



THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

for December 6, 2020

Second Sunday of Advent

“Raise your voice... do not be afraid.” — The Messenger

ADVENT 2

“I Believe in the Sun: Peace for Tomorrow”

Prelude

Ji Hye Jung

Welcome

Rev. Pam Cochrane

Crossing the Threshold

The “great light” prophesied by Isaiah in today’s text is echoed in the first strains of John’s Gospel good news; the light that brings peace - that saves the people from all that would extinguish it- has been there from the beginning. The Word is made flesh and dwells in us. This reign is now...will we believe it? Will we continue to put flesh on it, embodying the peace meant for all humanity?

*I believe in the light, I believe in the light
That has come, that has come and is coming
We see the star rising
We hear the glad tidings
We Know we are not alone*

Opening Prayer

Holy One, we thank you for the glimpses we catch of your gift of peace on earth. Even in the midst of fear, of challenge, of struggle - even when we aren’t sure that goodwill among us can be found, ignite the flame of peace within us,

People: that we might glow with its brilliance from the inside out.

Pastor: Help us face the pain of life and embrace the assurance that light is already here, and always coming. Amen.

You are invited to light your Advent Candle of Peace at this time.

Hymn

When God Is A Child

words by Brian Wren; music by Joan C. Fogg

Peace us a ribbon that circles the earth,
Giving a promise of safety and worth.

CHORUS: 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.

Let us join our voices in singing the Opening Hymn

Hymn

Prepare Our Hearts

Rev. Dr. Charles N. Gross

Prepare our hearts this season,
to light each darkness way;
Behold we now God’s promise, a dawning for our day.

Your son of hope for shining, declare our Advent praise.
Impart your hope as now we wait, a weary world to raise.

All highest peace and glory, we need you, Lord of life,
To guide us in thy wisdom, to save us in our strife.
Your promise ever bold and new, in you we dare believe;
Your kingdom come, O Prince of Peace, prepare us to receive.

The promised gift we worship, to us a love was sent;
Continue now your promise, Emmanuel's Advent.
Again within this season, prepare our hearts for birth;
May love be now our offering, our best gift here on earth.

In joy abounds our Advent faith, built on an empty tomb;
The Christ-Child enters all hearts prepared to make him room.
Prepare our hearts this season, to light each darkness way;
Your promise may we now behold, to dawn upon our day.

Children's Time to Shine

This Little Light of Mine

Isaiah Reading— Isaiah 40: 1-11

Special Music

EST IST EIN' ROSE (*Lo, How a Rose*)
Kathy Gross, flute & Ji Hye Jung, piano

arr. John Purifoy

Gospel Reading—John 1:1-18

Message

“The Message of the Birds”

Rev. Pam Cochrane

We Respond –*Litany of Belief*

In times when humanity disappoints, perhaps when even our own thoughts and behaviors disappoint, it is an important act to call out, name and claim, the consequences of our wrongs. And in times of distress, it is a prophetic act to call out, name and claim, our belief in peace for the world.

Hear these statements of belief from siblings in faith:

Voice 1: I believe that humans have a penchant for conflict AND

Voice 2: I believe that we are capable of learning non-violent ways to negotiate difference.

Voice 1: I believe we have perpetrated deep suffering upon each other AND

Voice 2: I believe that we can face up to facts of privilege and work for equity

Voice 1: I believe that our fear has told us that we must “win” in order to survive AND

Voice 2: I believe that “winning” at the cost of others can be called out and changed

Voice 1: We believe, even when we are discouraged.

All: We believe that when we are discouraged, raising our voices for justice will offer us peace!

The Sharing of Communion

Prayers in the Stillness

Meet me in the stillness, Lord Be the air I breathe

Meet me in the stillness, Lord Free me to receive

Prayers of the People

Rev. Douglas Vooyo

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 today our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever, Amen.

Offering & Doxology

Believe, with a hopeful heart!
Believe, and shine your light!
Believe, because the song we sing is sung for all!
Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his son.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong;"
let the poor say, "I am rich because of what our God has done for us." Believe!

Benediction

We wait for justice but we do not wait to work for change;
We wait for restored health but we do not wait to work to heal;
We wait for wholeness but we do not wait to work at binding brokenness;
We wait for peace but we do not wait to work to eliminate hatred.
And so, my friends, like bells ringing out the news that the light has dawned
and shines on all people, fill the night left by sadness with messages of peace.
Go into your lives humming the tunes that keep that peace alive in you
and that spur you on in your work of justice and reconciliation.
Raise your voices and repeat after me...
"do not be afraid!" "do not be afraid!" Amen!

