

SERVICE of WORSHIP
December 3, 2017 – 10:30am
1st Sunday of Advent
Advent Series: Coming Home

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: The psalmist said "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'"

People: We are glad to be in the house of the Lord.

Leader: Welcome, strangers! Welcome friends!

People: Welcome, pastor! Welcome all!

ALL: Let us worship joyfully and make our home in God's house. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***HYMN** *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"* #9 (P)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Reader: The poet George Herbert wrote: "He that believes hope dances without music."

This is a good picture for a life of faith. To hope in God's grace is to move to a rhythm that other people may not hear. It is to act out a drama others cannot imagine. It is to glide through life guided by a tune that plays only in your own heart.

The hope of our faith makes no sense from the outside. It's a rough world, with forces that try to dominate our lives. But we hope in a God of truth and justice to have the final word.

In a world where violence and distrust seem to win the day, we hope in a force of love that is the supreme power. In a world where wealth and status seem to have the upper hand over

desperate, needy people, we hope that those in poverty and innocence have God's special blessing.

1st Advent Candle is lit

ADVENT PRAYER (in unison)

A candle burns the first marker of our Advent journey. As we set out, may we travel hope-filled toward the home that God makes for us. In the Name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

***HYMN** **"like a child"** #2092 (STF)

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHORAL ANTHEM *"Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child"*

Linda Richardson: String Bass

ADVENT READING Isaiah 64:1-9

REFLECTION **"Come Down Home"**

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS with 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 and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Lord requires of us a pure offering. We must be right with God and our neighbor to offer ourselves or our gifts to God. Therefore, in silence we confess our sins against God, and our hopes to reconcile with our neighbors.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Our hope is secured by God's promises. By the grace of God, you are forgiven.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (See Pew Card)

OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

***DOXOLOGY** *"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"*
#593 (P)

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING** *(In Unison)*

Bless these gifts, O Lord, and help them to bring the transforming love you have given us into ministries of hope and peace in this our dark world. AMEN.

***HYMN** *"O Hear Our Cry, O Lord"* #206 (P)

***BENEDICTION**

***MUSICAL BENEDICTION** *"Let There Be Peace on Earth"*

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator, children all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow; to take
each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

POSTLUDE

Music for the anthem "Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child" is given in memory of Glenn Gallagher.

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Peru Community Church

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