



Second Sunday of Advent

Thank you for a strong year of “Listening for the Work” as we prayed together using

new tools, read the parables of Jesus and observed the extraordinary among the ordinariness of life here at The United Baptist Church! This morning we celebrate the season of Advent by lighting the second purple candle in our fresh Advent wreath. In Western Christianity from the year 480, early believers fasted and prepared for Christmas for four weeks prior to the birth of the Christ child, Jesus. This period became the beginning of the liturgical year. The word Advent, from the Latin *adventus*, is a translation of the Greek *parousia*, meaning “second coming” or “arrival.” It is a time of waiting in anticipation of celebrating Christ’s birth; and this Sunday, we empty ourselves of distractions to receive **PEACE**, to prepare us for the Messiah’s arrival.

The wreath and its candles are a visual focus and symbol of Advent, originating with German Lutherans in the 16th Century. One of the candles is lit each week as Christmas approaches. The circle of the Advent wreath, having no beginning and no end, portrays for us God’s timelessness, his everlasting love, and the fellowship of believers around the world. The evergreens have meaning as well: laurel (if used) signifies victory over persecution and suffering; spruce, weeping cypress, and yew symbolize immortality; and the prominent boxwood symbolizes eternal life, nature’s abundance, healing, and grounded-ness. Pinecones are sometimes included to symbolize life and resurrection.

The four outer candles represent the gifts of his spirit in us which are: **Hope, Peace, Joy** and **Love**. Three of the outer candles are Purple, the color of repentance and royalty. A fourth outer candle is rose, which reminds us of love: “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16 KJV).”



Second Sunday of Advent

Thank you for a strong year of “Listening for the Work” as we prayed together using

new tools, read the parables of Jesus and observed the extraordinary among the ordinariness of life here at The United Baptist Church! This morning we celebrate the season of Advent by lighting the second purple candle in our fresh Advent wreath. In Western Christianity from the year 480, early believers fasted and prepared for Christmas for four weeks prior to the birth of the Christ child, Jesus. This period became the beginning of the liturgical year. The word Advent, from the Latin *adventus*, is a translation of the Greek *parousia*, meaning “second coming” or “arrival.” It is a time of waiting in anticipation of celebrating Christ’s birth; and this Sunday, we empty ourselves of distractions to receive **PEACE**, to prepare us for the Messiah’s arrival.

The wreath and its candles are a visual focus and symbol of Advent, originating with German Lutherans in the 16th Century. One of the candles is lit each week as Christmas approaches. The circle of the Advent wreath, having no beginning and no end, portrays for us God’s timelessness, his everlasting love, and the fellowship of believers around the world. The evergreens have meaning as well: laurel (if used) signifies victory over persecution and suffering; spruce, weeping cypress, and yew symbolize immortality; and the prominent boxwood symbolizes eternal life, nature’s abundance, healing, and grounded-ness. Pinecones are sometimes included to symbolize life and resurrection.

The four outer candles represent the gifts of his spirit in us which are: **Hope, Peace, Joy** and **Love**. Three of the outer candles are Purple, the color of repentance and royalty. A fourth outer candle is rose, which reminds us of love: “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16 KJV).”

The center white candle is called the Christ Candle and is lit on Christmas Eve as we wait and acknowledge Christ the Savior, “the light of the world,” is born. We then share our light on Christmas Eve to share this “Good News” with others, safely!



PEACE

Please save this insert to use as a devotional reading this week.

As we light the second Advent Candle of the season, aren't you ready for **Peace**? This year as in previous years, we've experienced mass violence in several places across the country, even here in Chesapeake, VA. The helplessness we feel disturbs our peace in a troubling way. We may even forget the hope of God through Christ that is ours:

And he said, “O man greatly loved, fear not, peace be with you; be strong and of good courage.” And as he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, “Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me (Daniel 10:19 ^{ESV}).”

What is peace? Peace is possible even when we are surrounded by every kind of conflict simultaneously. Peace is a settled disposition determined to engage every circumstance by knowing God's heart, living in compliance and satisfaction with his will and ways. This is possible because his every thought and motivation is love. His every action provides the best possible outcome. Peaceful places do exist. Peace, however, is something we carry within us more than something we achieve or somewhere we physically enter. Peace is an absence of conflict. This can be personal, national, international, or ideological conflict. There is no life without conflict. ~ *Rev. Pam Moyer*

A Prayer by Dan Miller

Ever coming and always present God,
we have come here this evening to be present to you.
In the dark winter of our lives we long for your brilliance—bring us
light, and make us for others the light that you bring.
In the midst of our secret sadness we long for your comfort—bring us
solace, and make us for others the solace you bring.
In the fury of violence and war we long for disarmed hearts—bring us
peace, and make us for others the peace that you bring.
In the ravaged lands of this munificent earth we long for creation's
revival—bring us healing, and make us for others the healing you
bring.

○ Light, ○ Solace, ○ Peace, ○ Healing, Come.

The center white candle is called the Christ Candle and is lit on Christmas Eve as we wait and acknowledge Christ the Savior, “the light of the world,” is born. We then share our light on Christmas Eve to share this “Good News” with others, safely!



PEACE

Please save this insert to use as a devotional reading this week.

As we light the second Advent Candle of the season, aren't you ready for **Peace**? This year as in previous years, we've experienced mass violence in several places across the country, even here in Chesapeake, VA. The helplessness we feel disturbs our peace in a troubling way. We may even forget the hope of God through Christ that is ours:

And he said, “O man greatly loved, fear not, peace be with you; be strong and of good courage.” And as he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, “Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me (Daniel 10:19 ^{ESV}).”

What is peace? Peace is possible even when we are surrounded by every kind of conflict simultaneously. Peace is a settled disposition determined to engage every circumstance by knowing God's heart, living in compliance and satisfaction with his will and ways. This is possible because his every thought and motivation is love. His every action provides the best possible outcome. Peaceful places do exist. Peace, however, is something we carry within us more than something we achieve or somewhere we physically enter. Peace is an absence of conflict. This can be personal, national, international, or ideological conflict. There is no life without conflict. ~ *Rev. Pam Moyer*

A Prayer by Dan Miller

Ever coming and always present God,
we have come here this evening to be present to you.
In the dark winter of our lives we long for your brilliance—bring us
light, and make us for others the light that you bring.
In the midst of our secret sadness we long for your comfort—bring us
solace, and make us for others the solace you bring.
In the fury of violence and war we long for disarmed hearts—bring us
peace, and make us for others the peace that you bring.
In the ravaged lands of this munificent earth we long for creation's
revival—bring us healing, and make us for others the healing you
bring.

○ Light, ○ Solace, ○ Peace, ○ Healing, Come.