

First Church in Pembroke

Sunday, December 10 2023

Second week of Advent

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF PEACE

(by JoEllen Graham: JoEllen will first light a purple candle and then another purple candle).

PRELUDE:

MEDITATION PRAYER:

"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel." (Isaiah 7:14).

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Meet & Greet:

CALL TO WORSHIP:

P: Believers and lovers of the faith, you have come in Peace on this December morning to worship God, but were you there when the myriad of angels came to earth to welcome his birth?

C: No, we were not there, but our faith has inspired us to think beyond the realm and to love this God of Peace who is fully human and fully Divine.

P: Believers and lovers of the faith, yes, you've gathered in Peace, but were you there to hear the astounding trumpet sound when the angels sang the mighty chorus to announce the birth of the new-born King?

C: No, we were not there, but our faith has inspired us to think beyond the realm and to love this God of Peace who is still fully human and fully Divine.

P: You are well-spoken, my people! Let Peace be yours this day and always.

C: It is written that His way is the way of truth, and His Gospel is Peace!

ALL: As Christians on a journey, we hail the powers of the Almighty God, and that's the reason why we sing, "O come, let us adore him." Amen.

HYMN: R#132 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

PRAYER OF INVOCATION:

When the mighty winds caused the ocean waves to become tempestuous, and when there seemed to be no way out for those aboard the vessel, Jesus called out his Peace. When his disciples stood speechless watching him ascend back into heaven, Jesus said: "My peace I leave with you..." To a hurting world and to those that dwell therein, Jesus reminds us that he is still the God of Peace. Throughout this Christmas Season and in the hustle of our lives, we are called to a moment of Peace and quietness and to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.

Our Father in heaven, we invite your Holy Spirit among us as we welcome you into this worship hour. Let your presence be known among us! Make us a blessing so that we can be a blessing to others. Show us how to exemplify Peace, and may our lights continue to shine so that others will see Your grace in us and then glorify You in heaven. Amen.

Children's Moment with Gail Horsefield

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 1:28-30

SERMON: 'Finding Favor with God'
by Rev. Miriam Theodore

HYMN: R#137 "Away in a Manger"

HYMN: B#154: "Go Tell It On the Mountain"

OFFERTORY INVITATION: Psalm 34

"Let us bless the Lord at all times; let his praise continually be in our mouths. Let us humble ourselves before the Lord and let us magnify and exalt his holy name together, for surely he will deliver us from our fears."

PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

A TIME OF SILENT PRAYER:

PASTORAL PRAYER:

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

MUSICAL RESPONSE:

HYMN B#131 "It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

BENEDICTION:

POSTLUDE: