



MAPLE STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
DECEMBER 5, 2021 • SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
“A Place at the Table (Peace)”

WELCOME

Rev. Douglas Vooyo

PRELUDE

WE OPEN THE DOOR

Peace Waits for Us at Advent

Amanda Udis-Kessler

Sing:

**Peace waits for us at Advent
Peace waits for us to trust.
Peace waits for our commitment
to a land that's kind and just.
In this time of preparation
for the work of co-creation,
for the birthing of a world
that heals the ones in pain.
Peace is born in us again!**

Leader: This morning we open the door to wonder and we remember. Just like the childhood game of “musical chair,” we are convinced that there are not enough places at the table for the sacred meal of communion. And so, we shrink the guest list just enough and then we scramble to occupy the chairs first-hoping to find our place. And yet our sacred texts invite us to imagine and make real the gathering of all people to the table, not just those seemed holy or right enough, but everyone, robed in the garment of Peace that comes with the spirit of justice and mercy. This is what really matters-this is fruit of what is right and good, this is what happens when you make space to “house the holy” Space for all to be nourished.

Reader: Today we offer the Light of Peace to illumine the Door of Welcome. May this light shine in our hearts, in our lives, and in our church. May Peace awaken us to possibilities and lead us to greater hospitality. There *IS* room in this Inn, a House for the Holy.

Sing:

Peace Waits for Us at Advent (lyrics above)

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

When God Is a Child

Marj Simpson & Peggy Kuzma

Words: Brian Wren; music: Joan C. Fogg

1. Peace is 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.

**Please stand as you are able.*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

As we rise in body or spirit for our opening hymn, I invite you to pass a “wave” of peace to the people around you, also wave to those worshipping virtually at home as you share the Peace of Christ.

***HYMN**

Now Bless the God of Israel

Black pg.110

CHILDREN’S TIME

Allison Brennen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Make of My Heart a Stable

Amanda Udis-Kessler

Sing:

**Make of my heart a stable,
a house for the holy,
a warm and sturdy place
for peace to live and grow.**

Leader: In this moment we open the doors of our hearts in honesty before God about what we’ve done and left undone that created less peace in a hurting world. Let us release regret. And welcome in the life-giving, for-giving Spirit of God.

Sing:

**Make of my life a stable,
a house for the holy,
a warm and sturdy place
for peace to live and grow.**

Leader: In this moment we open the doors of our lives to the call of the Spirit, inviting us to become more than we can ask for or imagine. Let us release our fear and call upon the Spirit of God to direct us as we rely upon the Peace of Christ.

Sing:

**Make of our church a stable,
a house for the holy,
a warm and sturdy place
for peace to live and grow.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER (UNISON)

**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 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 forever. Amen.**

A STORY OF INNKEEPING: OFFERING

Leader: Some scholars have wondered if “The Inn” and its “Keeper” were part of Joseph’s family—after all, he went back to his hometown for the census. Or perhaps Joseph’s own family did not or could not make room for them and they had to look elsewhere for a place to lay their head. As many of us know, family can be complicated. We’ll never know the real circumstances of Joseph’s family relations but the story can help us gain deeper compassion for what we DO know—too many people experience rejection, even from family. What if we endeavored to BE family to those who need it most, to “house the Holy” in ways we have not yet imagined?

***DOXOLOGY**

Lyrics: Thomas Ken, Tune: Red No. 64

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ whose pow'r uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

SCRIPTURE READING — *Luke 1:68-79*

Marj Simpson

ANTHEM

Jehovah Elohim
The Chancel Choir

Arr. Joel Raney

SERMON

“ZECHARIAH SINGS”

By Karen Kilty
Delivered by Peggy Coyne

COMMUNION HYMN

Eat This Bread

Music: Jacques Berthier

Words: Robert Batastini & the Taize Community

Eat this bread, drink this cup,
Come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
Trust in me and you will not thirst. (repeat)

COMMUNION

INVITATION—CONSECRATION-INSTITUTION—THANKSGIVING

***CLOSING CAROL**

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Red pg.129

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

**Come, God of love, your promise bring
To raise our hope, a world waiting.
Create a stillness in our hearts
To know the joy your love imparts.**

POSTLUDE

Ji Hye Jung

*Our Worship together concludes with the Benediction Response.
The Postlude is transitional music which inspires us as we go forth as
disciples to serve God and one another. Worship has ended.
Our Service Begins. . .*

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

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

*The single 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*

Christmas Eve Worship Update

In the spirit of Advent, I am pleased to share with you an update pertaining to our Christmas Eve Worship schedule. This year at Maple Street Church we will be having an additional Family and Children worship on Christmas eve. We will have Family and Children Services at 3:00pm and 5:00pm. Our traditional candle-light service will remain at 11:00pm. Our hopes are to accommodate as many who would like to attend in person and avoid the risk of turning people away. There will be a limit of 70 people per service due to precautions, so it is important to call ahead or email your selection for whichever service is your preference and reserve a spot. The 5pm service will be broadcast on all platforms and on Danvers Accesses Community Television. The 11pm service will be broadcast on all platforms. You can call the church office or email your selections. Also, plan to dress warmly, or even bring a throw or blanket if you like, the windows will remain open for the duration of the worship service being ever-mindful of safety.

Maple Street Congregational Church, UCC

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Morning Worship Service — Sundays at 10am

Zoom Prayer & Table Worship — Tuesdays at 6pm

Zoom Bible Study — Thursdays at 12noon