



Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin December 5, 2021
Second Sunday of Advent: "Peace"

Thank you for joining us for worship today.

We are glad you are here!

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
 you are welcome at Hope UCC!*

***Those who are able, please stand**

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT WREATH LITANY offered by members of Music & Worship and Faith Exploration Ministries: Carole Keenan and Kimberly Powell

Many: God of hope, Prince of Peace, You speak peace into the world in the Way of the Christ child. Help us embody your peace and live as peacemakers that we may called children of God. God of hope, God of peace, into our darkness come.

Hymn: *He Came Down (peace)*

He came down that we may have peace;

He came down that we may have peace;

He came down that we may have peace,

Hallelujah forevermore.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: In this season of prophecy, promise, and preparation, we come to be renewed and refreshed.

Many: We come to be inspired by stories of a messiah who will change the world—and change us.

One: We come to listen for words of hope and peace, promise and challenge.

Many: We come with open ears, open minds, and open hearts. We come to receive the blessings God has in store for us in this season of waiting.

***OPENING HYMN #103 *Watcher, Tell us of the Night* (see end of bulletin)**

***INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST**

God of hope and encouragement, we come to you in the midst of this season of busyness and preparations: to find a time and space to slow down, to reflect on what our true preparations should be. We need to prepare our hearts to receive the gifts of love and hope. We need to prepare our minds to focus on your promise that a messiah will come and nothing will be the same. We need to prepare our spirits: to praise God for prophecy, promises, and preparation; to see your hope and encouragement; to see your peace and joy. May we do so now, in our time of worship. Amen.



PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, the stories of our faith have lost their power. We have heard the prophecies spoken so many times, the promises retold again and again, the call to prepare ourselves for your coming repeated so often, that we don't really hear or heed them anymore. We have replaced your message of love with things that do not matter in your Kingdom. Bring us back to a sense of mystery, awe, and wonder as we anticipate what is about to break into our everyday world. Through your love and mercy, help us prepare our hearts, souls, and minds for the arrival of the Messiah. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PASSING OF PEACE

We are created in the image of God and are blessed with the capacity to reflect God's will in our daily lives. God cares for us and invests us with responsibility. Thus God honors us with high expectations and confidence in our willingness to seek out life's best for all people. We are loved. We are forgiven. Our baptism is renewed.

Let us offer one another the gift of peace. May the Lord's peace be with you!

(If you are using this liturgy as a private devotion or participating in the live stream worship, please hold out your hands in blessing for all you are joined with in spirit. If you are participating in the live stream worship, please type in your peace greeting.)

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: May the Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:...

With the assurance Jesus offers, together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HEBREW LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-10

- ¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- ² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
- ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,

the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Luke 2:8-20

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,[£] the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,[£] praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"[£]

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

SERMON

SERMON HYMN #249 *Peace I Leave With You My Friends* (see end of bulletin)

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Our God has done wondrous things for us. Let us respond to God's acts of love and wonder by offering our whole selves, that God's promises might be fulfilled through us.

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We thank you, Holy One, for all your good gifts, especially the gifts of prophecy, promise, and calls for preparation. As a thankful response, we offer our gifts to you that we may hasten the time when no one will hurt or destroy on God's holy mountain. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

WELCOME

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

REMEMBER

CONSECRATION

BREAKING BREAD AND POURING THE CUP

SHARING HOLY COMMUNION

The sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated through an open table at Hope UCC. All are invited to share this holy meal.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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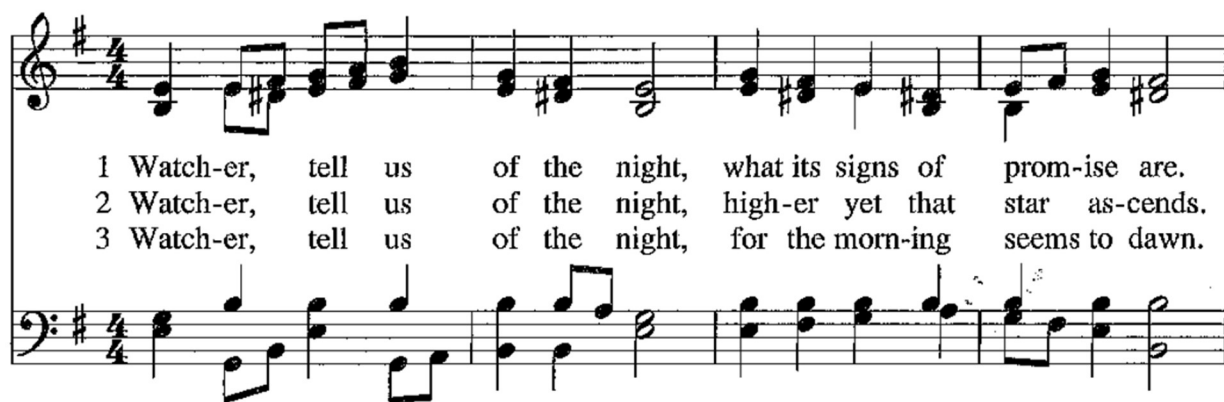
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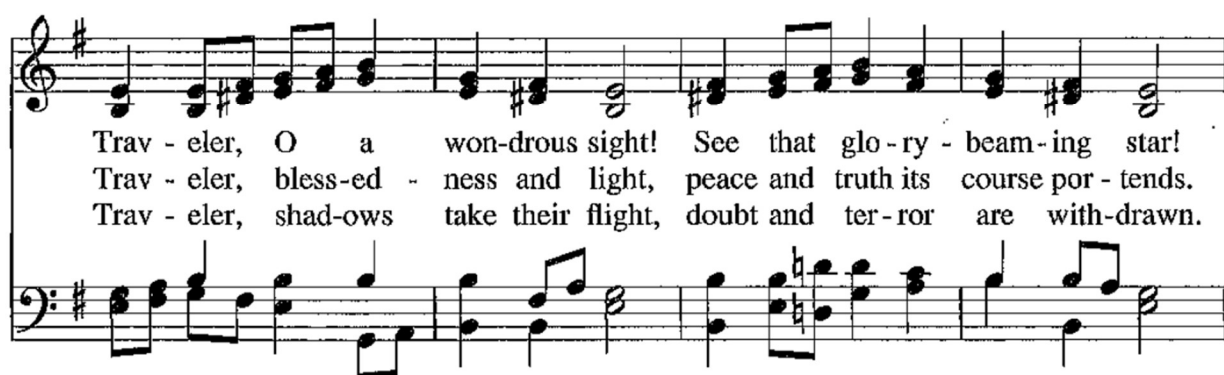
Watcher, Tell Us of the Night

