

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6th, 2020**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
Ministry of Pastoral Care & Worship: Pastor Peggy Bartlett
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Ministry of Music: Mr. John McBride

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REGIONAL COUNCIL PRAYER CYCLE

Elcho

Second Sunday of Advent "Peace"

Peace in our lives can never be based on all our hopes and dreams coming true. Peace comes when our hearts are at peace within us.

Offering Prayer

Giver of the most precious Gift of all, we return to you this day our thanks represented in these gifts and in the lives of all these dear people. Bless these gifts and all these people that they may be lights of your love in our dark world. AMEN

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Long ago, a voice cried out in the wilderness

P: Prepare the way for the Lord; make straight the pathways.

L: Something new was about to happen.

P: God would visit God's people in a new way!

L: Lord, open our hearts to receive this good news!

P: Prepare us to be people of great faith and compassion as we look forward to this wondrous event you have proclaimed to us.

OPENING CAROL: #35 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

OPENING PRAYER

Lord of Darkness and of Light, come to us this day in the midst of our growing darkness bringing the light of hope to our lives. Keep our hearts and minds alert to your presence. Give peace to our stressed spirits. In this season of Advent, prepare us to greet the One who will lift our burdens and change our lives forever. AMEN.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

ADVENT 2 - PEACE (Based on Psalm 85)

We light our first Advent candle, a symbol of Hope.

Light first candle

We light our second Advent candle, a symbol of Peace.

Light second candle

Like a second candle lit in the darkness, peace can sometimes be found in the small, still moments, if we pause and listen.

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people.

In a world that often feels chaotic, in a year when every single aspect of our lives has been upended, God, we long to feel your peace.

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people.

God, we trust that you are with us, sowing peace among your people, even when it seems out of reach.

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people.

Let us be faithful and turn to you in our hearts, let us proclaim the truth to the ends of the earth, we have peace because God is with us!

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people. Amen

LET US SHARE: #7 Hope is a Star (Verse 1 & 2)

1 Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.

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.**

2 Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth. **R**

ANTHEM: “The Blessing”

CHILDREN’S TIME

CHILDREN’S SONG

AN ADVENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND HEALING

As we witness to fear, in the news and in our streets,

we make space for hope in our lives.

With broken hearts, faltering steps, and a desire for healing,

we make gestures of peace with each other.

As we greet strangers, neighbours, and friends,

we make a place for joy in the chaos of our concerns.

Awaiting a future announced and promised by the Living God,

we make room for love in our habits, hearts, and homes.

Holy One, you make the crooked ways straight and mend the broken soul. On this day, as we offer simple gifts in the face of profound need, remind us how your grace grows in our giving and receiving.

Inspire the rebirth of love—in our world and in our lives—as we dedicate ourselves to your justice and mercy.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 40:1-11

MESSAGE

CAROL: #71 T’was in the Moon of Wintertime

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD’S PRAYER

CLOSING CAROL: #58 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

SENDING FORTH

God is bringing light to our darkness. We are called to go into the world, confident in God’s loving presence, to serve others in need. Go, bringing hope and peace to this darkened world. Go in God’s love. AMEN.

GO NOW IN PEACE

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Please place your White Gifts under the Christmas Tree ☺

This year, Christmas Eve is going to look a little different. Since our numbers need to be limited, we are going to ask that people let us know whether or not you will be attending the Christmas Eve Service at Hagersville United Church. After we have an idea of numbers, we will then make the decision whether we need to split the evening into 2 services; 6:30pm & 8:30pm (disinfecting in between.) Please email info@hsupc.ca or call the church at 905-768-5863 if you are planning on attending, please indicate how many people will be joining you and if services were to be split, which service you would prefer to attend.

On Sunday, December 27th there will be **no service** at Hagersville or Springvale. Peggy & Emily will be enjoying a Christmas Break ☺