



First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
December 10, 2023



## Second Sunday of Advent: Peace

Partners in Ministry: **All who are a part of this church**

Pastor: **Rev. Enno K. Limvere**

Musician: **Ben Nichols** Choir Director: **Ann Russ**

Peace Candle Lighter: **Nancy Starr** Liturgist: **Bruce Tyler**

Greeters: **Lesann & Chris** Usher: **John Bottger**

Coffee-Hour Hosts: **Mike C. & Sue W.**

[grandmaraisucc.org](http://grandmaraisucc.org) ~ (218) 387-2113  
300 West 2nd Street, Grand Marais, MN 55604

---

Gathering Music  
Words of Welcome  
Prelude

**Lighting of Advent Candle: Peace**

One: Paul wrote to the Philippians that the peace of God surpasses all understanding.

**All: So, we gather around this Advent wreath—humbly, vulnerably, and guided by a longing older than reason.**

One: Maya reminded us that peace is always louder, louder than the explosion of bombs and the sounds of violence.

**All: And so, we call upon the triumphant symphony of peace—the choirs of angels and saints, the laughter of children with their elders, the sobs of loved ones reuniting in safety, and the breaking of bread at a Passover meal.**

*(Lighting of Advent Wreath: Candle of Peace)*

One: Let us speak into being a peace that is as loud as it is delicious—hard earned and satisfying.

**All: Yes, peace has a way with the senses. It soothes like a hum and settles us back into our bodies.**

One: Back here.

**All: Back where the work and the pleasure of peace lives. Amen.**

**Opening Hymn #107** Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn ([click here](#))

**Words of Lament**

**Listen God, Hear Leaders of our World, Pay Attention People:**

- 17,700 Palestinian deaths and 46,000 injured so far (12/7/2023)
- 1,400 Israeli civilian deaths, 240 hostages, and 44 soldier deaths.
- 40,164 gun deaths (22,506 of them suicides) and 34,237 gun injuries this year in the U.S. so far.
- 10,000 Ukraine civilian deaths, 35,000 Ukrainian soldier deaths, and 320,000 Russian soldier deaths so far.

**How many deaths will it take until we know, that too many people have died???**

**Time of Silence**

**Words of Poetry & Lighting the Candle of Peace**

It is a custom in our congregation to light our Peace Candle during worship, as a witness to the Prince of Peace and our communal intention to be peacemakers as a Just Peace Church.

**Advent 2023**  
by Tom Mousin

By Advent's light we hope to see  
a new and better way

And then Isaiah's voice proclaims  
the coming promised day.

This world, in which the sword and spear  
the rifle and the gun

Hold sway as idols of our fears  
will one day be undone.

When all the weapons of our hates  
will surely be recast

As tools to plow and plant the soil  
where peace will reign at last.

A distant dream, yet we will dare  
By Advent's light to forge

With Christ, new hands and hearts with  
which  
to study war no more.

**Passing of the Peace**

---

---

### 1st Scripture Mark 1:1-4 (Common English Bible)

**1** The beginning of the good news about Jesus Christ, God's Son, **2** happened just as it was written about in the prophecy of Isaiah:

*Look, I am sending my messenger before you.*

*He will prepare your way,*

**3** *a voice shouting in the wilderness:*

*"Prepare the way for the Lord;  
make his paths straight."*

**4** John the Baptist was in the wilderness calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins.

### 2nd Scripture Isaiah 40:1-11 (The First Egalitarian Translation)

**1** "Console my people, give them comfort," says your God.

**2** "Speak tenderly to Jerusalem's heart, and tell it that its time of service is ended, that its iniquity is atoned for, that it has received from YHWH's hand double punishment for all its sins."

**3** A voice cries out, "Clear a path through the wilderness for YHWH! Make a straight road through the desert for our God! **4** Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low; let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges become a valley! **5** Then the glory of YHWH will be revealed, and all humankind will see it." The mouth of YHWH has spoken!

**6** A voice commands, "Cry out!" and I answer, "What will I say?" – All flesh is grass and its beauty is like the wildflowers: **7** the grass withers and the flower wilts when the breath of YHWH blows on them. How the people are like grass! **8** Grass withers, and flowers wilt, but the promise of our God will stand forever."

**9** Go up on a high mountain, you who bring good news to Zion! Shout with a loud voice, you who bring good news to Jerusalem! Shout with out fear, and say to the towns of Judah "Here is your God!" **10** YHWH, O Sovereign One, you come with power, and rule with a strong arm! You bring your reward with you, and your reparation comes before you. **11** Like a shepherd you feed your flock, gathering the lambs and holding them close, and leading mother ewes with gentleness.

**Children's Message** Prepare the Way!

**Choir Anthem** I Come Like a Beggar - Sydney Carter

**Message** Messiah

**Musical Reflections**

**Communion Hymn #332** As We Gather at Your Table ([click here](#))

**Communion**

**Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, Mother God, you are in heaven, holy is your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

**News of God at Work in our Congregation & Community**

**Our Time of Giving**

**Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise God, all creatures here below;*

*Praise God, for all that love has done.*

*Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen*

**Closing Hymn #119** My Soul Gives Glory to My God ([click here](#))

**Benediction**

**Sending Music**

---

# Announcements



**Prayer List:** Paul Leintz, Rhonda Silence, Meredith Eliot (Church-Davison), Vicki Biggs-Anderson, Paulette Anholm, Mike Carlson, Sally Dunn, The Carter Family, All Victims of Gun Violence, Immigrants and Refugees, Countries of Ukraine, Sudan, Israel/Palestine, and Planet Earth.

