

McKinley Memorial Presbyterian Church
10:30 AM December 5, 2021

ORGAN PRELUDE

Savior of the Nations, Come

Dietrich Buxtehude

GATHERING TONES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

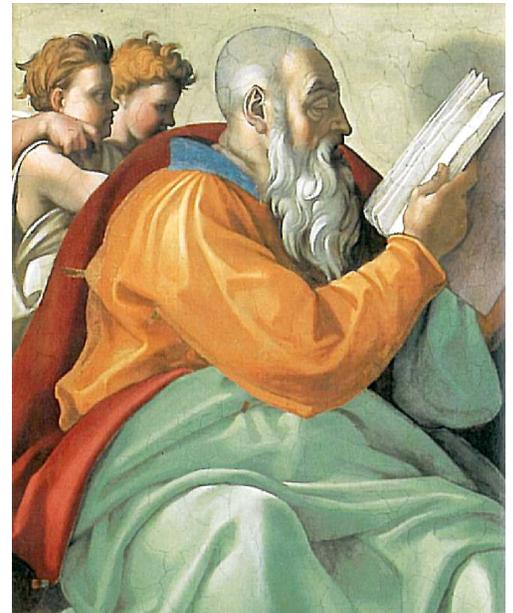
ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Week Two, Peace

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:68-79

Zechariah was told by the angel Gabriel that his aging wife, Elizabeth, was going to have a baby. Zechariah did not believe it. As a message from God that all things are possible, the angel made Zechariah mute - unable to speak - for nine months! When the child was born, Zechariah and Elizabeth brought him to the temple. When asked the child's name, God freed Zechariah's voice and, finally able to speak, Zechariah said, "his name is John." Then he sang this song:



“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who has looked favorably on the people and redeemed them.... Thus God has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered the holy covenant, the oath sworn to our ancestors to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve God without fear, in holiness and righteousness all our days.

“And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way, to give knowledge of salvation to the people by the forgiveness of their sins.

“By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Last week we lit a candle remembering, “Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.” (*Desmond Tutu*)

The first candle is lit.

Today we focus on the words of Zechariah:

“By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

The second candle is lit.

We can never obtain peace in the outer world until we make peace with ourselves. *The Dalai Lama, Spiritual leader of Tibet.*

Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding. *Albert Einstein, theoretical physicist.*

When the power of love overcomes the love of power the world will know peace. *Jimi Hendrix, musician.*

If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. then he becomes your partner. *Nelson Mandela, former president of South Africa.*

If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other. *Mother Teresa, founder of the missionaries of charity.*

Where do you find peace in your life?

PRAYER

from *enfleshed*

The Peace of God-With-Us does not come as law and order, or enforcement and control.

Peace cannot be imposed from on high. Peace cannot be commanded.

The Peace of God-With-Us is chaotic, wild, unruly, unpredictable.

The Peace of God-With-Us is collective, liberating us from deadly complicity.

Peace is gestating in darkness; it comes unexpectedly.

Peace invites our expectation and demands our participation.

Prepare the way, for peace with justice.

May Peace be birthed among, within, and through us, this Advent.

ANTHEM Blest Be the God of Israel (Song of Zechariah)

Michael Perry and Hal Hopson

1. Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free, who visits and redeems us, who grants us liberty. The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release; God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.
2. On those who sit in darkness the sun begins to rise, the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes, God guides the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace; oh, bless our God and savior with songs that never cease!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Thom Shuman

See, You come, Clarifier of our hearts,
**playing salvation's love song on a baritone sax;
preparing the way for grace to transform our souls;
holding us in Your heart when we lose our way.**

See, You come, Tender Mercy,
**filling in poverty's potholes with grace's riches;
tearing down cruelty-capped oppression;
straightening out the winding paths we make the needy walk;
soothing the lonely nights of rough sleepers.**

See, You come, Eyes of grace,
**so in seeing the suffering around us, we might share mercy;
in observing the struggles of others,
we might give offerings of justice;
in noticing the silence of leaders, we would cry out for hope.**

See, You come, God in Community, Holy in One,
**so we might be Your people of grace and justice and peace,
even as we pray as we are taught, saying,**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Maori, from the New Zealand Book of Common Prayer)

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:
May the hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
May the way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come
on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.
Amen.**

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Baruch 5:1-9



Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction,
O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory
from God.
Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God;
put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting;
for God will show your splendor everywhere under
heaven. For God will give you evermore the name,
'Righteous Peace, Godly Glory'.

REFLECTION

Rev. Heidi M. Weatherford

ANTHEM

He Came Down

Cameroon traditional

Why did he come? He came down that we may have love hallelujah forever more.

2) ...that we may have light 3) ...that we may have peace 4) ...that we may have joy

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER *Maren Tirabassi, Thom Shuman, Todd Jenkins*

THE INVITATION *from Todd Jenkins' longer poem "Advent(ure)"(used by permission)*

... The sacred unfolding of these four gifts —
hope, peace, love, and joy —
in their unvarnished glory,
will flip our political and socioeconomic culture on its head,
ushering in a new vision of community
that's more flush with justice than we've ever dreamed,
as it invites everyone to the table,
which causes us to scramble for more chairs.

Come to think of it,
maybe searching for ways to extend the table

is precisely what Advent is supposed to be about.

