Welcome to
Peace Lutheran Church

Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2023

Sharing God's love, growing in faith, and creating community…

Be at Peace.
PRELUDE  "Emmanuel" (Bob McGee) played by the Messengers of Peace

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
P Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.
C Amen.

P God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin. Everlasting God,
C you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation’s bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world.
Amen.

P Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God’s covenant is eternal, and God’s blessing rests upon us all.
C Amen.

GATHERING SONG  “Prepare the Royal Highway” (ELW 264) verses 1, 3, 4
Prepare the Royal Highway

1 Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!
2 God's people, see him coming: your own eternal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king!
4 His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.

Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!
Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too may bring.
His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you!
All lands will bow before him; their voices join your singing:
So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abound.

Refrain

Ho-san-na to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship
Music: BEREDEN/VAG FOR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
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GREETING
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C And also with you.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH
Today we light the first and second candles of the Advent wreath. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE. Colossians 3:15 says “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.” We light the candles as we sing.

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

A Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.
C John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord’s way for the kingdom of heaven is near.
A Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.
C Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit, that we may be a light shining in the darkness welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us,
A For he is our light and our salvation.
C Blessed be God forever.

PRAYER OF THE DAY
P Let us pray: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

REFLECTION
Pastor Krista Vingelis
CHILDREN’S PAGEANT

Introduction

O Come All Ye Faithful
O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold him, born the king of angels
O come let us adore him
O come let us adore him
O come let us adore him
Christ the Lord!

Act One

O Little Town of Bethlehem
O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

Act Two

Away in a Manger
Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Act Three

The First Noel
The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds

In fields as they lay
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep
On a cold winter’s night that was so deep
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

Go Tell It on the Mountain
Refrain:
Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching
O’er silent flocks by night
Behold, throughout the heavens,
There shone a holy light.
(Refrain)

Act Four

Silent Night
Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child
Holy Infant, so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace

Joy to the World
Joy to the world, the Lord is come
Let earth receive her king
Let every heart prepare him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

While the children return to their places, the congregation sings the Hymn of the Day.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People” (ELW 256)  all verses
Comfort, Comfort Now My People

1 “Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!” So says our God.
2 For the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near.
3 Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.

Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow’s load.
calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God’s holy reign.

To God’s people now proclaim that God’s pardon waits for them!
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way.
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad.

Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever.
Valleys, rise to greet the Savior; hills, bow down in humble favor.
and all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: FREUDICH SEHR, Trente quatre psaumes de David, Geneva, 1551
APOSTLES’ CREED
I believe in God, the Father almighty, 
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, 
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, 
born of the virgin Mary, 
suffered under Pontius Pilate, 
was crucified, died, and was buried; 
he descended to the dead. 
On the third day he rose again; 
he ascended into heaven, 
he is seated at the right hand of the Father, 
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, 
the holy catholic church, 
the communion of saints, 
the forgiveness of sins, 
the resurrection of the body, 
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS
A With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God’s day of restoration.

A brief silence.
A Send forth your faithful people with words of promise and forgiveness. Teach your church to be bold in revealing your good news in word and in deed. Lord, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.
A Reveal your majesty in mountain peaks, flowing rivers, and blossoming wilderness roads. Heal the earth where it longs for renewal. Bring wholeness to the earth and all its creatures. Lord, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.
A Turn the hearts of the nations toward righteousness and peace. Increase cooperation for justice between countries, commonwealths, political parties, and diplomatic leaders. In times of prosperity, direct leaders to be generous for the sake of all. Lord, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.
A Comfort your people with tender words of love and healing. Surround all who are grieving, all who know depression or anxiety, or all who feel lonely or forgotten. Be a steadfast presence when all else feels uncertain. Lord, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.
A Grant holy patience to all who are waiting this season. Give hope to those seeking employment. Bring reassurance to people awaiting new diagnoses or treatments. Protect expectant parents. Watch with those who keep bedside vigil. Lord, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.
A We now offer our own petitions either silently or aloud. (A brief silence.) Lord, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.
A With you a thousand years is like a day. Bless the memory of the saints from ages past and the anticipation of saints yet to be born. Inspire us to live with faith as we await your new heaven and new earth. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

C Amen.

SHARING PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING

Thank you to everyone who faithfully continues to support Peace’s ministries. To give online, please use the [online giving portal](#). If you wish to give by cash or check, please put your offering in the plate.

Special Offering. Each month, Peace designates a recipient of our special offering. Individuals may choose to give a special gift - over and above their usual offering to Peace - in support of a particular ministry.

The December Special Offering is [Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP)](#), a non-partisan coalition of 23,000 members including 700 faith communities and 1,000 clergy of all faiths and people of goodwill, all working for a more just society. The VICPP engages people of faith and goodwill in advocating economic, racial and social justice in Virginia’s policies and practices through education, prayer and action.
OFFERTORY SONG

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (ELW 257) verses 1, 3, 4

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive
2 O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan’s

Israël, that mourns in lonely exile here
far and night: in strength and beauty come and stay;
Sinai’s height in ancient times you gave the law
tyrranny; from depths of hell your people save,

until the Son of God appear.
teach us your will and guide our way.
Rejoice! Rejoice!

and give them victory over the grave.

Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray together
C God our provider,
by your merciful hand
abundance springs up from the earth.
Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.
Let them be a sign of your steadfast love
and faithfulness for all people,
through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.
GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER
LORD’S PRAYER
P  Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.
C  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 and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
For those worshiping in person: We will commune using continuous distribution in one station. The ushers will indicate when it is your turn. You will come forward and receive bread. Then you will dip it in the cup. One cup has red wine; the other has white grape juice. All bread is gluten free.

For those worshiping online: The Pastor will invite you to partake of communion at the beginning of the meal before all are served in person. If you are with someone, please serve one another. If you are physically alone, you may serve yourself trusting these words: The Body of Christ given for you and The Blood of Christ shed for you.

P  This is God’s table. All are welcome here.
C  Thanks be to God.

SONG DURING COMMUNION
“O Come Divine Messiah (Everything Will Change)” (Riddle, Seay)
played by the Messengers of Peace

COMMUNION BLESSING
P  The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.
C  Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER
P  Let us pray,
C  Generous God,
in bread and cup you have revealed your glory
for all people to see together.
Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim
your good news of liberation and release,
brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.
Blessing

P The God of peace bless you,
the love of Christ sustain you in hope,
and the anointing of the Spirit remain upon you
now and forever.

C Amen.

Sending Song

“He Came Down” (ELW 253) all verses

He Came Down

1 He came down that we may have love;
2 He came down that we may have light;
3 He came down that we may have peace;
4 He came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have peace; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.
he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional
Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

Dismissal

A Go in peace. Keep awake.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Soon and Very Soon” (ELW 439) all verses, led by the Messengers of Peace
Soon and Very Soon

1 Soon and very soon
2 No more cry-in’ there,
3 No more dy-in’ there,
4 Soon and very soon

soon and very soon
no more cry-in’ there,
no more dy-in’ there,
soon and very soon

soon and very soon
no more cry-in’ there,
no more dy-in’ there,
soon and very soon

Hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-jah, we’re goin’ to see the King!

[1, 2, 3]

Coda after stanza 4

Hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-jah.

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945
Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch

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The Worship has ended. The Service begins.

During the postlude you may sit and enjoy the music or depart as needed. Following the postlude, please join us in the fellowship hall for a time of refreshment.

Prophecy, Patience, and Promise

Advent is a season of expectation, the word itself meaning “coming.” Many families spend these four weeks waiting for children to come home from college, or for grandparents to come for Christmas dinner. For young children, these days of waiting can seem like a thousand years. Others are amazed at how quickly time is flying, as they sense the end of their own lives drawing near. In the interval, stories from the past are told and retold as a way of remembering the significance of these waiting days.

The arrival scripture speaks of is both more profound and more sublime. It is the coming end of a way of being that has seemed like exile, like imprisonment. It is salvation from all that has torn us and our world apart. As we wait alongside the readers of Mark’s gospel, we too hear voices from the past in the prophetic words of Isaiah (and Malachi and Exodus) that prepare us to receive the one who is coming into the world: Jesus Christ, the Son of God (Mark 1:1).

As with any long period of waiting, we know that the final days are the hardest to bear. We struggle to understand why we ourselves, never mind the rest of creation, must wait any longer for the salvation and redemption God has promised. Our salvation is bound up with one another’s though, and we are reminded that God has been patient with us, “not wanting any to perish” (2 Peter 3:9). We therefore practice patience with God as we remain steadfast in hope and lead lives of holiness and godliness worthy of the new era that is coming (2 Peter 3:11-12).
THANK YOU to Liz, Jim, Paul, Nadia, and all musicians, kids, parents, readers, and fellowship/reception volunteers for a successful and triumphant Advent Carol Festival!

Christmas Eve: There will be one morning Blue Christmas service at 10:30am, and one “combined” evening service at 6pm. See the entire Advent and Christmas schedule on the next page.

Belvedere Food Bags, TODAY!: Come one, come all to help put together weekend food bags for Belvedere elementary students after the 10:30 service. Thank you to everyone who generously gave to the petition for financial contributions that made purchasing food possible, and huge thanks to the team who makes it possible to pack the bags and get them to the school.

Call Committee Update: Our process is moving along, and our Ministry Site Profile is now live. The next step in the process is to wait for Pastor Sarah Garrett Krey to build a slate of candidates for us to interview. In the meantime, members of the committee will be available after both services on December 10th to answer any questions you may have. Volunteers are needed for Peace’s search committees! Contact council president Kathleen Wage (kathleenwage@yahoo.com) if interested.

