



## FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK  
December 10, 2017

### Advent Two - Peace

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor  
Reader: Amanda Polsfut  
Pianist: Mary Anderson



### GATHERING

#### Moment for Reflection

*“If we are to have peace on earth,  
our loyalties must become ecumenical rather than sectional.  
Our loyalties must transcend our race, our tribe, our class, and our  
nation; and this means we must develop a world perspective.”*  
—Martin Luther King, Jr.

#### Welcome and Announcements

#### Sharing of Peace/Prelude

#### Lighting of the Candles

**Advent Hymn: VU #6 A Candle is Burning** (*verse 2*)  
(*please remain seated*)

#### Call to Worship

**ONE:** Come, people of God, holy creations, wholly God’s,  
with our holey and ragged lives.

**ALL: We come, seeking God’s grace  
to make us whole.**

**ONE:** Come on this second Sunday of Advent.

**ALL: We come to hear the stories of our faith  
to celebrate God’s gift of the baby Jesus,  
and to imagine a world filled with peace.**

**ONE:** Come to trust, listen, believe and imagine  
what is possible with God incarnate  
in our lives and in our world.

**ALL: We come, O God, we come.**

Adapted from: Susan Lukey, *Gathering*, A/C/E 2017-2018, page 26.

## Worship Schedule

*Journeying Through Advent with Leonard Cohen*

- |        |   |                       |
|--------|---|-----------------------|
| Dec 17 | Advent Three – Joy<br>- <i>Hallelujah</i> (White Gift Sunday) | - Rev. Annette Taylor |
| Dec 24 | Advent Four – Love<br>- <i>Amen</i>                           | - Rev. Annette Taylor |
| Dec 24 | Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (7:00 pm)                   |                       |
| Dec 31 | First Sunday after Christmas                                  | - Norma Hain          |

## Moderator’s Advent 2017 Message

***Sometimes we need to tear down the walls  
so we can allow God’s light to shine through.***



It’s Advent once again. The time of waiting and watching for the in-breaking of God’s Spirit in our world.

Sometimes, it can be hard to believe that God is present in the midst of all the tumult and chaos and uncertainty.

Recently, the church offices here at 3250 Bloor Street have undergone a massive renovation—talk about chaos.

But in the midst of all of the construction and everything being hither and thither, there was a stained-glass window that had always been present in the old configuration. But where it was, there was no light that could shine through it, and as the old walls came down, light emerged. (*see back of bulletin*)

**Opening Hymn: VU #44 It Came Upon a Midnight Clear**  
*(please stand as you are able)*

**Opening Prayer and Jesus' Prayer**

**Ground of our Being,**  
**this Advent season is a reminder**  
**of your coming amongst us.**

**To us, you are a mystery,**  
**and yet we often experience your presence**  
**in the midst of ordinary life.**

**In our despair, you are the source of Hope.**  
**In our turmoil, you are the birthplace of Peace.**  
**In our sadness, you are the font of Joy.**  
**In our heartache, you are the cradle of Love.**  
**As we enter this time of worship**

**may our hearts be open to your abiding grace.**

Adapted from: Kim Falls, *Gathering*, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany  
2017-2018, page 27.

## WORD

**Hymn: VU #577 I've Got Peace like a River** (*verses 1, 2 & 3*)  
*(please remain seated)*

**Community Learning Time** - Melanie Davis

**Hymn: VU #577 I've Got Peace like a River** (*verse 1 again*)  
*(please remain seated)*

**Scripture Reading: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 (VU p.802)**

**ONE:** We read this text so that in it we may find wisdom for life.

**ALL:** May we be open to the Wisdom we understand and hear.

**Song: Nevermind** (*see insert*)  
- Leonard Cohen & Patrick Leonard

**Reflection: Truth that Lives**

**Choral Offering: Welcome to Our World**  
- *Words & Music by Chris Rice*  
*Choral Setting by Jack Schrader*

## RESPONSE

**Minute for Mission: Conflict Resolution in the Midst of Violence**

**Offering**

**Offertory Hymn: These Gifts We Bring**  
- *Pat Mayberry (please stand as you are able)*

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Through these gifts, may we be agents of peace**  
**in your world,**  
**lifting people up in love**  
**so they can experience an abundant future.**

**Amen.**

Adapted from: Karen Boivin, *Gathering*, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany  
2017-2018, page 30.

**Prayers of the People**

**Closing Hymn: MV #169 When Hands Reach Out Beyond Divides**  
*(please stand as you are able)*

**Commissioning & Benediction**

**Choral Closing: MV #220 Peace Shines as the Solitary Star**

**Postlude**

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*“Different religious traditions can engage in dialogue with one another in a true spirit of ecumenism. Dialogue can be fruitful and enriching if both sides are truly open. . . . Peace will be a beautiful flower blooming on this field of practice.*

—Thich Nhat Hanh

**Lectionary Readings for December 17, 2017**

Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11

Psalm 126 (VU p.850) or Luke 1:47-55

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

*(from previous page)*

And we discovered that this window first of all had been put in backwards and so we were never able to see the true beauty of it. But now where it stands, the light is able to come through and the beauty that was always there but invisible is able to shine.

So it is in our world. God is always present. But sometimes we need to look closely; sometimes we need to break away from the old to tear down the walls so that we can allow God's light to shine through and to see the beauty of what is right in front of us.

That's what Advent is. The in-breaking of God's Spirit that allows us to see what is already there.

May you have the eyes to see, this Advent, Christ already born among us.

Jordan Cantwell  
Moderator, The United Church of Canada

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