

Second Sunday of Advent
December 8, 2024
United Church of Christ - Neillsville
Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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RINGING OF THE CARILLON

PRELUDE *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*
with *"He Shall Feed His Flock"* arr. Anna Laura Page
Karen Mohr

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT OF CENTERING

LIGHTING ADVENT CANDLES Heck Family

One: We light this candle in peace.

**ALL: On this day, we remember the Lord of All who
brings peace that surpasses all understanding.**

HYMN *"When God is a Child"* Brian Wren
#165 W&R verse 1-2

Refrain:

**When God is a child there's joy in our song,
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
And none shall be afraid.**

**1 Hope is a star that shines in the night,
Leading us on till the morning is bright. Refrain**

**2 Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
Giving a promise of safety and worth. Refrain**

CALL TO WORSHIP

The day of the Lord brings grace and blessing.

**We come to this day with hearts prepared for
praising.**

The day of the Lord brings judgment and pardon.

We come to this day with souls set on praying.

The day of the Lord brings wisdom and light.

**We come to this day with minds eager to listen for
God's will.**

In our praising, praying, listening, and responding,
we come to worship God.

OPENING PRAYER (All)

Holy God of Peace,

We seek your peace in these darkening days.

**We seek a calm within, yes. And an absence of
conflict between people and nations.**

**But more deeply, we seek your shalom –
the deep and abiding peace**

**that will come only through the justice of your
kingdom. We wait anticipating your peace,**

Believing that one day it will fill our world. Amen.

HYMN *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

#116 NCH (vs 1, 6,7)

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,

And ransom captive Israel

That mourns in lonely exile here,

Until the Child of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer

Our spirits by your advent here;

Love stir within the womb of night,

And death's own shadows put to flight. Refrain

7 O come, Desire of Nations, bind

All peoples in one heart and mind;

Make envy, strife and quarrels cease;

Fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Refrain

PASSING OF THE PEACE

As forgiven and blessed children of God, let us share
with one another signs of hope, peace, joy and love.

One: May the Peace of God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

All are invited to greet one another with words such
as *"May the Peace of Christ be with you,"*
and the response: *"And also with you".*

RESPONSE: "Wait for the Lord"

#166 W&R (sing twice)

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart!

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT Malachi 3:1-4 (NIV)

¹ "I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty.

² But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, ⁴ and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years.

NEW TESTAMENT Philippians 1:3-11 (NIV)

³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. ⁸ God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

NEW TESTAMENT Luke 3:1-6 (NIV)

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch

of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— ² during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.
The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.

⁶ And all people will see God's salvation."

SERMON "Prepare the Way"

Pastor Julie

HYMN "Comfort, Comfort O My People"

Johannes Olearius Transl. Catherine Winkworth

#101 NCH

**1 "Comfort, comfort O my people,
tell of peace," thus says our God;
Comfort those whose hearts are shrouded,
mourning under sorrow's load.
Speak unto Jerusalem
of the peace that waits for them;
Tell them that their sins I cover,
and their warfare now is over.**

**2 For the herald's voice is calling
in the desert far and near,
Bidding us to make repentance
since the realm of God is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise in meeting
and the hills bow down in greeting.**

**3 Straight shall be what long was crooked,
and the rougher places plain!
Let your hearts be true and humble,
for Messiah's holy reign.
For God's glory evermore
shall be known o'er all the world;
And all flesh shall see the token
that God's word is never broken.**

MORNING PRAYERS

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

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

THE OFFERING SERVICE

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory *"The Advent Chorale"* F. Mendelssohn

Doxology: *"In the Bleak Midwinter"*

#128 verse 4

What can I offer, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise one, I would do my part;
But what can I offer: all my heart.

Prayer of Dedication

God of Hope, Peace, Love and Joy,
We give thanks each time we remember your gifts
in our lives. Our gratitude extends to the ways we
can use our gifts of time, talent, and treasures.
May your boundless wisdom compel us to use our
energies in ways that will share the most love in
our world. Amen.

HYMN *"Star-Child"*

#223 W&R (verses 1-4)

1 Star-Child, earth-Child, go-between of God,
Love Child, Christ Child, heaven's lightning rod:

Refrain:

This year, this year, let the day arrive
When Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

2 Street child, beat child, no place left to go,
Hurt child, used child no one wants to know: Refrain

3 Grown child, old child, memory full of years,
Sad child, lost child, story told in tears: Refrain

4 Spared child, spoiled child, having, wanting more,
Wise child, faith child knowing joy in store: Refrain

JOYS AND CONCERNS

"Star-Child"

#223 W&R (verse 5)

5 Hope-for-peace Child, God's stupendous sign,
Down-to-earth Child, Star of stars that shine:

Refrain:

This year, this year, let the day arrive
When Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



ANNOUNCEMENTS

RADIO BROADCAST

11 AM Sunday radio broadcast
on WCCN 98.5FM and 1370AM

This week's radio broadcast is sponsored
anonymously with the message -
May "His" word be heard by all.

WELCOME

We welcome you to our service of worship!
We are glad that you have joined us on site,
through the internet or on the radio.
We pray that you will hear God's call,
seek to follow Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit.

YouTube link for Sunday, December 8, 2024

<https://youtube.com/live/wkOqakRViso>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, December 8th –

- **10 AM** Deacon Host – Wayne Voss
- Greeter(s) – Stephanie & Craig Heck
- Usher(s) – Paul Schmidt, Crispin Hediger
- PowerPoint – Bonnie Weyer

Tuesday, December 10th –

- **1 PM** Bible Study

Wednesday, December 11th -

- **5 PM** JAM Christmas Program Practice

Thursday, December 12th -

- **1 PM** Circle of Friends- Christmas Party

Friday, December 13th -

- **3:30 – 7:30 PM** Christian Ed. sponsoring a Christmas Party open to anyone



Coffee fellowship after worship -

Sign up on back bulletin board

- Dec 8 – Sharon Buddenhagen
- Dec 15 – Christian Ed
- Dec 22 –
- Dec 29 -

We need people to sign up



on Tuesday, December 24th

- 4:30 and 8:30 services

Candlelight service with communion served