

Faith United Methodist Church

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2019

God's People Gather to Worship at 9:00 am

† OPENING PRAYER

God of peace and justice, we look to you today, our help in ages past. Time after time you have been our Rock and Refuge, our bridge over troubled waters, and our peace in the midst of troubled times. Just as the people were anxiously waiting for the messiah to come, we ask for the pouring of your spirit, that there might be peace in our homes, our communities, our nation, and all across the world. Jehovah Shalom, we ask you today, let there be peace on earth.

† GREETING The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

† CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVELY)

Leader To a world marked by violence:

People The prophets cast a vision where we turn our weapons into everyday tools.

Leader To a world where children practice “active shooter drills,” where schools and churches are no longer safe spaces:

People Christ calls us not to live in fear.

Leader To a world where war and hate seem to be victorious:

People We are thankful that those who walk in the Lord's light know that peace will reign forever.

† OPENING HYMN 431 Let There Be Peace on Earth

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (IN UNISON)

Lord, in so many ways You have sent us the message of Your salvation, yet we have been too busy to hear. In so many ways, even through the Christ, You have tried to show us Your Love, but we would not see. And so often You would have us share Your Love with others that you might bless the world through us, but we would not share it. Forgive us, Lord. In Christ we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Lord, we know you have not left us powerless and hopeless. We know you have given us your Spirit. We give joy, peace, and hope as we wait for the return of our Savior.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Leader Will those who will assist us in our observance of Advent, please come forward.
Now we continue with the lighting of the candles on the wreath.

Reader 1 Today we light the second Advent candle, the candle of peace.

Reader 2 Let us pray. God of our ancestors, you stand as a sign for the people. O Sovereign

of all the earth, come and release from prison those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. Amen.

Reader 1 & 2 The first candle reminded us of hope. The second Advent candle is the candle of peace, the peace we seek in our hearts as we await the coming of Christ and peace on earth as announced by the angels.

Reader 1 May the light of hope and peace burn brightly in our hearts all our days.

Reader 2 (Use the lighter provided to light a second blue candle.)

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Since we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth, Holy God, make us hunger for this heavenly food, that it may nourish us today in the ways of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 2:2-5 *Page 484 , pew Bible*

† NEW TESTAMENT READING Matthew 3:1-12 *Page 682, pew Bible*

OFFERTORY

As you prepare to give generously, consider what it means to be a people of peace in our community.

OFFERTORY MUSIC How Far *Faith Harmony*

DOXOLOGY Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow *Page 95, UMH*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, we seek to follow your path in this world. Among violence, hatred, and fear you call us to be your people, people of light and peace. Help us to use these gifts to combat systems of oppression that have gained power. May all we do in this place honor your name. Amen.

MUSICAL SELECTION Journey Melody *Faith Harmony*

SERMON *Living Peace* Rev. David A. E. Whitt

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME OF JOYS

† HYMN 206 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

† BENEDICTION

May the beauty of a sleeping baby fill you with wonder, the curiosity of a toddler dance in your toes, the anticipation of a lover carry you into tomorrow, the peace of Christ soothe your mind, and the joy of the Holy Spirit brighten your whole day and night! While we are absent from this place, know that you are cradled by the living God! **We go in peace to love and serve the lord, in the name of Christ. Amen.**

† HYMN 666 Shalom to You