

December 07th, 2025 – 10:15 am
Second Sunday of Advent
Holy Communion



WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

"In this sacred season of waiting, we gather with longing, trusting God's promise of peace."

Carols in Advent:

Carol 1: VU1 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (v.1,4,5,7)

1 **O come, O come, Emmanuel,**
 and ransom captive Israel
 that mourns in lowly exile here
 until the Son of God appear.
R ***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel***
 shall come to thee, O Israel.

4 **O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,**
 from every foe deliver them
 that trust your mighty power to save,
 and give them victory o'er the grave. R

5 **O come, O Key of David, come,**
 and open wide our heavenly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery. R

7 **O come, Desire of nations, bind**
 all peoples in one heart and mind;
 O bid our sad divisions cease,
 and be for us the Prince of Peace. R

Carol 2: *VU12 She Walked in the Summer*

- 1** She walked in the summer through the heat on the hill.
She hurried as one who went with a will.
She danced in the sunlight when the day was done.
Her heart knew no evening who carried the sun.
- 2** Fresh as a flower at the first ray of dawn,
she came to her cousin whose morning was gone.
There leaped a little child in the ancient womb,
and there leaped a little hope in every ancient tomb.
- 3** Hail, little sister, who heralds the spring.
Hail, brave mother, of whom prophets sing.
Hail to the moment beneath your breast.
May all generations call you blessed.
- 4** When you walk in the summer through the heat on the hill,
when you're wound with the wind and one with Her will,
be brave with the burden you are blessed to bear,
for it's Christ that you carry everywhere,
everywhere, everywhere.

Carol 3: *VU 40 Before the Marvel of This Night*

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| 1 Before the marvel of this night adoring, fold your wings and bow, then tear the sky apart with light and with your news the world endow. Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace, that fear and death and sorrow cease: sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace! | 3 | Give earth a glimpse of heavenly bliss, a teasing taste of what they miss: sing bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss! |
| 2 Awake the sleeping world with song, this is the day that God has made; assemble here, celestial throng, in royal splendour come arrayed. | | The love that we have always known, our constant joy and endless light, now to the loveless world be shown, now break upon its deathly night. Into one song compress the love that rules our universe above: sing love, sing love, sing God is love, sing love, sing God is love! |

Processional Hymn: *VU 34 Come Now, O God of Peace (O-So-So)*

**Come now, O God of peace,
we are your people;
pour out your spirit
that we be one body.**

**Ososo ososo,
pyonghwauimgum,
uriga hanmom
iruge hasoso.**

Acknowledgment of Traditional Territory

Janet Mairs

As we assemble in this holy place, we recognize that for thousands of years this territory has been a sacred gathering place for many peoples of Turtle Island. We respectfully acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of several Indigenous Nations and wish to pay special recognition to the Mississaugas of the Credit. The original nations continue to cry out for justice.

As treaty people, we seek to walk the path of peace, listening with humility, learning with open hearts and committing ourselves to the work of righting the wrongs of the past and present so that peace may be active among us.

Advent Wreath Lighting: Candle of Peace

Jeanne Moffat and Bob Fugere

Advent reminds us that we are people who share a story,
the story of Jesus, the Christ,
who enacts peace not by domination but by justice;
not by fear, but through faithfulness.

We long for the day when

“the wolf shall live with the lamb... and a little child shall lead them” (Isaiah 11:6).

And we listen for the voice in the wilderness, crying:

“Prepare the way for Jesus, make his paths straight” (Matthew 3:3).

**We choose to live the story of peace,
believing that true peace comes when we seek the flourishing of all creation
and prepare space in our hearts for the One who brings justice, mercy, and joy.**

We light this candle of *peace* as a sign of our commitment
to bring Light to the places where the world hides from truth,
until that day when all creation lives together in harmony,
and the valleys are lifted up, and the rough places made plain. *[Light the second candle of the Advent wreath.]*

**Come, Loving Jesus,
Prince of Peace and Voice in the Wilderness,
make us ready.
Let peace begin in us.**

Words of Welcome

Welcome to Trinity-St. Paul's United Church on this second Sunday of Advent. Whether you are joining us here in the sanctuary or online, your presence is part of our preparation and our peace. Today, through scripture, song, and silence, we listen for the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of God.” May the peace of Christ meet us in this place. Welcome home. Welcome to worship.

Gathering Words:

We gather as people shaped by stories of justice, love, and renewal.

**In this Advent season,
we open our hearts to Peace,
Not the absence of struggle,
but the presence of right relationship.**

We come knowing

that the prophets imagined a world
where the lion lies down with the lamb,

Where children are safe and creation flourishes.

**We come, longing for such harmony.
We come, preparing the way for new life.**

Come, Breath of Peace.

Come, Wild Spirit.

Come, Christ among us, again and again.

Hymn: VU 20 *On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry*

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| <p>1 On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry announces that the Lamb is nigh; awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of Kings.</p> <p>2 Then cleansed be every life from sin; make straight the way for God within; and let each heart prepare a home where such a mighty guest may come.</p> <p>3 In you, we find abundant life, our refuge in the midst of strife; without your grace we waste away,</p> | <p>4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore, and help us rise to fall no more. O let your face upon us shine, and fill the world with love divine.</p> <p>5 All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won; and praise to God whom we adore, with Holy Spirit evermore.</p> |
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Prayers of Praise and Confession

Silent Confession

Advent Peace & Passing of the Peace:

In this season of peace,
we share the joy and justice of Christ with one another.

