

Advent 2 Sunday

December 8, 2024

Organ prelude: Let there be peace of Earth

Jill Jackson-Miller & Sy Miller; arr. B. Nasmith

***Hymn: There's a voice in the wilderness crying**

No. 128

1. There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!

The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
where the Lord our God may go!

2. O Zion, that bringest good tidings,
go up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
the coming of their King.
Like the flowers of the field they perish,
like grass our works decay,
the power and pomp of nations
shall pass like a dream away,

3. but the word of our God is steadfast;
the arm of the Lord is strong;
God stands in the midst of nations,

and soon will right the wrong.
God shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
the lambs will gently hold,
to pastures of peace will lead them,
and bring them safe to the fold.

Welcome, Announcements & Worship Theme

CALL TO WORSHIP:

We gather to worship as people in search of faith stronger than our fears.

We come to worship as people in search of hope more resilient than our discouragements.

We come to worship as people in search of love greater than our resentments and judgements.

We come to worship as people in search of peace deeper than the turbulence, tension and conflict within and around us.

Today we light the candle of peace as followers of the prince of peace.

Lighting of the second Advent Candle (The Candle of Peace)

***Hymn: Hope is a Star (vs. 2)**

No. 119

**Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
Giving a promise of safety and worth.
When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
And none shall be afraid.**

***Hymn: Comfort, comfort you my people**

No. 113

1. Comfort, comfort you my people;
tell of peace, thus says our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness
bowed beneath oppression's load.
Speak you to Jerusalem
of the peace that waits for them;
tell them that their sins I cover,
and their warfare now is over.

2. For the herald's voice is calling
in the desert far and near,
bidding us to make repentance
since the kingdom now is here.
Oh that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
let the valleys rise in meeting
and the hills bow down in greeting.

3. Make you straight
what long was crooked;
make the rougher places plain;
let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits God's holy reign,
for the glory of the Lord
now o'er earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token
that God's word is never broken.

Prayer of Approach, Confession & 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 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,
the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The Peace of Christ be with you all;
And also with you

(Children are invited to join in programming following the Passing of the Peace)

Choir: It is well with my soul
*When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say,
It is well, it is well, with my soul.*

H. Spafford and P. Bliss

CHORUS:

***It is well, with my soul,
It is well, it is well, with my soul.***

*Though Satan should buffet, tho' trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.*

CHORUS

*My sin, oh the bliss of this glorious tho't
My sin, not in part, but the whole*

*Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!*

CHORUS

*And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend,
“Even so,” it is well with my soul.*

CHORUS

Scripture Reading: Mark 1: 1-8

Erin Stone

INTRO: Our scripture reading this morning is taken from the Gospel of Mark Chapter 1, verses 1-8. This gospel begins by introducing us not to Jesus but to another man named John. What’s so special about John? Listen:

Mark 1. 1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight” ’,

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have

baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’
Amen.

We are listening, O God
Speak to us!

Sermon: COMING HOME
(Silent Meditation)

Rev. Dr. Harris Athanasiadis

Choir: The Peace of God

John Rutter

*The peace of God which passeth all understanding
Keep your hearts and minds
Keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God
And of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord
The peace of God which passeth all understanding
Keep your hearts and minds
Keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God
And of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord
And the blessing of God almighty
The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost be amongst you
Be amongst you
Be amongst you and remain with you always
Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen*

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Pastoral Concern

***Hymn: On Jordan's bank**

No. 126

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.

2. Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home
where such a mighty guest may come.

3. For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward:
without thy grace, we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.

4. To heal the sick, stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.

5. All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
whose advent sets thy people free,
whom, with the Father, we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

Benediction

***Threefold Amen**

Organ postlude: O day of peace that dimly shines

C.H.H. Parry

**Remain seated if you are more comfortable*

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We invite you to join us for coffee hour and some light refreshments in our adjacent hall after the service.
All are welcome!
~

OUR PURPOSE AS A CHURCH:
To become the hands, feet, voice and heart of Christ for each other and in the world.



Last Sunday to Donate to Christmas Angels

It is a tradition at Armour Heights to share the Christmas joy with those less fortunate. This year's Christmas Angels goes to support the North York Women's Shelter. To donate, scan the QR code and select 'Christmas Angels' from the dropdown menu.



Ministers	The Rev. Dr. Harris Athanasiadis, hathan1964@hotmail.com The Rev. Rebecca Jess, rebecca@armourheights.org (On Maternity Leave)
Ministers-in Association	The Rev. Dr. Carol Loudon, The Rev. Dr. Pam McCarroll & The Rev. Dr. Glynis Williams
Minister Emeritus	The Rev. William Middleton
Clerk of Session	Michael Nettleton, clerk@armourheights.org
Administrator & Manager of Community Engagement	Erin Stone, estone@armourheights.org
Christian Ed. Coordinator	Hannah Athanasiadis, education@armourheights.org
Music Director	Bruce C. Nasmith, brucenasmith@gmail.com

Coming Events

Sunday, December 8

Advent 2 Sunday

Presentation after worship by special guest: Steve Teekens, executive director of Na-Me-Res (Native Men's Residence) on: homelessness, healing and reconciliation (in person and online)

Friday, December 13

Armour Heights Choir Christmas Concert, 7:30pm

Sunday, December 15

Advent 3

Special Presentation after worship by "The 519" Support program for LGBTQI+ refugees

Tuesday, December 17

Solace Service and Anointing for Healing, 7:30pm

Saturday, December 21

Pageant Rehearsal, 10am-12pm

Sunday, December 22

Advent 4 / Pageant Sunday

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve All Ages Early Service, 4:30pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7:30pm

Sunday, December 29

Special Christmas Service based on "The 12 Days of Christmas" Carol



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"Discover the vitality of faith"