

PEACE

JOY

LOVE

HOPE



December 15, 2019
Third Sunday in Advent

We Covenant One With Another

Prelude

Our Great Band

Greeting and Announcements

Rev. Ken Heintzelman



Sing Our Greeting to Each Other

All are welcome to this time and place. We especially welcome those who are visiting with us as we move through the wedgeblade season of Advent.

Gathered here in the mystery of the hour.

Gathered here in one strong body.

Gathered here in the struggle and the power,

Spirit draw near. (Sing two times)

Advent Liturgy

Led by Ron Heisner

One: We have lit two candles: one for peace and one for joy. Today we light the third candle, the candle of hope. We light it knowing full well that hope is often elusive, and in some seasons of our lives, it is almost completely absent. Yet in this season of Advent, we trust that God is never absent from us. God is always preparing something new. And even where there is despair and discord, whether between countries, within families, or within our own hearts, God is present, gently leading us to new possibilities.

All: Loving God, in this time of preparation and planning, we thank you for the peace, joy, and hope you unfailingly offer us. Show us the creative power of hope. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ.

(Our candle lighting liturgy, adapted from Jeanye Slettom, reflects process-relational theology. We are grateful for the creative gifts of new theologians and liturgy crafters who share our values.)

Singing Our Faith Love Came Down at Christmas

by Christina Rossetti

1. Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas;
star and angels gave the sign.
 2. Love shall be our token;
Love be yours and love be mine;
Love to God and neighbor,
love for plea and gift and sign.

Words of Hope

Shared by Sue LeFebrve, Peg Heintzelman, Alicia Nieto Jacobs

Sue has copies of her book *No More Deaths, Humanitarian Aid is Never a Crime, Saving Lives of Migrants* available today. Her story inspired poet Peg Heintzelman. A special thanks to Alicia Jacobs for providing the Spanish translation of Peg's work.

Being That Sensitive Part of Society

Celebrations

Led by Rev. Ken Heintzelman

Celebration Song

I feel good (echo) I feel good

I feel great (echo) I feel great

I think it's time (echo) I think it's time

To celebrate (echo) to celebrate

Whether it's your birthday, anniversary, or you're just having a good day

We're glad you're here (echo) we're glad you're here

To celebrate (echo) to celebrate

We celebrate (echo) We celebrate

Your being here (echo) your being here

With being itself in history (echo) history

No matter who, or what, or where you are on the journey of life

You're welcome here (echo) you're welcome here

To celebrate

We're glad you're here (echo) we're glad you're here

To celebrate

Yeah!



Word About Life

I Peter 3: 8-17

Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing. For

“Those who desire life
and desire to see good days,
let them keep their tongues from evil
and their lips from speaking deceit;
let them turn away from evil and do good;
let them seek peace and pursue it.

For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and his ears are open to their prayer.

But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil.

Invitation to Give

Shared by Ron Heisner

Our giving is in anticipation of a world that reflects God's dream of abundance, freedom, and peace. In this season of anticipation, our offerings reflect our hope.

Offering and Offertory

What Child Is This?

William C. Dix, traditional melody

Our Advent offertories are "Y'all Come!" and everyone's participation is welcome.

Word About Life

Pilgrimage From Despair to Hope

Shared by Rev. Ken Heintzelman

Words for Mission

Shared by Rev. Ken Heintzelman

One: Take your encouragement from Christ, that your hope may blossom.

All: **We will share in the Spirit; we will find consolation in love and service. We strive to practice a ministry of humility and compassion, living lives worthy of our calling in the world.**

One: Know this: God is at work in us, empowering us. May hope pervade our lives, individually and communally. These are the times!

All: **We are the people.**

One: All of Creation is blessed!

All: May we love all and serve all!

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Amen.

All: Amen.



Departing With Joy "All Faithful Friends, Rejoice!"

1. All faithful friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
Now give heed to what we say:
Jesus the Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow,
asleep within the manger now.
Christ is born today, Christ is born today.

2. All faithful friends, rejoice,
with heart and soul and voice;
Now you know of endless bliss:
Jesus the Christ was born for this!
God is opening all doors;
and we are blessed forevermore.
Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!

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Our Great Band

Joe Garcia, Percussion
Dave Robinson, Guitar
John Willis, Bass Guitar
Travis Meyers, Keytar

Ushers

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Roy Zaborowski, Peg Hesley,
Joe Botticelli, Tim Mikkelsen,
Chuck Bonstelle, Michael Curry

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