

Prince of Peace  
906 North Main St. Brockton, Massachusetts  
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Sunday December 5, 2021

Communion in place

## The Second Sunday in Advent



## Making room for peace

### Prelude

### Welcome

Why was there no room for Joseph's family in Bethlehem? After all, he went back to his hometown for the census. Perhaps Joseph's own family did not or could not make room for them and they had to look elsewhere for a place. Family can be complicated! We'll never know the real circumstances of Joseph's family relations, but the story can bring us into the reality for what we DO know—too many people experience rejection, even from family. How can we be a place of peace, a family to those who need it most, to "house the Holy" in ways we have not yet imagined?

As we listen to the word of the prophets of the Bible, let us hear the call to care for our neighbors and "make room in the inn." May the power of this word fill the lonely and frightened spaces within us with the light of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

### Prayer

## **Call to Worship and Lighting the Advent Wreath:**

**Peace waits for us at Advent, Peace waits for us to rest.**

**Peace waits for our acceptance of the truth that we are blessed.**

**In this time of preparation for the work of co-creation,**

**for the birthing of a world of gentleness and play.**

**Peace is born in us each day!**

## **Time for Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,

who alone does wonders,

who lifts up the lowly,

who fills the hungry with good things. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

*(sung response)*

**Make of my heart a stable, a house for the holy,**

**a warm and sturdy place for peace to live and grow.**

In this moment we open the doors of our hearts to honesty before God about what we've done and left undone that has created less peace in a hurting world: the comments, the arguments, the angry posts, the actions that hurt, the silence that showed our lack of compassion. Give us your help to move beyond regret that weighs us down. Give us resolve to change.

Now is the time to breathe out this regret,

and breathe in the life-giving, forgiving Spirit of God.

*(sung response)*

**Make of my life a stable, a house for the holy,**

**a warm and sturdy place for peace to live and grow.**

In this moment we open the doors of our lives to the call of the Spirit, inviting us to become more than we can ask or imagine.

It is time to breathe out our anxiety and fear. Breathe in the courage of the Spirit of God.

*(sung response)*

**Make of our church a stable, a house for the holy,**

**a warm and sturdy place for peace to live and grow.**

In this moment we open the doors of this church, welcoming with the compassion of Christ for all those who are struggling.

This is God blessing for you:

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!

Through Jesus God has forgiven all your sin.

God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace. **Amen.**

# People, Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965  
 Music: BESANÇON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934  
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May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**Prayer of the day:** Let us pray: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

# The Word

## Children's Moment

### First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

<sup>1</sup>See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm response is from Luke 1:68-79

<sup>68</sup>Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,  
you have come to your people and set them free.

<sup>69</sup>**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,  
born of the house of your servant David.**

<sup>70</sup>Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,  
<sup>71</sup>from the hands of all who hate us,

<sup>72</sup>**to show mercy to our forebears,  
and to remember your holy covenant.**

<sup>73</sup>This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:  
<sup>74</sup>to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**free to worship you without fear,  
<sup>75</sup>holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

<sup>76</sup>And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

<sup>77</sup>**to give God's people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

<sup>78</sup>In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

<sup>79</sup>**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

### Gospel Greeting: (sing it out!)

Al-le-lu--ia, Al-le--lu--ia,

Al-le-lu--ia, Al-le--lu--ia!

### Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the

words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth;

<sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

## Gospel Greeting: (sing it out!)

**Al-le-lu--ia, Al-le-lu--ia,**

**Al-le-lu--ia, Al-le-lu--ia!**

## Message

### On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
way for God with - in, and let us all our  
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite  
Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

## **Apostles Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **The Peace**

### **Announcements**

--Thirsty Thursday theme: Time to rejoice! Pictures to [prandall22@gmail.com](mailto:prandall22@gmail.com)

--Weds. Bible Study 10 AM-we will be on Facebook live

--Sunday December 19 is the Family Christmas Project

--Longest Night/Blue Christmas Service 7 PM Tuesday December 21

### **Offering Prayer**

God of our waiting and watching,  
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives  
to the service of all your people.

Prepare the way before us  
as we meet you in this simple meal,  
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.

### **Prayers of Intercession**

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

You send messengers into the world to proclaim the day of your coming. Make our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay preachers confident in their preaching, that their words and our lives witness to your grace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send your Spirit to all living creatures that are endangered. Provide them with shelter and care, and bring us into right relationship with the earth that you create and call good. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send leaders to our nations, cities, schools, and businesses to work on behalf of those who have lost parents, spouses, and loved ones; immigrants; the imprisoned; those living in poverty; and all who are oppressed. Make them bold in their commitments to justice and reconciliation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send us to care for those who suffer. Use our ministries and our lives to reach out with compassion to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely, or ill. Grant them healing and wholeness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send us prophets to speak difficult truths, even when they are poorly received. Embolden those who ask hard questions and challenge accepted ways. Instill in youth and elders alike a passion for pointing to Jesus in all things. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We remember your saints, both those publicly celebrated and those more quietly remembered. Confident that your work will be completed, we live in faith until the day of your coming. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of peace and new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

## **The Words of Institution**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Holy Communion**

We, who are many, are one body, as we share this one bread.  
The gifts of God for the people of God!

#### **Thanks be to God!**

*(We share in communion in place, during the meditation hymn)*

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

### **Prayer after Communion:**

Most High God,

you have come among us at this table.

By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,  
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,  
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

**Amen**

## Blessing:

May God's door of welcome swing open in your heart and in your life.  
May Christ's humble first dwelling remind you of the plenty you already know.  
And may the Spirit lead you into more possibility and hospitality  
than you can imagine, making room in The Inn for all.

May it be so for you.

**May it be so for us.**

**May it be so for this church. Amen!**

## It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
from heav'n's all-gracious king."  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.
- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heav'nly music floats  
o'er all the weary world.  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
they bend on hov'ring wing,  
and ever o'er its babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.
- 3 And you, beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way  
with painful steps and slow:  
look now, for glad and golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing;  
oh, rest beside the weary road  
and hear the angels sing!
- 4 For lo! The days are hast'ning on,  
by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendors fling,  
and all the world give back the song  
which now the angels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

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