

Make Ready



**YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME HERE AT
PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
December 5, 2021**

***Please stand in body and/or spirit as you are able.**

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***GATHERING MUSIC** *Soon and Very Soon*

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Peace**

One: In a world where so many experience violence, God lights a candle of peace in our hearts.

We wait together for a Saviour who will be Immanuel, Christ the Lord.

Many: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.'

(Luke 1:78, 79)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: In the compassion which can overturn injustice,

Many: in the forgiveness which can heal a broken heart,

One: in the wonder which can illuminate shadowed longings:

Many: surely your days are coming, God of holy seasons.

One: In the peace which can calm anxious souls,

Many: in the joy which can shatter our despair,

One: in the songs which can lift sagging spirits:

Many: surely the signs of your Advent are all around us, God of holy seasons.

***OPENING PRAYER** (in unison)

Traveling Ancient One, who caravanned the desert sands with Abraham and Sarah, who walked with Peter and Mary Magdalene, who sailed with Paul and Priscilla: Travel with us this Advent Morning. Guide us through the wilderness of our minds to focus on you. Bring the mountains of our egos and the valleys of our depression to level land. Straighten our belief so that our actions might smooth out rough roads. Help us, today, to see the salvation of God through the one you sent and are sending still. Amen.

(adapted from a prayer by Rev. Nathan Decker)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PSALTER READING: Psalm 126, Page 707 New Century Hymnal
SUNG RESPONSE #423 Great Is Your Faithfulness

JOYS AND CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYERS, INTERCESSORY PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

BIBLICAL TESTIMONY: 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,²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,⁴as 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.⁵Every 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;⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

CONTEMPORARY TESTIMONY: an excerpt from Thomas Merton's essay, "The Time of the End Is the Time of No Room"

...everyone is obsessed with lack of time, lack of space, with saving time, conquering space, projecting into time and place the anguish produced within them by technological furies of size, volume, quantity, speed, number, price, power, and acceleration. . . . We are numbered in the billions, and massed together, marshaled, numbered, marched here and there, taxed, drilled, armed, worked to the point of insensibility, dazed by information, drugged by entertainment, surfeited with everything, nauseated with the human race and with ourselves, nauseated with life. There is no room for quiet. There is no room for solitude. There is no room for thought. There is no room for attention.

SERMON Hearing God in the Wilderness

OFFERING, OFFERTORY- *DOXOLOGY
(see insert)

*** DEDICATION OF GIFTS**

Great God of the mountains and the valleys, as we give our gifts this morning we dedicate them to do the work of construction, creating a peaceful and just world. Amen.

*HYMN #290 Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

**INVITATION TO THE TABLE
THE STORY REMEMBERED
THE BANQUET SHARED**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We thank you, Great God, for bringing us from east and west, north and south to this table of plenty. We thank you for the fruit of the vine and grain of the fields that feed us today. May we be nourished to make here, on this land, a place of welcome and refuge for all your children. Amen.

*HYMN #102 O How Shall I Receive You

**BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP TIME BEFORE CHURCH. Beginning at 9:30.

ADVENT BOOK STUDY is being held Sundays during Advent from 9:30 to 10:15 in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited to participate.

CONFIRMATION will not meet today. Good Luck at your basketball tournament!

DONATIONS are needed for the food bank box for Christmas boxes being made for local families. To be picked up after today or checks made out to the church, but designated for the food drive, can be given to Gordy.

The PEACE CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL will be held on December 11th at 2:00pm. Afternoon of fellowship, food, refreshments, crafts, games and entertainment. They will be having a Warm Clothing Drive.

PASTOR MELANIE'S OFFICE HOURS are now Sundays 1:30-3:30. Call or text if you'd like to meet with her. She can be reached at (402)841-1450 or (402)500-3412 or revdocmel@gmail.com

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NURSING CENTER/HOMEBOUND PRAYER LIST:

Deloris Ashburn Clara Ritter

CONCERNS

Mass Shootings at schools and public places
Graham Sayers, infant son of Lisa (Henseleit) and Jay Sayers
Family and Friends of Pam Ashburn
Family and Friends of Gerald McNally
Kelli Koepke and Family

Diann Larson	Ciera Nygren	Bill Rittscher
Clara Ritter	Gene Fields	Jesse Johnson
Dustin Meyer	Eric Heithoff	McCoy Backer
Laura Rutjens	Fr. Pat Nields	Deloris Mozer
Michelle Dittmer	Kandi Hart	Deloris Ashburn
Dave Carstens	Carter Brown	John Johnson
Holli Perez	Theresa Sullivan Meyer	

JOYS

Baptism of Blair Elizabeth Mozer, daughter of Brea and Joel

Diann Larson's address is: Antelope Memorial Hospital

**Diann Larson Room 231
102 West 9th St
Neligh, NE 68756**