

BERN REFORMED UCC WORSHIP DECEMBER 8th, 2024

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



PRELUDE: "Of The Father's Love Begotten" -arr. Biery

TODAY'S SINGLE FLOWER is in recognition of Bertha Lamm's 95th Birthday TOMORROW!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE"

HYMN: "LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH" (*remain seated*)

- 1. Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth. The peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father His children all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.**
- 2. Let peace begin with me! Let this be the moment now!
With ev'ry step I take let this be my solemn vow!
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me!**

PROPHECY: Malachi 3:1-4 I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi & refine them like gold & silver until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old & in former years.

RESPONSIVE READING: "The Song of Zechariah"

LEADER: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel who has come to his people and set them free.

PEOPLE: He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David.

LEADER: Through his holy prophets he promised of old, that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us.

PEOPLE: This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies!

LEADER: In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us; to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

PEOPLE: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forevermore. Amen.

HYMN # 117 "O THOU JOYFUL"

**1 O thou joyful, O thou wonderful GRACE revealing Christmastide!
Jesus came to win us From all sin within us:
Glorify, Glorify the Holy Child!**

**2 O thou joyful, O thou wonderful LOVE revealing Christmastide!
Loud hosannas singing And all praises bringing:
May Thy Love, May Thy Love; with us abide!**

**3 O thou joyful, O thou wonderful PEACE revealing Christmastide!
Darkness disappearing, God's own light now nearing:
PEACE and JOY, PEACE and JOY, to all betide!**

EPISTLE: Philippians 1:3-11 I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

SERMON: "THE PEACE THAT WAS MEANT TO BE?"

CHOIR ANTHEM: "A Voice Cries Out"

-Larson

PRAYERS

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER FOR PEACE:

Lord God of peace, hear our prayer! We have tried so many times over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried... But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!";

"With war everything is lost". Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace. Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarreling into forgiveness.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother", and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom.

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN: "O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM"

**1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**2 For Christ is born of Mary; and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.**

**3 How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.**

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: "Steadfast In Faith"

-Broughton

***Schuykill Valley Food Pantry is seeking an Advent Food Drive**

***PLEASE NOTE: It's Bern's turn to help distribute food!**

Anyone willing to help on December 21st, please tell Corey.

***It's Winter Clothes Drive Time Again!"**

LAYING OF WREATHS is THIS COMING SATURDAY !

Our CHRISTMAS CANTATA is NEXT SUNDAY !

Attendance last week 65