



## WE GATHER AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

### \*GREETING

LEADER: The coming of the Lord is near.

**PEOPLE: We wait for the fulfillment of God's promise.**

**\*SUNG RESPONSE** Wait for the Lord (Insert) Sing 2 times

### **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Bridgette Hancock & Diane Feibert**

**Voice A:** We feel peace in the beautiful moments when we encounter God in our bodies: In moments when we hold hands around the table for grace, and laugh at shared memories; In moments that we as a church share peace, when we baptize babies, or hear the choir sing in harmony.

**Voice B:** We feel peace In moments when we hear God say again in scripture: "One day every valley will be lifted up," and, "Darkness did not overcome the light." In our broken world, peace can feel abstract, impossible, and naive. And yet, we come to this sanctuary week after week and say, "The peace of Christ be with you."

**Voice A:** We believe that God sounds, feels, and looks like peace.

So family of God, we light this candle—the candle of peace—as a reminder that when we draw near to God, we are drawing near to peace.

(Light Candle of peace)

**Voice B:** With thanks to God let us join in the World Peace prayer

**ALL: 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 peace fill our heart, Let peace fill our world, Let peace fill our universe.**

## CANDLE SONG (Insert)

### UNISON PRAYER

**ALL:** Compassionate God, the wind of your Spirit is the very sign of life for all who long for you. One breath from you and we are rescued from the arid valley where there is no movement of peace. Let our whole lives be filled with the life-breath of the Spirit, that what has lain dormant may burst into bloom. God of peace, give us ears to listen, hearts to trust your promise, and voices to call out the possibilities for new and renewed life. As we worship together, we offer ourselves to you and to your abundant grace. Amen

### SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

### SPECIAL MUSIC AND THE LITANY OF GRACE

*“An Advent Prayer”* Allen Pote

One: Gracious God, sometimes we give up on your promise of a world marked by justice, peace, and love, and we settle for what seems expedient, easy, or inevitable.

**ALL:** Teach us again to invest ourselves in the hard work of hoping, and once you have filled our hearts with hope, work within us to make your hopes come true for all our neighbors.

One: Gracious God, we struggle to find peace in our lives, our world, and even in ourselves. Sometimes, we are even the authors of discord, and the creators of hatred.

**ALL:** Calm what is frenzied in our souls; soothe what is injured in our relationships; purify what is hateful in our communities; refine us to be messengers of your peace. Give us strength to walk in the footsteps, of our Lord and Savior, the Prince of Peace.

One: Precious Lord, joy seems elusive in a world of division, anger, and conflict. We strive endlessly to find happiness in the worship of worldly idols, in empty entertainment and overconsumption.

**ALL: Remind us again that you want more for us: true joy, based in trusting you. Train our souls to revel in your goodness, and to take our joy in you.**

One: Eternal God, we don't always believe that there is truly enough love to go around.

We hoard it like it's a finite gift and hesitate to give anyone our whole heart; we fail to love our neighbor, we don't even love ourselves.

**ALL: Remind us, Lord God, of the truth of your love: that it never runs out, that there is always enough, that giving love away only creates more.**

One: Come Holy Jesus; forgive us, heal us, encourage us and speak through us,

**ALL: May we be transformed by your persistent advent, and may the offerings of our hands and our hearts prepare the way for you.**

## **WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S STILL SPEAKING VOICE**

### **SCRIPTURE Ezekiel 37: 1-14**

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

One: God is still speaking

**ALL: Thanks be to God**

**MESSAGE**

**Can These Bones Live?**

**Reverend Patty Dodds**

### **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**HYMN**

**There's A Spirit in the Air**

**#294 Vs 1-4, 6**

**There's a spirit in the air, telling Christians everywhere:  
"Praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working in our world."**

**Lose your shyness, find your tongue; tell the world what God has done:  
God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow's life today.**

**When believers break the bread, when a hungry child is fed:  
Praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working in our world.**

**Still the Spirit gives us light, seeing wrong and setting right:  
God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow's life today.**

**May the Spirit fill our praise, guide our thoughts and change our ways.  
God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow's life today.**

## SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

## PRAYERS AND 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 sins as we forgive those who sin 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.

## THE OFFERING OF THE MINISTRY OF OUR CHURCH

## THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OUR LIVES

One: We have made our offerings in person, by mail and online. We have given of our gifts, our energy, and our time. Let us join in prayer as we dedicate all of these gifts to God.

**ALL: Giving God, in this season of giving, we pause to remember that we ourselves are the gift you most desire. Unfold our hopes, open us to service, use us well. Magnify our giving as we rejoice in your gracious presence among us. Bless all who give and all the ministry for which our gifts are given that we might be a sign of your hope. In the name of the one who was born Emmanuel. Amen**

## WE GATHER AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD

## INVITATION

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**ALL: We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Praise to you O God...