Postlude

Ji Hye Jung

*The altar flowers this Sunday are in loving memory of
my mother Helen Johnson
and my mother-in-law Anna Jacobson
Given by Eileen Jacobson*

*The chancel basket flowers this Sunday are in loving memory of
Betty Pennell
Given by the Pennell Family*

*The single red rose is in loving memory of
Chuck Gross
Given by Kathy Gross in honor of his birthday*

*The steeple is lit this week in loving memory of
Betty Pennell
Given by the Pennell Family*

Announcements & Events

Calendar of Events



Sunday, Dec 6 at 10am: *Second Sunday of Advent Morning Worship & Communion*

Tuesday, Dec 8 at 6:30pm: *Blue Christmas Prayer & Table on Zoom*

Tuesday, Dec 8 at 7pm: *Deacons Meeting on Zoom*

Wednesday, Dec 9 at 6:30pm: *CE Meeting on Zoom*

Thursday, Dec 10 at 7pm: *Film Discussion on Zoom*

Sunday, Dec 13 at 10am: *Third Sunday of Advent & Family Worship*

Thursday, Dec 17 at 7pm: *Film Discussion on Zoom*

Sunday, Dec 20 at 10am: *Fourth Sunday of Advent Morning Worship*

Thursday, Dec 24 at 5pm: *Christmas Eve Family Worship*

Thursday, Dec 24 at 11pm: *Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship*

Sunday, Dec 27 at 10am: *First Sunday after Christmas Worship*

Email the Church Office or Pastor Pam for the Zoom meeting links:

info@maplestreetchurch.org

revpammsc@gmail.com

Christmas Donations to Memorial Gifts

This year, in lieu of pointsettias, we are accepting donations to the Memorial Gifts Fund in memory or in celebration of loved ones. Please make checks out to "Maple Street Church" and include in the check's memo or in an enclosed letter:

"Gift to the Memorial Fund"

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Any questions, please call or email the Church Office: 978-774-4510; info@maplestreetchurch.org



World Service Christmas Tree Fund

Our Christmas Tree Fund provides a festive way for us to collect money for a needy organization in our community during Advent. This year it will be held outside with a live tree. **On the following Sundays- Dec 6th, 13th and 20th**, immediately after the worship service, drive to the church parking lot where members of the World Service Committee will help you hang your star on the tree and collect your donation. Cash and checks (made out to Maple Street Church) are both welcome! If you don't have a star to hang, we will have cards you can sign and hang. Plan to bring some cocoa or coffee and cookies to enjoy while we sing carols from our cars (windows up, so you'll have to sing loudly). The money raised this year will go to Beverly Bootstraps, who will use it to help individuals needing assistance paying their rent this year.



**Documentary Film Discussions- Thursday Evenings:
December 3, 10, & 17 at 7pm on Zoom**

Along with worship, we are invited to join in watching and discussing several films to accompany our Advent journey. Five documentaries all share the power of music in difficult times. Characters of hope emerge in each, affirming Mark's words "Look, I am sending my messenger before you, a voice shouting in the wilderness. And, in this case, a voice singing in the wilderness. You are invited to watch the films on your own but we will hold three discussion sessions on Thursday nights for adults. **This week's movie will be *Girls On The Wall*.**

Email the Church Office for the Zoom meeting links:

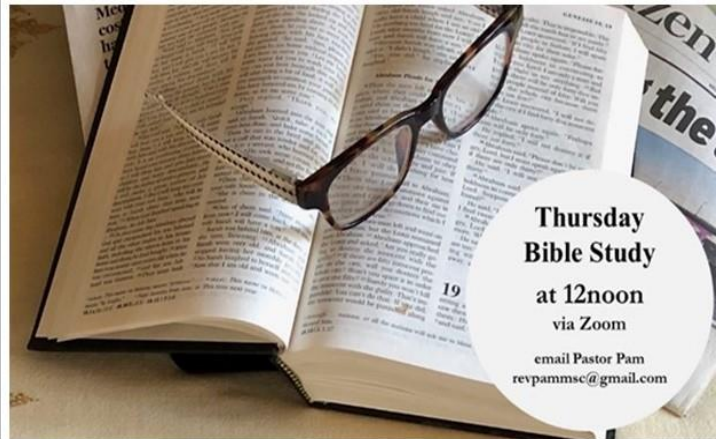
info@maplestreetchurch.org



**Virtual
Prayer & Table
Tuesdays at 6pm**

via Zoom if interested email Pastor Pam:

revpammsc@gmail.com



**Thursday
Bible Study
at 12noon
via Zoom**

email Pastor Pam
revpammsc@gmail.com

**Drop In & Conversation
with the Pastors**

Wednesdays at 12noon via Zoom

Email the Church Office or Pastor Pam for the
Zoom meeting links:
info@maplestreetchurch.org
revpammsc@gmail.com