

**Kindred Spirits Worship
December 7, 2025
Second Sunday of Advent – Peace**

PRELUDE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND AND TREATIES

One:

Called to live with respect in Creation
as Indigenous, Métis, Settler and Newcomer people,
We acknowledge that the land on which we worship, work, learn and serve,
and the water which sustains life on this land,
is of God, Creator,
and in the farthest reaches of memory
was entrusted to the original peoples who walked this land,
and to their descendants.

One:

With the coming of colonizers,
treaties were made,
but again and again the colonizers disregarded and broke the treaties,
causing grave and lasting harm to the historic caregivers of the land,
to the generations that followed them,
and to the land itself.

All:

**Called to action for Truth and Reconciliation,
we who gather here on Treaty One territory
commit ourselves to finding faithful ways
of honouring the treaties, the land and one another
in a spirit of openhearted respect.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE – Peace

HYMN VU#7 v 2 Hope is a Star

OPENING STATEMENT

Today the second candle is lit, the candle of Peace. Not a quiet that ignores injustice, but the deep peace of God that mends what has been torn, heals what has been wounded and keeps promises long broken. In the coming of the Child, God is making peace with the earth and calling us to do the same.

Call to Worship

One: The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
and a little child shall lead them.

All: We come seeking that peace.

One: Nations shall beat swords into ploughshares;
the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord.

All: Come, O Peace of God, fill us, heal us, and lead us home.

One: Let us worship the Coming One together!

Opening Prayer

God of the turning world, on this Second Sunday of Advent we light the candle of Peace and remember that Your peace costs everything. Come again as the Child who makes enemies friends, as the Shepherd who gathers the scattered, as the Spirit who will not let us go.

Teach us the fierce kindness of peace that refuses to abandon even one.

We open our lives to You, trusting Your love is strong enough to make peace where we have failed. Fill us with your peace as we gather to worship today in the name of the Coming Christ we pray. Amen.

Hymn MV 134 There was a Child in Galilee

MOMENT TO PONDER

A voice cries in the wilderness: “Prepare the way—every valley lifted up, every mountain made low, the rough ground made level.” John is not polite. He is not gentle. He is the raw, burning edge of God’s longing for a world set right. Yet the peace he prepares is not the silence of the graveyard, but the harmony of the garden restored: wolf and lamb feeding together, children playing over once-deadly places, the earth full of the knowledge of the Lord as water covers the sea.

That peace begins with truth spoken in love and love strong enough to bear the truth. It begins when we stop smoothing over the crooked paths we have walked—broken treaties, stolen children, poisoned rivers—and let the refiner’s fire do its painful, necessary work. Only then can the little child lead us. Only then can the Prince of Peace find a straight road into our hearts, our church, this land. The axe is lying at the root of the trees, yes, but so is the shoot growing from the stump of Jesse. Which one will we tend today?

HYMN VU#333 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 11:1–10

Psalms 72: 1-7, 18-19 (VU p.790 Part One and Three)

Matthew 3 v 1- 12

CHOIR ANTHEM “A Shoot Shall Come Forth”

REFLECTION

HYMN MV#144 Like a Healing Stream

OFFERING INVITATION

The Peace candle burns. Peace is never cheap; it costs the Prince of Peace everything. Today we give money, time, and courage so that Christ’s gentle reign may be felt in this land and among all peoples. Let us give gladly.

Doxology VU#541 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

OFFERTORY PRAYER (unison)

Holy One, receive these gifts and receive us. Bless them for the work of peace: truth-telling, treaty-honoring, language-keeping, land-healing, until every grief is held and Your peace flows like justice, like an ever-flowing stream. In the name of the Child who is coming, Amen

Centering Music

COMMUNITY/PEOPLE'S PRAYERS *written by Nancy Sanders*

LORD'S PRAYER (sung) AMEN

HYMN VU#5 All Earth is Waiting

Commissioning and Benediction

Go in the strength of the Spirit, bearers of reconciliation, and do not be discouraged by what is broken. May the Prince of Peace guide your steps, grant you courage, and empower you to be instruments of God's healing in every place you tread.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Christ, and Spirit, be with you all this day and always. Amen.

Choral Blessing MV#222 May the Peace of God Be Your Peace

Postlude