

Stouffville United Church
34 Church Street N., Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3
Sunday, December 7, 2025
Second Sunday of Advent - Peace
Lead by Julian Munro

Music Prelude

Welcome

Acknowledgement of the Land

We are gathered on the treaty territory of the Huron Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe people and their ancestors. May we honour their history, spirituality, culture and teachings and uphold our responsibilities as treaty partners.

Announcements

Chorus "Worthy Of It All"

Call to Worship

Advent is a season of waiting.

But we do not wait alone.

God is with us.

**We gather with those who have seen the signs,
 heard the whispers, felt the tugs in their hearts.**

God is birthing hope into this waiting world.

Let us worship with hearts open to Hope.

Lighting the Christ Candle [Julez]

We light our candles remembering that Jesus said: "Whoever believes in me, believes not just in me but in the One who sent me. Whoever looks at me is looking, in fact, at the One who sent me. I am Light that has come into the world so that all who believe in me won't have to stay any longer in the dark.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Reader 1: Today is the second Sunday in Advent. Last week, we lit the first candle in our Advent wreath, the candle that represents hope. *(The first candle is lit)*

Reader 2: Today we light the second candle, the candle that represents peace. We live in a world longing for peace: a peace that will squash wars, and the devastation wars leave behind, a peace that will reunite families, a peace that will restore minds and spirits. Knowing the need for peace in our lives and in this conflicted world, we light this candle as a symbol promised in the coming of Jesus. *(The second candle is lit)*

Congregation Sings: We Light this Candle TLUS #55

We light this candle for peace.

Await the new life within.

May our hearts now live each day,

so peace can find a way,

so peace can find a way.

Reader 1: Be present with us in this hour of worship, we pray and be present with us wherever we may journey with your peace held high. Amen

Opening Hymn On Jordan's Bank (VU 20)

**1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lamb is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of Kings.**

**2 Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
and let each heart prepare a home
where such a mighty guest may come.**

**3 In you, we find abundant life,
our refuge in the midst of strife;
without your grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.**

**4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and help us rise to fall no more.
O let your face upon us shine,
and fill the world with love divine.**

**5 All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won;
and praise to God whom we adore,
with Holy Spirit evermore.**

Prayer of Approach and Confession

Let us pray.

Loving and embracing Creator

We come before you today seeking all sorts of peace:

Inner peace,

World peace,

Peace in our relationships,

Peace in times of conflict and change,

Peace of mind.

In this fast paced, disconnected world,

we know it is easy to become disconnected from you and one another.

May your peace continue to ground us, guard our minds and hearts,

and remain in us as truth and love that we share with the world.

Help us to find rest in your embrace, and to live this day with gratitude and hope.

May your peace flow through us and touch the lives of those around us. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

Our God, whom the ancestors of our faith told stories of and shared wisdom on, is here with us.

God is always with us and God is always able to hold us in their gracious arms. We are held, we

are cherished, and we have access to peace because of the goodness of God.

Music Ministry "Peace, Peace, Peace"

A Time of Silence

Invitation to the Offering

As children of the light, we offer our gifts of time, talent, and treasure so that others may share in the timeless message of your love.

Let our offering be a sign of our love.

Offertory: 4th verse of "In the Bleak Midwinter" VU #55

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

yet what I can I give him - give my heart.

Offertory Prayer:

Spirit of Life, giver of every perfect gift, we offer our thanks for this life and its gifts. Bless these offerings and those given outside this time of worship. May our contributions both here and in every part of our lives—our time, our skills and our money—work towards a world of justice and peace. We pray that it be so, through the ministries of this congregation and the work we do together. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Chorus

Prayer for Understanding:

Let us pray: **Gracious and merciful God, lend yourself so we may have humble, teachable hearts, that we may receive what you are to reveal to us and follow your way. Amen.**

Scripture Reading: Matthew 3:1-12, Adapted from NRSVUE

The Proclamation of John the Baptist

3 In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.'"

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹"I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Reflection

Time of Silence**Hymn O Holy Night / Holy Forever****Verse 1**

**O holy night, the stars are brightly shining
 It is the night of the dear Saviors birth
 Long lay the world in sin and error pining
 Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth
 The thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
 For yonder breaks, a new and glorious morn**

Chorus 1

**Fall on your knees, oh hear the angel voices
 Oh night, divine, oh night when Christ was born
 Oh night, divine, oh night, oh night divine**

Verse 2

**Truly He taught us to love one another
 His law is love and His gospel is peace
 Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother
 And in His name all oppression shall cease
 Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we
 Let all within us praise His holy name**

Chorus 1

**Christ is the Lord, oh praise His name forever
 His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim
 His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim**

Chorus 2

**And the angels cry, holy, all creation cries, Holy
 You are lifted high, holy, holy forever
 Hear your people sing, holy to the King of Kings, holy
 You will always be, holy, holy forever**

Pre-Chorus 1

**Your name is the highest, Your name is the greatest
 Your name stands above them all
 All thrones and dominions, all pow'rs and positions
 Your name stands above them all**

Chorus 2

**And the angels cry, holy, all creation cries, Holy
 You are lifted high, holy, holy forever
 And the people sing, holy to the King of Kings, holy
 You will always be, holy, holy forever**

Prayers of the People:

Lord's Prayer- The Aramaic Prayer of Jesus, original translation from the Peshitta:

O Birther! Father-Mother of the Cosmos

You create all that moves in light.

Focus your light within us—make it useful: as the rays of a beacon show the way.

Create your reign of unity now—through our fiery hearts and willing hands.

Your one desire then acts with ours, as in all light, so in all forms.

Grant what we need each day in bread and insight:

Subsistence for the call of growing life.

Loose the cords of mistakes binding us,

As we release the strands we hold of others' guilt.

Don't let us enter forgetfulness

But free us from unripeness

From you is born all ruling will, the power and the life to do,

The song that beautifies all, from age to age it renews.

Truly—power to these statements—

May they be the source from which all my actions grow.

Sealed in trust & faith. Amen.

Closing Hymn: Dream a Dream (158 MV)

Blessing:

The vision will be fulfilled in its own time.

If it seems slow in coming, wait for it,
for it will surely come.

And as we wait,

may all things work together for good;

may we be blessed with wisdom and discernment,
and determination and patience;

may we take the time to grow in grace,
day by day. Amen.

Closing Response #215MV: "Peace Be with You"

Peace be with you, hope for ever,

peace be with you, my friends.

Till we meet again may God be with you.

peace, peace, peace.

Postlude