



December 10, 2023
Sunday Gathering
The Second Sunday of Advent
“The Gift of Being Present with Peace”

.....

-SPECIAL MUSIC-

“What Can I Give Him”
Margaret McGladrey

-WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

“What Can I Give Him”

WHAT CAN I GIVE HIM, POOR AS I AM?
IF I WERE A SHEPHERD, I WOULD BRING A LAMB;
IF I WERE A WISE ONE, I WOULD DO MY PART;
YET WHAT CAN I GIVE HIM?
I WILL GIVE MY HEART.

-OPENING THE GIFT-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

“What Can I Give Him”

WHAT CAN I GIVE HIM,
POOR AS I AM?
IF I WERE A SHEPHERD,
I WOULD BRING A LAMB;
IF I WERE A WISE ONE,
I WOULD DO MY PART;
YET WHAT CAN I GIVE HIM?
I WILL GIVE MY HEART.

-CALL TO WORSHIP-

Holy God, we come into this place
confident that you will meet us here.
WHERE THERE IS DESPAIR, BRING HOPE;

WHERE THERE IS TURMOIL, BRING PEACE;
WHERE THERE IS SADNESS, BRING JOY;
WHERE THERE IS RESENTMENT, BRING LOVE.

Let this place be a sanctuary, a safe place,
a home for holy words and songs and prayers.
UNWRAP OUR HEARTS AS A PRECIOUS GIFT.
REVEAL YOUR PEACE IN US TODAY.

***-OPENING PRAYER-**

Holy God, we might need to confess that we have forgotten what this story is about. We've been confused, so we wrap ourselves with so much planning and shopping and gift giving, with so much decorating and card-writing and partying that we haven't any time left to sit in the dark, to sit in silence, to contemplate the Incarnation, to give thanks for this one life that changed the world. We have celebrated so many Christmases, and yet we still need you to remind us what this is all about, to turn us around and set us in the right direction. May the generosity that drives us this season be present all year. May the intentional reaching out to the far-flung and to the stranger continue past the holidays. May our hearts, so full of so much, be mostly full of love for you, for each other, and for ourselves. Heal us, we pray. Amen.

-GREETING ONE ANOTHER-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"O Day of Peace that Dimly Shines"

O DAY OF PEACE THAT DIMLY SHINES
THROUGH ALL OUR HOPES AND PRAYERS AND DREAMS,
GUIDE US TO JUSTICE, TRUTH, AND LOVE,
DELIVERED FROM OUR SELFISH SCHEMES.
MAY SWORDS OF HATE FALL FROM OUR HANDS,
OUR HEARTS FROM ENVY FIND RELEASE,
TILL BY GOD'S GRACE OUR WARRING WORLD
SHALL SEE CHRIST'S PROMISED REIGN OF PEACE.

THEN SHALL THE WOLF DWELL WITH THE LAMB,
NOR SHALL THE FIERCE DEVOUR THE SMALL.
AS BEASTS AND CATTLE CALMLY GRAZE,
A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM ALL.
THEN ENEMIES SHALL LEARN TO LOVE,
ALL CREATURES FIND THEIR TRUE ACCORD.
THE HOPE OF PEACE SHALL BE FULFILLED,
FOR ALL THE EARTH SHALL KNOW THE LORD.

-SCRIPTURE-

Mark 1: 1-8 (TIB)

Here begins the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God: as it was written in Isaiah the prophet: "I send my messenger before you to prepare your way, a herald's voice in the desert, crying, 'Make ready the way of our God. Clear a straight path.'" And so John the Baptizer appeared in the desert, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and we all the people of Jerusalem went out to John and were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins.

John was clothed in camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist, and he ate nothing but grasshoppers and wild honey. In the course of his preaching, John said, "One more powerful than I is to come after me. I am not fit to stoop and untie his sandal straps. I have baptized you in water, but the One to come will baptize you in the Holy Spirit."

-THE MESSAGE-

"Peaceful Presence"

Pam Lee-Miller

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Emmanuel"

EMMANUEL, EMMANUEL,
HIS NAME IS CALLED EMMANUEL.
GOD WITH US, REVEALED IN US,
HIS NAME IS CALLED EMMANUEL.

-COMMUNION-

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel/Come, Thou Almighty King" - arr. B. Johnson

-OFFERING-

"The Birthday of a King" – W. H. Neidlinger

-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

-THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE-

-INVITATION TO RESPOND-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY
THEIR OLD FAMILIAR CAROLS PLAY,
AND WILD AND SWEET THE WORDS REPEAT
OF PEACE OF EARTH, GOOD WILL TO ALL.

I THOUGHT HOW, AS THE DAY HAD COME,
THE BELFRIES OF ALL CHRISTENDOM

HAD ROLLED ALONG TH'UNBROKEN SONG
OF PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD WILL TO ALL.

AND IN DESPAIR I BOWED MY HEAD:
"THERE IS NO PEACE ON EARTH," I SAID,
"FOR HATE IS STRONG, AND MOCKS THE SONG
OF PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD WILL TO ALL."

THEN PEALD THE BELLS MORE LOUD AND DEEP:
"GOD IS NOT DEAD, NOR DOTH GOD SLEEP;
THE WRONG SHALL FAIL, THE RIGHT PREVAIL,
WITH PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD WILL TO ALL."

TILL, RINGING, SINGING ON ITS WAY,
THE WORLD REVOLVED FROM NIGHT TO DAY
A VOICE, A CHIME, A CHANT SUBLIME,
OF PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD WILL TO ALL.

-BLESSING & BENEDICTION-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"What Can I Give Him"

LOVE WILL BE MY TOKEN,
LOVE MY GIFT SO FINE.
YES, WHAT CAN I GIVE THEM?
I WILL GIVE MY HEART.

*Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, "Hold Fast to What is Good,"
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