rebecca Mattern

One: Let us affirm our commitment to and belief in the Christian discipline of peace.

All: We believe peace is expensive. Peace is costly. What will we sacrifice for the sake of peace?

One: We believe peace is humble. Peace is willing to apologize. What ground will we concede for the sake of peace?

All: We believe peace is intentional. Peace is slow. What efficiency will we lose for the sake of peace?

One: We believe peace is brave. Peace has boundaries. What changes will we make for the sake of peace?

All: We believe those who make sacrifices for the sake of peace will be made whole again, for Jesus makes all things new.

One: Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God.

All: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!

Anthem

All Is Well
PCO Chancel Choir

M.W. Smith & W. Kirkpatrick

All is well, all is well. Angels and men rejoice.
For tonight darkness fell into the dawn of love's light. Sing alleluia.
All is well, all is well. Let there be peace on earth.
Christ is come, go and tell that He is in the manger. Sing alleluia.
All is well, all is well. Lift up your voice and sing.
Born is now Emmanuel. Born is our Lord and Savior. Sing alleluia

Responding to the Word

Minute for Service

Christmas Joy Offering

Kent Workman

Offering

Rebecca Mattern

Invitation

Offertory

Bicinium on *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending*

Charles Callahan

***Doxology #606**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

in unison

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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sent Out As a People of God

*** Hymn #378**

We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom, vs. 1-4
[Merle's Tune]

*** Benediction**

One: May Christ, the Bread of Life, who is the Prince of Peace in a hostile world, bring peace to your hearts and minds.

May the love of our Creator, who calls us to care for the hungry and oppressed, surround you.

And may the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, who empowers us to imagine a realm where all needs are met, strengthen you, now and always.

All: We go in hope and peace to feed the hungry, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of Christ's coming.

Postlude

Fanfare on Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker

Michael Burkhardt

** Please rise in body or spirit*

Ushers: Gary & Trudy Sturk, Jeff & Michele Arbour

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to Shirley Rumminger for supplying our snacks and to Dave Rumminger for taking care of the coffee.

Education Hour: Nativity Display and Scavenger Hunt

View nativity displays collected by church members and friends from around the world.

Confirmation Class will meet in the High School Youth Room.

Next Week: December 15, 2024 Third Sunday of Advent

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 2: 15-20

Education Hour: Christmas Traditions from Around the World and Your Home

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Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist
Westin Sorrel (he/him), Chancel Choir Director
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