

St. James United Church

December 6, 2015/Advent 2, Peace

Minister: Rev. Terrie Jackson
Minister of Visitation: Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald
Minister of Youth/Christian Education: Susan Sheppard, DLM
Choir: AOTS and UCW
Music Director: Doreen Brown

Please remain seated comfortably until invited to stand.
Please turn off your cell phone during the Service.

Musical Prelude

Welcome & Life & Work of St. James
Passing the Peace



Introit: *Come Now, O God of Peace*

Choir

Call to Worship: (responsive)

One: What is this Advent all about?

All: It's about waiting.

One: Waiting for what?

All: Waiting for the Christ Child.

One: But wasn't He born a long time ago.

All: Yes! But we wait for him to be born again, in our hearts, in our minds, in our actions.

One: But how?

All: When we speak words of peace; when we live lives of justice; when we work for hope and joy; when we worship God; then the Christ child lives in us.

One: In all of us?

All: In all of us!! Alleluia, Amen.

Opening Prayer: (together) Who are we, O God, that You should come to us? Yet You have visited Your people and redeemed us in Your Son. As we prepare to celebrate His birth, make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of Your word, and make us move by Your spirit to bless Your wonderful works. We ask this through Him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near, even Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

2

The Circle Song & Children's Time

Lighting of the Candle of Peace

One: 'Twas the month before Christmas, and all through God's place, the people were running-not a moment for grace!

All: There was much to be done, oh, yes, so much to do- Carols to be sung, Christmas cookies chewed through!

One: The wreath it was ready, candles blue, candles white with the touch of a match, to blaze out the Christ light!

All: But something was missing, in all of our rush- What was it I wondered, what was it-.....Oh hush!!

One: In the silence that fell, I knew what we'd miss, In our great to- and fro-ing, If we didn't desist.....

All: Peace.

One: Peace in our hearts.

All: Peace in our lives.

One: Peace in our families.

All: Peace in the world. *(The Candle of Peace is lit.)*

One: So let this light shine, for some moments, each day, to quiet our hearts, to enlighten our way.

All: As we join hearts together, this great Advent-tide, Let us look round the world, let us look side -to-side,

One: and with all that we are, and with all that we do,

All: let us be peace-bearers forever, Christ's people right through.

Prayer: (together) God of all moments, the chaotic and the peaceful, help us to uncover Your great Shalom in the breath of a tiny child. Help us to feel that Peace, deep in our souls. Help us, we pray, to share it with the world. Amen.

Sung Response: *Hope is a Star, v. 2*

7

Baptismal Hymn: *What Child Is This?*

74

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Presentation

Parents' Baptismal Vows



Congregational Commitment (together, standing as you are able):

We have heard the will of the parents. We receive these children in Christ's name as we ourselves have been received. We all belong to the one

household of Christ. We will support these parents and these children through prayer, and provide a community of faith in which they are welcome to belong. May we serve God's world together. Amen.

Affirmation of Faith: A New Creed 918

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Pouring of the Water

Action of Baptism

Jacob Alexander Gordon Cook, son of Elizabeth Cook & Joshua Peddle;

Landon Drew Buck, son of Ashley Nicole Stokes Buck & Cory Bruce Buck.

Blessing: (together) May God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May God look upon you with kindness and give you peace.

Invitation to the Offering and Minute for Mission

Offertory Anthem: *She Walked in the Summer* Choir

Offertory Hymn: *In the Bleak Midwinter, v.4* 55

Offertory Prayer: (together) O come to us, Emmanuel, and make our giving holy. For what is here is given freely, with hope and joy and love; let our small gifts join with others so that our world may become Your dream of peace. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Hebrew Scripture: Malachi 3: 1-4

Anthem : *Christmas Peace* Choir

Gospel: Luke 3 : 1-6

Hymn: *All Poor Ones and Humble* 68

Meditation

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn: *There's a Voice in the Wilderness* 18

Blessing & Sending Forth followed by Musical Postlude