Isa. 21:11-12

John Bowring, 1825; alt.



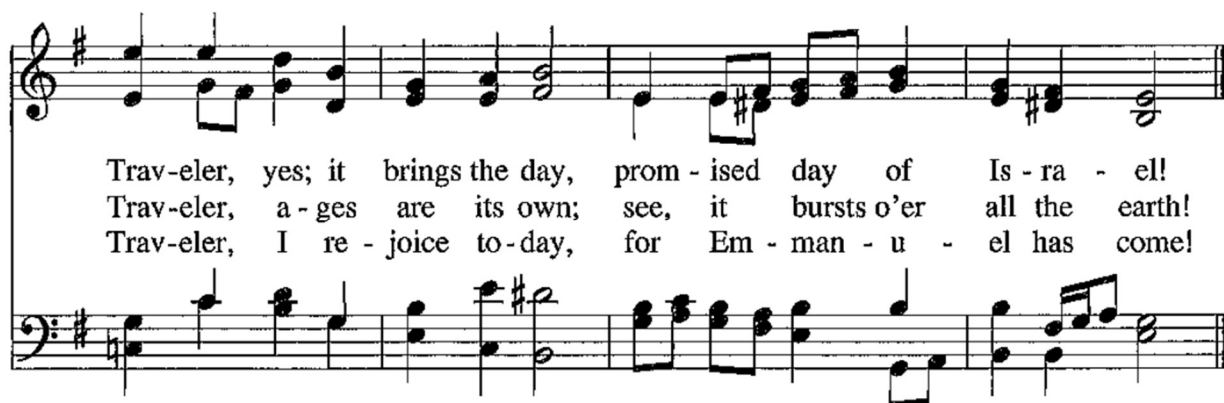
1 Watch-er, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom-ise are.
 2 Watch-er, tell us of the night, high-er yet that star as-cends.
 3 Watch-er, tell us of the night, for the morn-ing seems to dawn.



Trav-eler, O a won-drous sight! See that glo-ry - beam-ing star!
 Trav-eler, bless-ed - ness and light, peace and truth its course por-tends.
 Trav-eler, shad-ows take their flight, doubt and ter-ror are with-drawn.



Watch-er, does its beau-teous ray news of joy or hope fore-tell?
 Watch-er, will its beams a-lone gild the spot that gave them birth?
 Watch-er, you may go your way; has-ten to your qui-et home.



Trav-eler, yes; it brings the day, prom-ised day of Is-ra-el!
 Trav-eler, a-ges are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth!
 Trav-eler, I re-joice to-day, for Em-man-u-el has come!

This hymn, a dialogue between watcher and traveler, was suggested by the dialogue in Isaiah 21:11-12. John Bowring was a gifted linguist, worker for political and social reform, member of Parliament, and governor of Hong Kong.

Tune: ABERYSTWYTH 7.7.7.7.D.

Joseph Parry, 1879

Alternate tune: ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

249

Peace I Leave with You, My Friends

John 14:18-29

Ray Repp, 1967

Refrain

D Em G D F#m

Peace I leave with you, my friends, sha-lom, my peace, in

Em Gm D Em G D F#m

all you do. Peace I leave with you, my friends. I give to

Bm Em G D 1-2 3

you so you can give to oth - ers, too.

D Em G D

1 To share God's love is why I came,
2 Take my hand and be at peace;
3 With this love now all will know

F#m Em/G Gm

to show God's kind - ness with - out end.
the spir - it of our love I send.
that lone - li - ness is at an end.

Songwriter Ray Repp has composed and recorded numerous albums of liturgical songs since 1965, when he introduced guitar into worship with his "Mass for Young Americans."

Tune: PEACE, MY FRIENDS Irr. with refrain
Ray Repp, 1967
Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994

D Em G D

Go now, my friends, and do the same,
 And with this love you will be free,
 Re-joice, my friends, al-though I go,

F#m G A7 to Refrain

un-til I come a - gain.
 un-til I come a - gain.
 for I will come a - gain.