The peace of Christ is within us and between us.

Let us share it with open hearts. *(You are invited to share the peace with your neighbour)*

Anthem: *Da Pacem Domine* by Arvo Pärt

WE GROW IN FAITH

"Through scripture, prayer, and proclamation, we grow in the hope that Christ is near."

Introduction to the Scripture:

In our scripture today we hear the bold and unsettling voice of John the Baptist from the wilderness. John calls God's people to prepare the way, not through comfort or ease, but through repentance, honesty, and a change of heart. His words remind us that true peace is not simply the absence of conflict but the presence of a life turned toward God. As we listen to the words from scripture, may we open ourselves to this transforming peace that God longs to bring into our world and into our lives.

Scriptures: Matthew 3:1-12 (Inclusive Bible)

Janet Mairs

Herein is wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *"John the Baptist – Preparation and Partnership in and for Peace"*

Silent Reflection

WE RESPOND

"In gratitude and hope, we respond, with bread and cup, with gifts from our lives, and with prayers for a world made new."

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Welcome

The Great Thanksgiving

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Holy One.

Let us give thanks to the Creator of all.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

In the wilderness, a voice cries out...

we join our voices with all creation, saying:

Holy, holy, holy One,

God of truth and tenderness,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes in peace.

Hosanna in the highest!

Institution & Re-enactment

Sharing of the Elements

Communion Hymn: VU 684 *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

- 1** **Make me a channel of your peace:**
where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your healing power,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you:

- 2** **Make me a channel of your peace:**
where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, only light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.
 O Spirit, grant that I may never seek
 so much to be consoled as to console,
 to be understood as to understand,
 to be loved as to love with all my soul.

- 3** **Make me a channel of your peace.**
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving to all that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Offering and Thanksgiving

In this season of waiting, we give not from abundance but from hope,
In the wilderness, John called people to prepare,
not just their hearts, but their lives.

We bring our offering, our time, our treasure, our talents,
as signs of preparation and partnership.

Let us give with joy, trusting that even small seeds can grow into peace.

(The offering is collected in the sanctuary. For those online, you are welcome to donate to the work of TSP with the QR code below.)



Offertory Hymn: TLUS *Let There Be Peace on Earth*

- 1** Let there be peace on earth,
 and let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth,
 the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator,
 children all are we.
Let us walk with each other
 in perfect harmony.
- 2** Let peace begin with me;
 let this be the moment now.
With every step I take,
 let this be my solemn vow:
to take each moment,
 and live each moment,
 in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth,
 and let it begin with me.

Offering Prayer

Generous Giver,
May these gifts be seeds of peace,
signs of your coming realm,
and the fruit of our partnership in love. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Loving God, hear our prayer.
And in your love, answer.

Sung Response: VU 34 *Come Now, O God of Peace* (v.1 in English)

Come now, O God of peace,
we are your people;

**pour out your spirit
that we be one body.**

Encircling Prayers... *We hold in our prayers:*

Trinity-St. Paul's United Church

The Amini-Najafizada Family

Bradley Clements and Emma Kelly

Jennifer Ratzlaff Hauck, Brad's sister

Betty Butterworth

Vera and Greg Callaghan

Shining Waters Regional Council

Wasauksing First Nation United Church

Bethune United Church, Baysville

Bathurst Street United Church, Toronto

WE GO TO GOD'S WORLD

"As we go from this place, we carry peace not as a concept, but as a calling."

Closing Hymn: VU 28 *Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness*

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| <p>1 Herald! Sound the note of gladness! Tell the news that Christ is here; make a pathway through the desert for the one who brings God near.</p> <p>R <i>Sound the trumpet! Tell the message! Christ the Saving One has come!</i></p> | <p>till once more we sing the song. R</p> <p>3 Herald! Sound the note of pardon! Those repenting are forgiven; God receives these wayward children, and to all new life is given. R</p> <p>4 Herald! Sound the note of triumph! Christ has come to share our life, bringing God's own love and power, granting victory in our strife. R</p> |
| <p>2 Herald! Sound the note of judgement, warning us of right and wrong, turning us from sin and sadness,</p> | |

Benediction:

Go now as people who prepare the way,
with peace in your steps and justice in your hearts.

We go with joy, trusting the child who leads us.

May you partner with all who long for healing,
and bear witness to the One who is coming.

We go with peace to make it so! Amen.

Postlude: *Méditation sur le 1er Prélude de piano de J. S. Bach*, par Charles Gounod

TRINITY ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

FAITH JUSTICE ARTS



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*Trinity–St. Paul's is an inclusive and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Canada. We seek to be a centre for faith, justice and the arts: **a centre for faith**, where the Gospel is lived and shared; **a centre for justice**, where voices are raised for peace and equity; **a centre for the arts**, where beauty, imagination, and creativity reveal God's presence.*

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