Poinsettia Orders: It is almost time to order poinsettias! Click here for the online order form. The deadline for poinsettia orders is next Sunday, December 17.

Nutcracker Production: You are invited to the Ballet NOVA production of The Nutcracker from December 7th-10th at Kenmore Middle School in Arlington. Ceci Mills (mouse) and Abby Mills (cook) will both be performing on Saturday at 1:00pm as well as Thursday 7pm (Ceci), Friday 7pm (Abby) and Sunday 5pm (Abby). Tickets available at balletnova.org.

Hanging of the Greens, December 16: Join us Saturday, December 16, for our annual festive tradition, Hanging of the Greens! This is when we REALLY deck the halls, decorate our trees and make our space cozy! Many hands make light work and fun fellowship—all ages are welcome. We will decorate from 9 am - 12 pm but please feel free to come as long as your schedule allows.

Year End Contributions and Offerings for 2023: For folks making year end contributions and/or offerings, please ensure the monetary amounts you wish to make for 2023 are received in the mail by Wednesday, December 27. For folks making RMD contributions, please ensure they are received before Friday, December 22. All contributions/offerings received will be accounted for/deposited in Peace’s bank account on Thursday, December 28, as Friday, December 29 will most likely be the last business day for 2023. Please contact Ray (703-304-2382) or Debbie (703-922-8354) Marquardt by text or phone if you have questions.
OUR PRAYERS
Adapted from *For What Shall We Pray?*

- For the Call Committee, Church Council, and all volunteers as they continue to put in hard work and long hours discerning Peace’s pastoral future…
- For Peace church and all families who are in a time of transition…
- For Nadia Fitzcharles as we bless her moving into her new call…
- Prayers of peace for Hilda Crabtree’s son Dan…
- Prayers of healing for Pastor Krista’s aunt, Ellen Kiernan…
- Prayers for healing following knee replacement surgery for Nancy Eggert…
- Prayers for healing following reverse shoulder replacement surgery for Sue Czarnetzky…
- For peace among nations, especially among Israel/Palestine and Russia/Ukraine…
- For resolution and reconciliation in all areas of persistent violence and conflict…
- For victims of Indonesia’s Mount Marapi volcano eruption…
- For victims of a drone attack in Nigeria…
- For those facing excessive rain and flood threats in Seattle, WA, and for all facing winter storms…
- For aid, compassion, and protection for refugees and all migrants…
- For the easing of political tensions in our nation and around the world…
- For Jewish neighbors and friends as they prepare for Hanukkah…

For the next year, Peace will highlight a calendar of Commemorations, Lamentations and Education produced by the **Metro DC Synod’s Racial Equity Team**. Please use this opportunity to become more aware of important events and people in the life of the world and the church.
The Christmas Season

Peace is Possible

December 2nd, 2 pm
Wreath Workshop and Potluck (Registration Required)

December 3rd, 4 pm
Carol Festival “Peace on Earth”

December 10th, 10:30 am
Children and Youth Pageant

December 24, 10:30 am
Fourth Sunday of Advent - “Blue Christmas” Worship

December 24, 6 pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
with Special Moments for Children

December 31st
“Lessons and Carols” Worship

January 7th
Epiphany
Peace warmly welcomes all people, no exceptions!

Worshipping with us for the first time? We receive you as a gift from God. Please email info@sharingpeace.org to be added to the weekly e-news. Also, look for a yellow welcome folder by the entrance.

This service is live-streamed. If you prefer never to appear on camera, please let an usher know and they will seat you in an off-camera area.

Children are welcome in worship. We have a staffed nursery available as well; please ask an usher to direct you. The nursery attendants will bring kids to the sanctuary for the Time for Children. During the sermon, school-age kids can go with Nadia for kids’ church.

Thanks to all who help lead worship. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact info@sharingpeace.org.

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<td>Matthew Mills, Andrew Tlusty</td>
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Peace Lutheran Church
6362 Lincolnia Road
Alexandria, VA 22312
703.354.5233 Office
703.750.6773 Fax

Email: info@sharingpeace.org
Web: www.sharingpeace.org
facebook.com/PeaceLutheranAlexandriaVa
instagram.com/pelcalexandria
Twitter.com/PELCAlexandria

To make an online gift, please scan the code or text (703) 215-1412
Office hours: Mon-Thurs 11am-4pm
Please send announcements to info@sharingpeace.org by 9am Wednesday.

The Rev. Krista Vingelis, Interim Pastor
pastor@sharingpeace.org

Liz E. Mun, Music Director and Organist
liz@sharingpeace.org

Paul Sticha, Director, Bell Choirs
psticha@cox.net

Jim Nice, Creative Worship Leader
jnice116@gmail.com

Nadia Fitzcharles, Director of Ministries
for Children, Youth, Family & Community
nadia@sharingpeace.org

Kathleen Wage, Council President
kathleenwage@yahoo.com

Josh Keiter, Parish Administrator
info@sharingpeace.org

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