You are invited to prepare and extend your communion table. If you are at home watching, feel free to use any beverage or food that is common to your table. In person, there are grapes, bread, and crackers available to all who would like to share in communion.

INTERLUDE O Jesu Christ, all praise to Thee

J. S. Bach

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Thom Shuman

May the God of every mercy be with you.

May you be filled with the tenderness of our God.

Lift up your hearts to the One who looks with grace upon us.

Confident of God's love,

we open our hearts to the One who comes to us.

WORDS OF REMEMBERING

Maren Tirabassi

We remember that Jesus was always about more chairs –
for the “friendly beasts”

a cow whose manger fed him, the birds that never fall unloved,
and the comforting animals of his forty wilderness days.

Jesus was always about more chairs,
for the poor, lonely, grieving, hungry, the most vulnerable and rejected,
and even those deep in deserved regret.

And we remember that Jesus
sat in the chairs of anyone who welcomed him.
He came to tables and asked for food, not to see the guest list.
He knew how multiply barley loaves but, also, how to grill fish.

In this sacrament on Advent's day of Peace,
we remember that the starlit Child, protected by angels
grew up to offer bread and cup to a betrayer, a denier, a doubter,
several sleepers, many who fled because at the cross there were no angels.

We remember that Jesus is in the Bread and Cup
for those of us who know its blessing well,

and yet Jesus is still pulling out folding chairs
so that others, . . . even all can come, sit, rest, eat.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

SHARING THE MEAL

PRAYER AFTER THE MEAL

Peace-giver, Blessor of tables shared and some tables turned over, we rise or roll from our places at this most welcoming meal prepared anew to live Advent hospitality, by becoming your chair-people, not leaders, but ushers and servers for the worldwide banquet of grace. Amen.

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Hyfrydol

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Assisting in Today's Service

Liturgists

Carol Livingstone and Dan Grayson

Pastor

Rev. Heidi Weatherford

Associate Pastor

Rev. Keith Harris

Director of Christian Education

Sara McHenry

Director of Music

Dr. Yohei Endo

Worship Tech

Lara Hebert, Michael Proulx, and Asami Endo

Musicians

Members and friends of
the McKinley Choir

How to give. Online contributions and pledges are accepted at tithe.ly/give?c=2133263

Or by mailing your donations to "McKinley Presbyterian Church"
809 S. Fifth street



Champaign, IL 61820

How to Contact the Church Staff All church staff can be contacted through the McKinley Website: www.mckinleycu.org.

Mitten, Hat, and Sock Tree is Back!

The longtime McKinley tradition of collecting mittens, socks, and hats during the Christmas season is back. Please join us during worship on December 12 to watch the children's pageant and collect items for those in need in our community. We will be collecting women's and children's gloves, mittens, and hats as well as socks and gloves for men. Please bring your donations to worship on December 12.

Donate 2022 Calendars

We will be placing a 2022 calendar in each of the boxes we distribute this month at the Garden Hills Food Pantry. If you have any extra to donate, please bring them to worship with you or to the McKinley office. Our pantry clients appreciate them, thank you!

Send a Card, a Prayer, and a Good Thought

Two of our members are in need of some good wishes this week as they deal with health issues. Please consider sending a Thinking of You card to Nancy Stagg and Elizabeth Delacruz. Thank you!

Nancy Stagg, 1101 S. Webber St., Urbana, IL 61801

Elizabeth Delacruz, 1001 W. White St., Champaign, IL 61821



Illustrations: Zechariah, Michelangelo, Sistine Chapel; Light of the World, Peace Wall, Hamilton, New Zealand; Peace Begins with Love, Peace Wall, Hamilton, New Zealand.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
OF COUNTRY / FIRST
PEOPLES**
*(An act towards
reconciliation)*

For thousands of years, Indigenous people have walked on this land, in their own country. Their relationship with the land is at the center of their lives.

We recognize and acknowledge that we are on the lands of the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Piankashaw, Wea, Miami, Mascoutin, Odawa, Sauk, Mesquaki, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, Ojibwe, and Chickasaw Nations, past, present, emerging.

We are grateful for their stewardship of this land throughout the ages. These lands continue to carry the stories of these Nations and their struggles for survival and identity.

Coming this Week:

Sunday, December 5	4:00-6:00PM	U Kirk holiday party
Monday, December 6	11:30AM	Staff Meeting
Tuesday, December 7	11:00AM	Buildings and Grounds Committee
Wednesday, December 8	5:15PM	Live Prayer and Prose,
	7:00PM	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, December 9	8:30AM	RWA

Saturday, December 11	1:00PM	Dave Bechtel Memorial in the Colonnades Club at Memorial Stadium
Sunday, December 12	10:30AM	Worship , pageant, choir Sunday
	11:15AM	Artist's Alley Art Opening, featuring the art of McKinley youth and children
	2:00PM	Session Meeting

Coming Advent and Christmas Activities:

December 19	10:30AM	Blue Sunday / Solstice	service
December 24	7:00PM	Christmas Eve brief service of Lessons and Carols concluding with outdoor candle Lighting and singing	

McKinley Presbyterian Church is a community of faith
Offering genuine welcome,
Working for reconciliation, and
Daring to speak words of abundant hope to a world in pain.

McKinley Memorial Presbyterian Church
809 South Fifth Street, Champaign, IL 61820 217.344.0297 www.mckinleycu.org