

December 2, 2018, 8:00 a.m.

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent – Peace –  
“Sleep in heavenly peace.”

### Hear

**Watch.** People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”... Be on guard so that your hearts are dulled by frivolity nor not weighed down with anxieties of life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.” — from Luke 21:34-36

### Silence

Be still and aware of God’s presence within and all around. *Elijah found that, the Lord, was not in the wind, not in the earthquake, not in the fire, but in the sound of sheer silence.* —1 Kings 19:11-13

### Together We Pray

Gracious God of our creation, we enter this season of waiting. Advent God, we open our lives to hear your call upon our hearts today to become those who not only

wait, but also work for peace in our lives, within our families, our communities, and our world.

-Thy sovereign reign is now here. Amen.

### Our Prayers of Thanksgiving

Response: Lord, hear our praise!

### Together We Pray

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.<sup>1</sup>

And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory forever. Amen.

### Scripture and Meditation

**Peace.** Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again:

Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

— from Philippians 4:4-7 (NIV)

### Silence

*Reflect on the scripture and know that Jesus’ teachings of old yet are new and applicable for your days, now.*

### Together We Pray

Brother Jesus we come listening, listening to the silence in the night, listening to the murmured prayer, listening to the hope filled tears. We worship with our listening together to the Spirit that has drawn us near; to the friend so dear, to the stranger that we might understand. Lord we come to live out our worship as listeners, responders. Amen.

### Our prayers of Intercessions

Response: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

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*Spirit of our calling, of knowing and guiding,  
may you bless our time of prayer together. Sacred are the moments, sacred are the days in your presence.  
Rest mightily that we might listen and respond boldly.*

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### Communion With the Body of Christ

The Lord be with you. **Response: And also be with you.**  
We lift up our hearts. **Response: We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**Response: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy God, in the beginning you called out, “Let there be light!” Just as your light of creation spread in response, so too does your light in Christ rise each day.

<sup>1</sup> Matthew 5:21-24, 44-48; 6:14-15; 18:15-18 (9:9-13); 7:1-2. 5:14-16

This Light equips us for each new opportunity to make today a little brighter than yesterday.

When we feel overcome or succumb to the dark night of our souls, you offer us a way back into your way of peace.

And so we praise you, singing...

**Response: You are the Light. You are our God piercing the dark night. Blessed are the ones, shining their lights now in your name!**

A star appeared on a silent and holy night and brought with it your peace in the form of a baby. This holy infant, tender and mild, was a sign of new life, a sign of holy vulnerability, a sign of your presence taking on our human form. This would be a peace that showed forth the truth that all humanity is beloved and called us to care for each one as beloved.

**Response: Christ you have no body on earth but ours. Make us instruments of your peace; voices of your justice, hearts of your compassion, hands of your mercy.**

Hear the Gospel invitation from Christ...

Jesus gathered people around tables and showed them their radiance. By the Spirit, Jesus gathers us around this table and says; "This bread and this cup are my life and light for you. And because I shine in you, let your light shine for the world." *And so we offer ourselves in union with Christ's offering of salvation:*

**Response: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts.

Transform us into the Light of your Love for all and make us one in you. Thanks and praise be to the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer! **Amen!**

**Response: Longing for food, many are hungry.**

**Longing for water, many still thirst. Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed.**

**Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts, shine through the dark silent nights. Christ, be our light!**

**Shine in your church gathered today. Amen.**

*The table before us set long ago  
by our Lord Jesus Christ. This is open to all  
who have come to pray with us today.*

### Sending Forth

May the light of God illumine the heart of our soul.

May the power of Christ move us to reach out in love.

May the fire of the Spirit free us to live in mission this day. **Amen.**

### Passing of the Peace of Christ

**We Offer:** May Jesus' peace be with you.

**We Respond:** May Jesus' peace be with you also.

(Worship Resource: NRSV Bible, 2018, J. Chamberland)

—Our Worship In The Morning—

December 2, 2018, 8:00 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent – Peace –  
“Sleep in heavenly peace.”

*Silent  
Night* 200<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY



**Song of peace**

"Silent Night" as a message of peace

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**Our Mission** is to live our experience of God's love  
in all that we say and do...

**Our Vision** is to be a growing spiritual faith community in  
the manner of Christ, where all are welcome and cared for...