



**STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
MEWASSIN UNITED CHURCH
05 DECEMBER, 2021
ADVENT TWO**

Stony Plain United Church & Mewassin United Church
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WELCOME to our service this morning!

WE GATHER TOGETHER BEFORE GOD
on traditional territory of Treaty Six peoples and of the Métis Nation

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TOGETHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE:

(SP) 'A Child Will Bring us Peace'

Verse 1: In the darkest days of winter, there comes a time of waiting.
Can you hear the sounds of silence, hear the whisper of a Saviour coming.

Verse 2: Advent days are long and full, so much to prepare,
Moving on with love and faith, feel the swirl of hope in the air.

Chorus: Can you feel it, can you feel it? Can you feel the sense of longing?
Do you feel the sense of awe? Do you feel the shift of time?
'Tis the coming of a new world, and a child shall bring us peace.

Verse 3: Light the candles, one by one, our light to show the way.
Make our way to the manger, To the child asleep in the hay.

Verse 4: Candles shining in the dark, bring the promise of things to come.
The blessings of a Saviour, And the hope of a new world to come.

Chorus

Verse 5:

The candle of **peace** is the one we light today
Hope and peace lead us to joy, And a love that is here to stay.

Chorus: Can you feel it, can you feel it? Can you feel the sense of longing?
Do you feel the sense of awe? Do you feel the shift of time?
'Tis the coming of a new world, and a child shall bring us peace.

Words by Linda Bridges, Music by Meredith Adams, Arranged by Meredith Adams & Sue Dugal

(MEW) VU # 7 'Hope is a Star' Verse 1 refrain, verse 2 refrain

Verse 1:

Hope is a star that shines in the night, leading us on till the morning is bright.

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.

Verse 2:

Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth, giving a promise of safety and worth.

Refrain

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CALL TO WORSHIP: (responsive)

God has been waiting on us. God has heard our prayer.

"Now is the right time; I am coming soon" says our Lord.

So, prepare a way in the desert, a cradle in the hay, a table in an upstairs room,

A cross on a hill, a grave in a garden and a place in your heart as in heaven.

"For now, I will bend down and remember you. I will answer your prayer, and your waiting will end in joy."

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE:

One Advent candle is lit

Peace does not always mean being quiet.

We seek to be a people of peace, living from a place of justice, joining our voices with others who want to give birth to a new way of being.

Peace calls out to us, so that we may help it become a reality.

God is our peace.

May we let God reconcile in places of conflict, creating bridges where divisions have grown, sewing all of creation into a new tapestry.

May peace be found in a manger and throughout the world.

The second candle is lit.

(Gathering, A/C/E 2021-2022, pg. 69 Used with Permission)

(SP) 'A Child Will Bring us Peace' Verse 5 and chorus

Verse 5: The candle of **peace** is the one we light today

Hope and peace lead us to joy, And a love that is here to stay.

**Chorus: Can you feel it, can you feel it? Can you feel the sense of longing?
Do you feel the sense of awe? Do you feel the shift of time?
'Tis the coming of a new world, and a child shall bring us peace.**

(MEW) 'Holy Baby, Holy Child'

Holy baby, holy child, we await your coming now.

You bring us hope, you bring us peace; You bring us joy, you bring us love.

Holy baby, holy child, come to us now.

Words: Lynn S. Hurst; Music: Lynn S. Hurst, arr. by Allen Tuten. © 2000 Abingdon Press, admin. by The Copyright Company. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One license A-718663

BRINGING ALL OF WHO WE ARE

PRAYER FOR GRACE: (unison)

Stir up, O God our hearts and lives in the way of peace. When we choose anger, lead us to peace. When we choose criticism, lead us to peace. When we choose hurting another, lead us to peace. Your peace is not difficult to find, Loving God, it is just that too often, we turn a blind eye to it and choose our own response. And too often this is not a response of peace. Call us now, as we wait for your Child to be born to rediscover the peace that comes from open and compassionate hearts. In His name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON: (responsive)

God knows and understands us. God loves us in our frailty. God's offer of peace is never ending.

Thanks be to the God of peace.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

AND LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD FOR OUR LIVES

(SP) THE GIFT OF MUSIC: Jubilant Singers 'Oh What a Wonderful Gift!'

Words and Music by Linnea Good

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Malachi 3:1-4

'A refiner's fire and a launderer's soap'

Luke 3:1-6

'A Voice calling in the desert'

REFLECTION

HERITAGE HYMN: VU # 333 'Love Divine, All Loves Excelling'

Verse 1:

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Verse 2:

Come, almighty to deliver; let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Verse 3:

Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Words: Charles Wesley 1747; Music: Rawland Haw Prichard ca. 1831. Public Domain.

SO WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION

CALL TO ACTION: #19

DEDICATION OF GIFTS: VU #537 'Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands' (2 verses)

Verse 1: Your work, O God, needs many hands to help you everywhere,
and some there are who cannot serve unless our gifts we share.

Verse 2: Because we love you and your work, our offering now we make:
be pleased to use it as your own, we ask for Jesus' sake.

Words: Calvin Weiss Laufer 1927, alt. Music Neil Dougall ca. 1831. Public Domain

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

AND LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

HYMN: VU #31 'O Lord, How Shall I Meet You'

Verse 1: O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, then most holy, a lamp within my breast,
To do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

Verse 2: Love caused your incarnation, love brought you here to me;
Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace
In love all loves excelling our lost and fallen race.

Verse 3: A Glorious crown you give me, a treasure safe on high,
That will not fail nor leave me as earthly riches fly.
My heart shall bloom forever for you with praises new,
And from your name shall never withhold the honour due.

Words: Paul Gerhardt 1652, trans. C. Winkworth 1863. Music: Melchor Teschner 1615. Public Domain

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION: (responsive)

And now in the sense of your presence God, may we find peace.
In the community of your people, may we find belonging.
In your call to seek justice through peace, may we find the way to walk.
And in the way of Your Child, may we find freedom, grace and peace.

(MEW) Three-fold Amen

(SP) POSTLUDE

Announcements December 05, 2021

MEWASSIN IN PERSON WORSHIP: Mewassin has resumed in person worship as of last Sunday, Nov 28. Sunday Service is at 9:00 am.

CHRISTMAS BAKE-LESS BAKE SALE: The United Church Women received \$1,340.00 in donations for their bake-less bake sale. We are exceedingly grateful for your generous support. Thank you and God bless you all.

LIGHT UP YOUR LIFE: You may donate to the 30th Annual Light Up Your Life Campaign until December 31. The Light Up Your Life Society supports palliative/hospice and continuing care in the Tri-Community Area. There are donation pamphlets and more information on the table in the Narthex.

Today's In-Church Bulletin Covers.

