

Preparation Hymn CP 56

I Am the Bread, the Bread of Life

Tune: Picket Wood

Hymn During Communion CP 94

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord, be strong, take Heart!

Source: Taizé Community

Closing Hymn CP 111

Herald! Sound the Note of Judgement

Tune: Neander (Unser Herrscher)

Postlude: *Sortie from Sonata for Flute and Piano*

B. Marcello (1686 – 1739)

The Cathedral Church of All Saints



December 8, 2024

Prelude Music: *Excerpt from Prelude and Fugue in e minor*
J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Advent Candle Lighting

Week Two: Peace

Reader One: Because of war, because of violence in our communities, because there is still so much unrest in our hearts, we light a candle of peace...

Reader Two: Because hatred is still so strong, because so many swords have not yet been remade into ploughshares, we light a candle of Peace... (*the second candle in the Advent wreath is lit.*) it joins the candle of Hope to illuminate our way.

Reader One: May the light from these candles overwhelm the world.

Reader Two: May the light from this candle today, say to all that God's peace is coming, on earth as it already is in heaven.

All: Friends, let us not be afraid, God's peace is at hand!

Advent 2 - Peace

Both because this week's traditional Advent theme is "Peace" and because Luke is a subversive Gospel of peace written during a time of military occupation, this may be the perfect week to name and explore the realities of conflict in our lives today. Particularly in this age of hostility and polarization, God is calling us toward greater peacemaking between peoples, groups, and individuals — and Advent is a season both to long for God's shalom and to become candles of shalom in the darkness.

In the Book of Exodus, the Hebrew word for "Egypt" is *mitzrayim*, literally "the narrow places." Luke presents Jesus' ministry as a New Exodus, a liberation or "release" (Greek *aphesis*) from the narrow places of sin, oppression, enslavement, violence, conflict, and despair. A new era of God's shalom is dawning, John insists, his voice ringing out like a new Jeremiah — but shalom isn't simply the absence of discord. Rather, it's the presence of genuine freedom, liberation from whatever is holding us back from becoming fully human, living testimonies to God's good news for all creation, bar none. Our lives are full of "narrow places" (hostilities, resentments, addictions, apathy, stress, injustice, greed, ecological ruin) — and Jesus is coming to "proclaim release to the captives"

As we prepare for this New Exodus, John challenges us to change our hearts, minds, and lives — for the days of peace and freedom are truly coming! Make way! Remove the obstacles! The Prince of Peace approaches — not on a warhorse like other authorities of the day (Tiberius, Pilate, Herod), but rather as a humble prophet, teacher, and healer, God's beloved child born homeless in a manger.

<https://www.saltproject.org/progressive-christian-blog/advent-week-one-lectionary-commentary>

Hymn 89 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*
[Verses 1,2 & 3]

Opening Hymn: CP 103

On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry
Tune: Winchester New

Children's Message



Collect

**God of mercy,
may the radiance of your redeeming love
rise in our hearts,
lighting the way through the shadows of darkness
and guiding our feet into the way of peace. Amen.**
FWM Proposed Prayers (2004) alt.

The Proclamation of the Word

The First Reading

Reader A reading from the book of Malachi [3:1-4]

See, 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? For 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 and refine them like gold and 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 and as in former years.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 19: CP 11
(A paraphrase of the Song of Zacharias)

The Second Reading

Reader A reading from the letter to the 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 defence 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 on 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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual Hymn CP 108
Hark, a Herald Voice Is Sounding
Tune: Merton

The Gospel

All stand, as able, for the proclamation of the Gospel.
Deacon The Lord be with you
People **And also with you.**
Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke [3:1-6]
People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

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."' '

At the conclusion of the Gospel, the Deacon says,
The Gospel of Christ.
People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



Today the Wine and Host, are offered in memory of loved ones, in thanksgiving for those who have been lights of hope and peace in our journeys.