

**United Church of Christ, First Congregational
Norwich, New York
December 6, 2020
Second Sunday of Advent - PEACE**

A TIME OF GATHERING AS WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE Orgel Choral: In Dulci Jubilo
Jason Handy, organ

by J.S. Bach.
Edited by Henry G. Ley. From

WELCOME (Pastor John)

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Linda Oehme)

CALL TO WORSHIP (Katie Izzo)

ONE: Loving God, you sent your prophet John to prepare your way among us,

ALL: to call us to repentance and make our pathways straight.

ONE: Strengthen us to live lives of steadfast love and faithfulness as we await the Messiah's return,

ALL: that all may see your reign of peace through your just and gracious rule. Amen.

CANTICLE

O God of Love

Words by J. F. Connolly
Tune: HESPERUS

O God of Life, now grant Your Peace,
Help love throughout Your world increase;
Help us to learn new ways to share.
To know Your peace, be in Your care.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES (Shea, Fiora and Gwen Breese)

[Reader 1]: Today we light the candle of HOPE and the candle of PEACE.

[Reader 2]: Peace I leave with you. My peace I give you. I give to you not as the world gives. Don't be troubled or afraid. (John 14:27)

[Reader 1]: God, please help us to understand peace and to share it with others. We wait for Jesus to be born with hope and peace.

[Reader 2]: We light these candles as symbols of HOPE and PEACE as we pray, Come Lord Jesus, come!

The candles of HOPE and PEACE are lit.

OPENING HYMN

Hark the Herald Angels Sing (Jesus The Light of the World) #160

Charles Wesley, 1739

adapted by George D. Elderkin

Tune: ELDERKIN, arranged by Jeffrey Radford, 1993

CHILDREN'S TIME (Linda Oehme)

The Lord's Prayer

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 (Katie Izzo)

Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹ but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²² abstain from every form of evil.

²³ May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

ANTHEM *The World in Solemn Stillness Lay*
Hand Bell Choir

Michael Ryan

SCRIPTURE Mark 1:1-8 (Brad Morrison)

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

² As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

⁴ John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

SERMON (Pastor John)

CLOSING HYMN #131 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (learning track) Edmund H. Sears, 1849
Tune: CAROL, Richard S. Willis

BLESSING (Pastor John)

Now may the God of peace
call forth your complete dedication;
may the light of Christ shine upon you;
and the Holy Spirit fill

POSTLUDE

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
Jason Handy, piano

Music by Rowland H. Prichard
Arranged by Mark Hayes