

St. John's United Church of Christ

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

10 A.M. Worship December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent - Peace

WE GET READY FOR THE WORD

Prayer of Preparation

Gracious God, we are a people of many distractions, pulled in different directions, responding to multiple and often conflicting needs. We thank you for the gifts of Sabbath and worship, for a space and a time to set aside everything that tugs at us and instead focus our hearts and minds on you. Draw us more deeply into your presence. Grant us rest as we rely on your provision, and faith as we trust in your grace. Quiet our spirits so we may hear your Spirit speaking to us. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

*(Please note the * indicates when you should stand.)*

*** Passing of the Peace. Greet one another spreading the news of God's peace**

Prelude

Gabriel

*Call to Worship (Inspired by Isaiah 40)

One: A voice cries out declaring God's presence. Comfort, O Comfort my people, says God.

All: We come preparing the way of the Lord. Together, we actively wait for God's peace.

One: A voice cries out declaring God's equity. Valleys shall be lifted and Hills be made low.

All: We come to make straight in the desert a highway. Together, we're pressing toward God's peace.

One: A voice cries out declaring steadfastness. Grass withers, flowers fade, but God's word stands forever.

All: We lift up our voices with strength and good tidings. Together, we carry out God's peace.

*Hymn	"Comfort My People"	Tune #234
Comfort my people now; speak tender love and grace To those who fear God's ruling might or doubt God's strong embrace. Prepare the way for Christ to make God's pardon known. In desert places, high and low , God's glory will be shown.	Come, Holy Spirit, come; baptize your church with power To stand against all evil ways that injure and devour Your children, great and small, both innocent and strong. Come, feed your flock and gather us To sing your Advent song.	

* Opening Prayer (In Unison)

Holy God, your glory is revealed to us day by day as valleys of despair are lifted up and mountainous problems are leveled. In your presence, we see more than our immediate situation. We catch a glimpse of your eternal purposes. So come among us now and speak your world of peace feed us with your truth, and equip us to welcome Christ's coming, Amen

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

Let us Pray (*In Unison*)

God of us all, the world around us is filled with strife and unrest. We confess we often live our lives in fear rather than faith. We pray that these flickers of hope and peace might light a flame in our hearts, so that others might be warmed by your love. In this time of holy waiting, let it be so. Amen.

***Hymn**

"One Candle is Lit"

#128

Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night,
our hearts long to greet You as roses the light.
Salvation, draw near us Our vision engage.
One candle is lit for the hope of the age.

Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare
for a gift that compels us with justice to care.
Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease.
One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Time for the Child in us All

Pastor Lisa

***Hymn**

"Prepare the Way of the Lord"

#121

Prepare the way of the Lord.
Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see
the salvation of our God.

Scripture: Mark 1:1-8

One: Here ends the reading. May God add blessings to the reading and hearing of the scriptures.

All: Thanks be to God.

Message

*** Hymn**

"O Come Emmanuel"

#119 verses 1 and 4

O come, O come Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

Pastoral Prayer

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.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

Invitation to Give Generously

(Thank you for being so generous in your care of St. John's UCC and its mission, through your participation and giving. Your stewardship makes a difference. You may make your offering several ways including in church, online, by text at 833-502-0657, or mail. We are grateful for your support.)

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication (In Unison)

While we are waiting and preparing for Christ to appear, we are seeking to act as faithful followers. May our gifts extend the promise of salvation to people whose lives are broken. May our gifts offer hope to all who are suffering. May our church be a listening, caring presence for all. Amen..

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

* Hymn	"Let There Be Peace on Earth"	#677
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.	Let peace begin with me Let this be the moment now. With ev'ry 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.	

Benediction

Postlude

Williams

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Preaching: **Pastor Lisa Hart**
Director of Music: Ministry: **Ruth Notch**
Advent Candle: **The GoldensteinFamily**
Liturgist: **Todd Armstrong**
Usher Team: **Jim Pisoni**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship & Lockup: **Karen Rocchio**
Organist: **Evelyn Weber**

Announcements

Barry W. Maddox, brother of Rev. Shari K. Maddox, died and entered eternal life on November 30, 2023. A Memorial Service for him will be held at the Schrader Funeral Home at 1 p.m., Sunday, December 17, 2023.

We pray for
Barb Ackerman, June Evers, Elizabeth Hart, Sue Kinnaman, Shwetha Notch,
Margie Paul, Barbara Tretter, Amy Tucker, Gloria Vaclavik and Paul Van Driest
Please let us know your prayer concerns

Global Ministries requests that we pray with **Morocco** this week

12/17/23 Service

Liturgist: **Jane Lindberg**
 Usher Team: **Larry Sontag**
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Fellow & Lockup: **Phil Difani**
 Advent Candle: **The Ayers/Wickenhauser Family**

12/24/23 Service

Liturgist: **Ellen Brandon**
 Usher Team: **John Bartelt**
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Fellow & Lockup: **Nora Amato**
 Advent Candle: **The Hart Family**

12/31/23 Service

Liturgist: **Carol Tindira**
 Usher Team: **Phil Difani**
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Fellow & Lockup: **Helen Stortz**

A Look Ahead

12/10	9:00 AM	Advent Bible Study (<i>library</i>)
12/10	10:00 AM	Second Sunday of Advent
12/10	11:00 AM	Ted Gottlieb "Medicare 101"
12/16	8:00 AM	Habitat Build
12/17	9:00 AM	Advent Bible Study (<i>library</i>)
12/17	9:15 AM	Loaves & Fishes
12/17	10:00 AM	Third Sunday of Advent
12/17	10:00 AM	Christmas Program
12/17	11:00 AM	Mission Meeting (<i>library</i>)
12/18	6:30 PM	Council Meeting
12/24	10:00 AM	Christmas Fund Offering
12/24	10:00 AM	Fourth Sunday of Advent
12/24	10:00 AM	No Sunday School
12/24	4:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service
12/24	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Candle Light Service
12/28	6:00 PM	Table Fellowship location TBD
1/1/24		New Year's Day (<i>office/ECC Closed</i>)
1/3/24	9:00 AM	ECC begins
1/6/24		Epiphany
1/7/24	10:00 AM	Communion Sunday
1/7/24	11:00 AM	Senior Ministry Meeting (<i>library</i>)
1/8/24	1:30 PM	Personnel Committee Meeting zoom
1/8/24	4:30 PM	Christian Education Committee

more at <https://www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org/fellowship>
 Please check your News Notes/Website for specific information around upcoming activities

Join Us

This Holiday Season
 10 AM Worship

peace 1st Sunday of Advent Dec 3rd
Hope 2nd Sunday of Advent Dec 10th
 3rd Sunday of Advent Dec 17th *Joy*

Love The Children's Program
 4th Sunday of Advent Dec 24th

Join us for Dec 24 @ 10 a.m. worship.
 We will be lighting the 4th advent candle of **Love**.
 Special music will include Chancel Choir & piano duets.
 Come and center yourself in worship before all the busyness of the day begins.

9 AM Advent Bible Study
 11/26, 12/3, 12/10, 12/17

CHRISTMAS EVE, December 24th
 4 PM Christmas Eve Service
a shorter service, geared for younger families
 7 PM Candle Light Service
traditional service with candles and communion

15370 Olive Blvd.
 St. John's United Church of Christ

Join us on Sundays

9:00 a.m. - Fellowship in Fellowship Hall

10:00 a.m. – Sunday School

10:00 a.m. – Worship

In-Person, Facebook Live, or Virtual

St. John's United Church of Christ

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