

**December 2, 2007
First Sunday of Advent**

Meditation

It's only when we truly know and understand that we have a limited time on earth – and that we have no way of knowing when our time is up – that we begin to live each day to the fullest, as if it were the only one we had.

Elizabeth Kubla-Ross

Preparing the Way of the Lord

GATHERING and WELCOME “Surely the Presence”

PRELUDE “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” Gilbert M. Martin

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING *Alive Now* Isaiah 2:3-5

One: For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

Two: God shall Judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples.

One: They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears onto pruning hooks.

Two: Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

One: O house of Jacob, come.

Two: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

LIGHTING THE FIRST CANDLE Norma Naylor and Nancy White

ADVENT LITANY *Alive Now*

This Sunday we celebrate the beginning of Advent with a prayer that it may be a season of peace.

We hover on the edge of expectation – let this season of hope begin.

Let us prepare and relish our celebrations with the joy of God’s love in our hearts.

We rejoice in beloved traditions, that they might renew bonds of fellowship.

Let us consider what true gifts we might offer to each other and to God.

Help us to know when encouragement or patience, kind words or listening ears are needed.

Most of all, awaken in us a hunger for the arrival of the Christ child.

We will make a place for His coming in our hearts and homes, and live each day following the path of peace.

**All who are able, please stand.*

*SINGING

“People, Look East”

No. 202

CHILDREN’S TIME

Listening for Good News

LESSON FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Isaiah 2:1-5

RECEIVING PRAYER REQUESTS & SINGING “Let There Be Peace on Earth” No. 431

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we
forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 24:36-44

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*SINGING

“Let There Be Light”

No. 440

MESSAGE “Shepherding the Gift of Time”

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “Christmas Communion Song” Adult Choir

*DOXOLOGY

“Gloria, Gloria”

No. 72

**Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, Gloria! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Sharing the Lord’s Supper

INVITATION

CONFESSING WHO WE

Seasons of the Spirit

Spirit of Christ, in your coming you want to shape us into a people of hope, peace, joy, and love.

But we confess that instead of peace, we often allow fear to shape us, and we mold weapons to protect our homes and our homeland.

Instead of hope, we allow cynicism to shape us, and prepare plans to protect our fortunes and futures.

Instead of love, we allow anger to shape us, and we practice retaliation in too many situations.

O Spirit of Christ, Help us see the way we have allowed fear, cynicism, worry, and anger to shape us instead of your way of graceful Shalom.

SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE

God takes all that we are, and all our world has become, and reshapes our fear, cynicism, worry, and anger into peace, hope, joy and love.

This is the power of God's love among us and we are remolded, reshaped, recreated by God's own hand. Praise be to you, O God. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*SINGING "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations" No. 569

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE Episode on "Truro" Lani Smith

Liturgist: Doris Parry

Please join us for coffee and fellowship in Fellowship Hall following Worship!

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Advent

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Rev. Edward Farrell-Starbuck, Pastor
Susan Markham, Music Director
Donna Faria, Mark Lyman and Chris Taylor, Lay Leaders
Worship and Sunday School at 9:30 AM

Pamela Etheridge, Church Secretary
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9:00 AM to 12:00 NOON