Prelude

Welcome

Advent Candle Lighting "Peace Waits for Us at Advent" Amanda Udis-Kessler

Peace waits for us at Advent  Peace waits for us to rest.

Peace waits for our acceptance of the truth that we are blessed.

In this time of preparation for the work of co-creation,

for the birth of a world of gentleness and play,

Peace is born in us each day.
Opening Hymn "People Look East"

People, look east. The time is near
Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,

Of the crowning of the year.
One more seed is planted there:
One more light the bowl shall brim,

Make your house fair as you are able,
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,

Trim the hearth and set the table.
That in course the flower may flourish.
Bright as sun and moon together.

People look east and sing today:
People look east and sing today:
People look east and sing today:

Love, the guest is on the way.
Love, the rose is on the way.
Love, the star, is on the way.

Children’s Time

First reading:
Baruch 5: 1-5 (CEB)

Take off your mourning clothes
and oppression, Jerusalem!
Dress yourself in the dignity
of God’s glory forever.
Wrap the justice that comes from God around yourself like a robe.
Place the eternal one’s glory
on your head like a crown.
God will show your brilliance everywhere under heaven.
God will give you this name
by which to be called forever:
The Peace That Comes from Justice,
The Honor That Comes
from Reverence for God!
Get up, Jerusalem!
Stand on the high place,
and look around to the east!
See your children gathered
from the west to the east
by the holy one’s word,
as they rejoice that God has remembered them.

The Witness of Music

Second Reading:

Philippians 1:3-11 (CEB)
I thank my God every time I mention you in my prayers. I’m thankful for all of you every
time I pray, and it’s always a prayer full of joy. I’m glad because of the way you have
been my partners in the ministry of the gospel from the time you first believed it until
now. I’m sure about this: the one who started a good work in you will stay with you to
complete the job by the day of Christ Jesus. I have good reason to think this way about all
of you because I keep you in my heart. You are all my partners in God’s grace, both
during my time in prison and in the defense and support of the gospel. God is my witness
that I feel affection for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.

This is my prayer: that your love might become even more and more rich with knowledge
and all kinds of insight. I pray this so that you will be able to decide what really matters
and so you will be sincere and blameless on the day of Christ. I pray that you will then be
filled with the fruit of righteousness, which comes from Jesus Christ, in order to give
glory and praise to God.

Sermon Rev. Wendy Bruner

Joys and Concerns

Communion

Gracious God, you have once again shown us your love
by bringing us to this meal.
We go from here renewed in faith,
renewed in courage,
and strengthened by your presence.
Thank you for loving us so tenderly.
Thank you for challenging us
to know you better and to receive you more fully. Amen
How shall we join God’s work in the world?

Closing Hymn "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
Still through the cloven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un-furled,
For lo, the days are has-tening on, by proph- et bards fore-told,

from angels bend-ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold;
and still their heaven-ly mu-sic floats o'er all the wea-ry world:
when with the ever cir-cling years comes round the age of gold;

"Peace on the earth, good will to all, great news of joy we bring."
above its sad and low-ly plains they bend on hover-ing wing,
when peace shall o-ver all the earth its an-cient splen-dors fling,

the world in sol-emn still-ness lay, to hear the an-gels sing.
and ev-er o'er its Ba-bel sounds the bless-ed an-gels sing.
and all the world send back the song which now the an-gels sing.

Benediction

Postlude

Worship Notes