

Spring Hill United Church of Christ

December 8, 2019

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Second Sunday in Advent

Welcome and Announcements

Acolyte—*Riley Bradley*

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING AND PRAYER ~ Lilly Browning

One: Today we light two candles – the first candle is called *Hope* and it is a reminder that God’s promises are true. The second candle is called *Peace*, God’s gentle loving peace for our lives.

All: We seek God’s Peace in this time of stress.

One: Come, all is ready. Let the light of these candles, called Hope and Peace, bring brightness to your spirits.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Welcome to this time of preparation.

All: Although we have been preparing for celebrations, we come seeking to prepare our hearts to receive God’s Good News.

One: Get ready! God is bringing to us Hope and Peace.

All: How wonderful that God is showering us with Peace.

One: Open your hearts and let your spirits be quieted. Be at peace with God.

All: God, prepare our lives and bring us peace.

***Gathering Hymn “Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old”**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION IN UNISON (please be seated)

God, hear us this day as we open our hearts and spirits to You. These times we live in are often confusing and fearful. We are pushed to make preparations for a season which is supposed to bring hope and peace; yet we crowd it with obligations and stresses and shut the door to Your healing love and compassion. We find ourselves being on edge, fretful, wondering if we have done enough, can do enough. You answer our fears with Your voice, "Peace, be still". Help us to hear You. Slow us down. Encourage us to take some time to listen rather than shout, to stop and rest rather than run. Cause us to look around at situations and people who are in need and to place our focus on helping them. For it is in helping Your people and reaching out in love that we will find true peace. These things we pray, in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE IN UNISON

Jesus said, "I bring you peace, not the kind of peace the world would give to you. My peace I give to you, now and forever." We can be at peace knowing God's love is given for us. AMEN.

The Hebrew Bible Lesson Isaiah 11: 1-10 (CEB)

Special Music "Creation Will Be At Peace" A. Page

*Time with the Children and the Child Within
Celebrations, Concerns and Prayer Requests*

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us
our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into
temptation but deliver us from evil for Thine is the
kingdom, the power, and the glory, now and forever.
Amen.**

Choral Response "Cares Chorus"

*I cast all my cares upon You, I lay all of my burdens down at
Your feet. And anytime that I don't know what to do,
I will cast all my cares upon You.*

Morning Offering

Call to Offering

*Offertory "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" J. Calkin
Sandy Parker—Organist*

**Response*

Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God above, ye heaven'ly hosts
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome at Spring Hill United Church of Christ. We pray that you would experience God's Presence in our midst as we worship together.

Please sign the attendance pad and pass it along.

**Prayer of Dedication (In Unison)*

God of hopeful waiting, we give thanks for all of the ways in which You reveal Yourself to us. May these offerings nurture all of the ways in which Your promise is breaking into the world in acts of compassion and justice. May these gifts nurture Your rule of peace. Amen.

The Gospel Lesson Matthew 3: 1-11 (CEB)

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

The Word Interpreted

Rev. Robin DeAngelis

***Sending Hymn** "With Joy Draw Water" #109

***Benediction**

***Postlude** Chorale Prelude on J.S. Bach
"Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland"

**please rise in body or spirit*