

**WORSHIP SERVICE DECEMBER 5, 2021**  
**“A Place at the Table (Peace)”**  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**COMMUNION SUNDAY**

Worship Leaders: Rev. Effie McAvoy, Sandy Knapp CLM & Mary Hunter

**GREETING**

Like the childhood game of “musical chairs,” we are convinced that there are not enough places at the table. And so we shrink the guest list just in case there is not enough, and we scramble to occupy the chairs first. And yet our sacred texts invite us to imagine and make real the gathering of all people to the table, robed in the garments of a Peace that comes with justice. This is what really matters—this is the fruit of what is right and good.

By:Vanderbilt Divinity Library

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** Delbert Collins

**OPENING PRAYER**

God of timeless grace, you fill us with joyful expectation. Make us ready for the message that prepares the way, that with uprightness of heart and holy joy we may eagerly await the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

By: Vanderbilt Divinity Library

**MUSIC** “ Peace Waits for Us at Advent”  
Delbert Collins

**ADVENT LIGHTING**

Today we offer the Light of Peace to illumine the Door of Welcome. May this light shine in our hearts, in our lives, and in our church. May Peace awaken us to possibilities and lead us to greater hospitality. There IS room in this Inn, a House for the Holy. Peace waits for us at Advent Peace waits for us to rest. Peace waits for our acceptance of the truth that we are blessed. In this time of preparation for the work of co-creation, for the birthing of a world of gentleness and play. Peace is born in us each day! Amen

## **CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

DISMISSAL FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN

### **MUSIC**

"People Look East"  
Choir

UMH #202

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

### **PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS**

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH

604 SEVEN MILE ROAD HOPE, RI. 02831

401-821-8217 [www.sovumc.org/give-now](http://www.sovumc.org/give-now)

**DOXOLOGY** Sign Language and Adult Choirs

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Lord, these gifts are not payment for services rendered. These aren't our dues necessary for us to belong to this church. We know you made us with a purpose, and so now we give ... on purpose, freely offering to you the best of who we are. Continue to work out your purpose in us. Make us your hands, outstretched, on purpose. Amen.

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

#### **Baruch 5: 1-5**

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them.

## **Philippians 1:3-11**

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD-**THANKS BE TO GOD**

**SERMON** "The Work is NOT Done"  
Rev. Effie McAvoy

## **COMMUNION**

The Holy One be with you

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift them up to our God.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Birthing God, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in our mother's womb, house of the holy, growing us in your image.

Our hearts and lungs became a place of opening and welcoming, doors for the Spirit of Life that you breathed into us.

We have not always understood ourselves as sacred creation, a place for the dwelling of the Holy inside of us.

We have not always seen that in others.

When we turn away from each other and from you,

your love remains steadfast.

You deliver us from the captivity of isolation and fear, make covenant to be our steadfast, indwelling God, and continue to speak to us through prophetic utterance, in the Spirit and through the people.

And so,

with your people on earth

and all the company of heaven

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy , holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

In the midst of a time of despair, oppression, division, and fear, your gestation in the house of a holy womb— through an unlikely midwife of salvific power— brought Jesus, the Christ, into this world.

Into The Inn of simple means

came a life dedicated and anointed by the Spirit to preach good news to the poor,

to proclaim release to the captives

and recovering of sight to the blind,

to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people.

A common birth for common people,

he healed the sick, fed the hungry,

and sat in houses at table with those who suffer, and those who perpetuated suffering, laying bare complicity and compassion.

His baptism, ministry, death, and resurrection

gave the blueprints for the building of church community,

and rejection of slavery to sin and death.

You made a new covenant with us

to be midwives, by water and the Spirit,

birthing more hope, more peace, more joy, more love in this world, making more room in this house, at this table, for all.

When the Lord Jesus ascended,

he promised to be with us always,

in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

In another house, on another night—

the night in which he gave himself up for us—

he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Drink from this, all of you;

this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so,

in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us,

as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Open our hearts in and through this act, stripping away any excuse or fearful hesitation, so that we will open our doors to the world as the body of Christ, redeemed by his love.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ

with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

### **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. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory now and forever. Amen.**

### **CLOSING PRAYER**