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the heavenly choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**ALL: Holy holy holy, Lord God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest...**

With thanksgiving we offer all that we are to you as a holy sacrifice, to be your servants, your light to shine for all the world.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**ALL: Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**ALL: Holy One, we have met you at this table. Nourished by your holy food, send us out as one people, full of vision and courage, to prepare the way for your kingdom. Filled with your grace, show us how to live so that all may know your hope, your peace, your joy, and your love. We pray in the sacred name of Jesus Christ, child-king, divine Messiah, and Prince of Peace, Amen.**

## **WE GO INTO THE WORLD AS THE BODY OF CHRIST**

**\*HYMN People Look East ( Insert)**

## **COMMISSION**

One: We recognize the dead, dry valleys around us and even in us.

**ALL: We ask, can these bones live?**

One: The Spirit of God has brought us here.

**ALL: God will show us a vision.**

One: The breath of God's ever-present spirit will restore our hope and trust with the offer of God's healing peace and the promise of new life.

**ALL: We go out to serve our God who comes in holy breath, whose peace flows around us and through us, and whose Spirit abides with us in all we do.**

## **BENEDICTION**

### **SUNG RESPONSE**

#### **Worship Resources:**

A SANCTIFIED ART - written by: Sarah Are | sanctifiedart.org

Deep Well Worship Resources written by: Rev. Carol Holbrook Prickett

Rev. Elizabeth Dilley. Posted on the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways website

The World Peace Prayer is adapted from the Hindu Upanishads by Satish Kumar.

## **TRINITY REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

450 West Main Street, Mountville, PA 17554

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(717) 285-5593

**December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Pastor, Reverend Patty Dodds

Dan Molkenthin, Director of Music

Chuck Romberger, Lay Reader



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

### **Flowers Donated by the Himpsl Family “For family Birthdays”**

**As an outreach service we purchased 2 DVD players for Hershey Mill Home.** We would like to collect new or used DVDs to give them. (no R-rated please) You can give them to Katie Crockett. Any questions call Katie 7176847925

**Come to Celebrate Christmas with your Trinity Guild friends on Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 1pm in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend! Please sign up in the Narthex if attending. Sandy Heisey will provide musical entertainment! We will have the meal catered this year! The menu is listed below:**

We will have, chicken breast and chicken thighs, mashed potatoes and green bean casserole.

Additionally, we are featuring a trifle (pound cake with pudding and fruit) for dessert.

The price will be \$12.00

Everyone is welcome to attend!

Please sign up in the Narthex if attending.

**Our next Arts & Crafts Night will be December 9<sup>th</sup> from 6-9pm.** Bring your own craft or come to chat.

### **Outdoor Candle Lighting- Sunday December 12 from 4:30 – 6:00 pm**

As the days grow shorter, the darkness might remind us of some of the sorrows and complications of life. But as people of faith, we will shine our light on Main Street as a witness to the promise of Christ's light coming into the world. There will be a time for those gathered to pray together at 5:00 pm. But you may drop in at any time to gather at the fire, to light a candle and offer a prayer of hope and blessing for yourself, your loved ones, for those in need, and for the world.

**December 19, 2021 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm**

Advent Campfire at the Wittel Farm in E-town

Gather around the outdoor fire and have cookies and cocoa in the barn. Lights and decorations! We can carpool from Trinity, or you can come on your own. Sign up in the narthex.

### **Tree of Warmth**

This year we are collecting **adult size athletic socks** for Anchor, a ministry to the unsheltered in downtown Lancaster. To learn more about this ministry or explore other ways you might support their work, go to: [Anchorlanaster.org](http://Anchorlanaster.org)

### **Gift Bags for Hershey Mill Home**

We will once again offer our Hershey Mill friends a Christmas gift bag filled with goodies and necessities. Please take a Tag or two (or more) from the poster in the narthex and bring those items to church by December 19. Please get the **specific items** listed so that each resident will get the same gift.

You may also make a monetary contribution to the project, put it in an envelope marked Hershey Mill.

**Join us for Bible Study each Monday at 7pm by Zoom.** We will discuss the scriptures for the following Sunday's sermon. The Zoom link will be emailed Monday morning.

**Please consider helping with our worship. Ushers, Lay Readers, Sound/Video Volunteers are needed. Please sign up in the Narthex.**

**Please contact Pastor Patty** if you have any concerns or needs, or if you just need to talk. Phone: 570-506-0677, email: [Pastor@MountvilletrinityUCC.org](mailto:Pastor@MountvilletrinityUCC.org)

**Thank You for your continued support of our ministry.** Checks may be mailed to the church: 450 West Main St Mountville, PA 17554, or click on the Donate button on our website

# Wait for the Lord

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Em C Am6 B

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Musical notation for the first line of the song, featuring a treble and bass staff with chords Em, C, Am6, and B.