**At home and Care Center:** Jean Ljungkull, Nona Smith, Lou Goodell, Bev Denyes, Nancy Cihlar, and Tom Hedstrom.

## Measure of our Faithfulness:

The First Congregational UCC adopted a 2023 Budget at the Annual Meeting on 28 January 2023, showing a need for a yearly income of \$164,110.00.

After forty-eight weeks, the Budget Donations and Income should be \$151,261.84. The Actual Donations so far this year have been \$145,919.94.

-Kevin LeVoir, Treasurer

## This Week at the Church

### **Thursday, December 7**

10:00 AM - Tai Chi  
11:00 AM - Building and Grounds Committee  
12:00 PM - Women's AA  
2:00-6:00 PM - Piano Lessons  
5:00 PM: Board of Trustees Library Meeting

### **Friday, December 8**

7:00 AM - AA  
8:00 AM - Harbor Watch  
9:00 AM - Pride Meeting  
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM - Piano Lessons  
7:00 PM - Borealis Concert at Bethlehem  
7:30 PM - AA

### **Saturday, December 9**

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM - Piano Lessons  
7:00 PM - Borealis Concert at Bethlehem

### **Sunday, December 10**

9:30 AM - Pick-up Choir Practice

10:30 AM Worship Service - Inside AND ON ZOOM, 2nd Sunday of Advent: Peace. On this Sunday, we hear from the Prophet Isaiah in the 40th chapter where hope is once again given to the people of Judah. We hear part of this chapter every year and many a time, "A voice cries out: In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD." In our time of Advent, not only are we to prepare for Jesus' birth and coming again, Isaiah tells us God is also working to make the way easier for all to come and find Peace.

### **Monday, December 11**

11:00 AM - Spring Forest Qi Gong  
2:00 - 6:00 PM - Piano Lessons  
3:00 - 5:00 PM - Food Shelf  
7:00 PM - Al Anon

### **Tuesday, December 12**

2:00 - 6:00 PM - Piano Lessons  
5:00 PM - Board of Directors

### **Wednesday, December 13**

2:00 - 6:00 PM - Piano Lessons  
6:00 PM - Confirmation

### **Thursday, December 14**

10:00 AM - Tai Chi  
12:00 AM - Women's AA  
2:00 - 6:00 PM - Piano Lessons

### **Friday, December 15**

7:00 AM - AA  
8:00 AM - Harbor Watch  
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM - Piano Lessons  
7:30 PM - AA

### **Saturday, December 16**

10:00 AM - Surely Discipleship Group  
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM - Piano Lessons

### **Sunday, December 17**

9:00 AM - Christmas Pageant Practice

10:30 AM - Worship Service - Inside AND ON ZOOM, 3rd Sunday of Advent: Joy. On this Sunday, we gather together to walk through, stumble through, and live out the story of our the Messiah's birth. We will once again gather at 9:00 am this Sunday for all who wish to share in a part of our Christmas Pageant. As we continue the Advent journey, don't just listen to it again, but re-imagine it for our day.

11:45 AM - Christmas Cookie Sale by Pizza and Social Justice

5:00 PM - Blue Christmas Service - As the nights get longer and longer, and for some the holiday season is not of joy but of sorrow when loved ones are no longer with us, or of depression as the suns hides and we feel all alone. This service is to acknowledge that for some, this season is full of mixed emotions and darkness. God's love is present, even in the darkness.

## Opening Hymn #107 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

1. Awake! Awake and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.  
sing out your joy, for Jesus is born, behold! the Child of our longing.  
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,  
to open wide the heavenly door, and lives now inside us forever.

2. To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing,  
whose humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing.  
Music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving kindness,  
the thunder of the anthems roll to shatter all hate and injustice.

3. In deepest night Christ's coming shall be, when all the world is despairing,  
as morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.  
One without voice breaks forth in song, a lame one leaps in wonder,  
the weak are raised above the strong, and weapons are broken asunder.

4 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though cold the winter and cheerless,  
the rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless;  
Love be our song and love our prayer, and love, our endless story,  
may God fill every day we share, and bring us at last into glory.

**[return to bulletin](#)**

*By Marty Haugen, 1983; rev. 1993  
Copyright 1982 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.  
One-License No. A-738474*



## Communion Hymn #332 As We Gather at Your Table

1. As we gather at your table, As we listen to your word,  
help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.

Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;  
teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.

2. Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;  
send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.

Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;  
may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

3. Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast  
where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.

There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy,  
As we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

**[return to bulletin](#)**

*Words, Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1989  
Copyright 1989 Hope Publishing Co.  
Tune, The Sacred Harp, 1844;  
Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1992  
Copyright 1992 The Pilgrim Press  
One-License No. A-738474*



## Closing Hymn #119 My Soul Gives Glory to My God

1. My soul gives glory to my God. My heart pours out its praise.  
God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.
2. My God has done great things for me: yes holy is God's name.  
All people will declare me blessed, and blessings they shall claim.
3. From age to age, to all who fear, such mercy love imparts;  
dispensing justice far and near, dismissing selfish hearts.
4. Love casts the mighty from their thrones, promotes the insecure,  
leaves hungry spirits satisfied, the rich seem suddenly poor.
5. Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress,  
remembering past promises with present faithfulness.

**[return to bulletin](#)**

*Words, Miriam Therese Winter, 1987  
Copyright 1978, 1987 Medical Mission Sisters  
Melody from Kentucky Harmony, 1816  
Harm. C. Winfred Douglas, 1940  
Copyright 1940 The Church Pension Fund.  
One-License No. A-738474*

