Riverbend United Church
Exploring Faith, Engaging Community

December 8, 2024

The Second Sunday of Advent: PEACE

We Gather Together Seeking Peace

Prelude — Sherry Steele

Welcome and Announcements — Rev. Valerie Oden

Advent Candle Lighting: The Candle of Peace

Music: "Gesu Bambino" by P. Yon; words and arr. by Joel Raney

Sung: *O come, O come, Emmanuel,*
And end this gloom of night.
Bring hope to the world,
Bring peace to the earth,
And fill us with love's pure light.

Litany:

In this season of Advent, we pray for God's peace.
Christ is our light and the source of our peace.

We witness the hostility between nations and neighbours.
Christ is our light and the source of our peace.

We see a world full of fractured relationships and unforgiving hearts.
Christ is our light and the source of our peace.

We seek relief from our own inner turmoil and restlessness.
Christ is our light and the source of our peace.

Unison Prayer for Peace — VU 692
Patti Hunter, Lay Leader

O God, lead us from death to life,
from falsehood to truth.
Lead us from despair to hope,
from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love,
from war to peace.
Let your peace fill our hearts, our world our universe.
Amen.

*Opening Hymn — *All Earth is Waiting* vss 1, 2, 3 — VU 5

As we sing this hymn, children are invited downstairs to rehearse the Christmas Program, to be offered next Sunday. All children are welcome.

Special Music — RUC Handbells
Alison Grant-Preville, Director

Celebration No. 5 (Keller)
A Carol for All Seasons (Fr. Carol, arr. Price)

Readings — Psalm 95 (Part One) — VU 814
Luke 1: 78-79; Luke 3: 1-6

Anthem — *Carol of the Winter Wind (Lowry, Martin)* — RUC Choir
Alison Grant-Preville, Guest Director

Reflection — "Living Peace" — Rev. Valerie Oden

We Receive New Members

*Hymn of Invitation — *On Jordan's Bank* vss 1, 3, 5 — VU 20

New Members are invited forward as we sing this hymn.

Introduction of New Members

Question of Support

Will you join with us as we celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, love and serve others, seek justice and resist evil, supporting the church with your time, talent and treasure?

Congregational Pledge

As your siblings in Christ,
we rejoice in your journey.
We pledge to you our love and support.
By grace, we will live out the mission and ministry
of Christ's church, growing together
in love of God and neighbour.

Hymn *Put Peace into Each Other's Hands* vss 1, 2, 3 MV 173

We Respond in Faith

Prayers of the People (Sharing our Joys and Concerns)

Prayer Hymn *Put Peace into Each Other's Hands* vss 4, 5a MV 173

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer / The Lord's Prayer VU 921

Offering our Gifts

Offering plates can be found in the narthex. Electronic gifts are welcome by e-transfer to: contactus@riverbendunited.org or on the church website. We give in gratitude for God's grace and in hope that peace may spread to all.

*Closing Hymn *Hark the Glad Sound* vss. 1, 4 VU 29

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction *Grant Us Peace (arr. D. Hart)* RUC Choir

Postlude Sherry Steele

****denotes you are invited to stand as you are able and inclined***

"VU" refers to the red hardback hymnal *Voices United*
"MV" refers to the spiral bound songbook *More Voices*

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