Em D G Em Am B Em

Wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart!

Musical notation for the second line of the song, featuring a treble and bass staff with chords Em, D, G, Em, Am, B, and Em.

WORDS and MUSIC: Taisé Community  
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## Advent 2

1. Kin - dle this flame of peace. May it burn bright and true.  
2. God's realm is our de - sire, where peace and jus - tice reign.

Musical notation for the first part of the song, featuring a treble and bass staff.

Light - ing the way that is of God, the jour - ney we pur - sue.  
Hea - ven and earth com - bined as one, when Christ shall come a - gain.

Musical notation for the second part of the song, featuring a treble and bass staff.

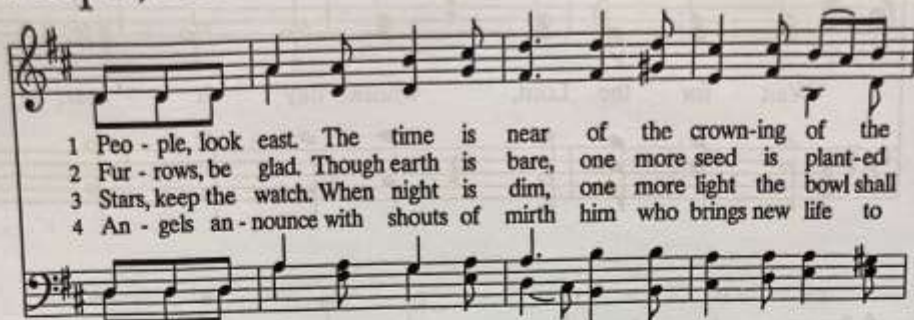
WORDS: Gary L. Lake Dillensnyder, 2009  
MUSIC: Robert Jackson, 1888

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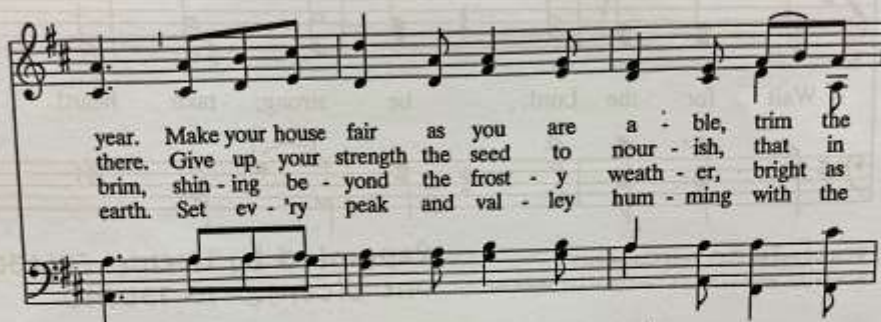
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## People, Look East

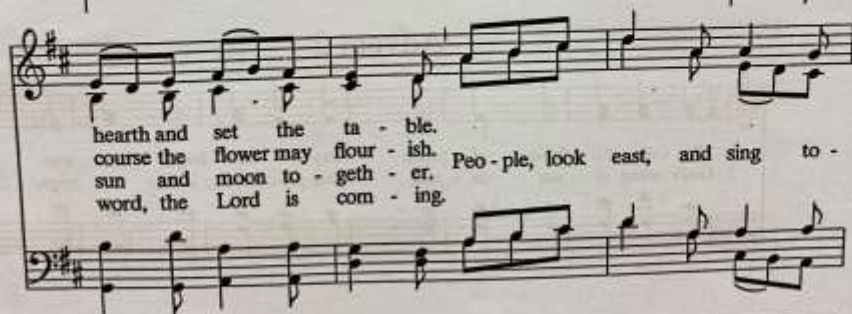
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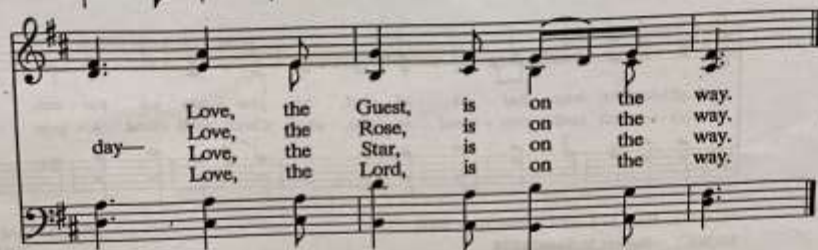
1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing of the  
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant - ed  
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall  
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to



year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the  
 there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in  
 brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as  
 earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming with the



hearth and set the ta - ble.  
 course the flower may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look east, and sing to -  
 sun and moon to - geth - er.  
 word, the Lord is com - ing.



day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
 Love, the Star, is on the way.  
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.