



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
with UCC Westerly
WITH HOLY COMMUNION
on the
2nd Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021 @ 9:45am
In-person &
Broadcast live from our sanctuary
CCLI Streaming License #21022154

Gathering Music A selection by Doug Brummund. [WORDS & MUSIC: Doug Brummund, ©2020 B.R. Music. All rights reserved. Used with permission.]

PASTOR'S WELCOME

PRELUDE – "In the Town"

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DEACON'S WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP -- *The Lighting of the Shepherds Candle on the Advent Wreath*

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One: "In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people.'" (Luke 2:8-10)

One: Today we remember shepherds, workers for the common good, steadfast watchmen isolated and alone, far from the warmth of home, doing the job no one wants. And yet God saw them, God valued them, and God declared the greatest news of all to them alone.

People: Today we give thanks for the shepherds among us, back-breaking laborers on whom our economy stands, those we overlook or rarely see, yet rely on for our very survival, the ones who have much to teach about watching for God in the darkness.

One: On this second Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of the shepherds, agents of the gospel and redeemers of the world. (Light the 2nd candle.)

OPENING SONG -- *Break Now the Bread of Life*

W&R #665, v.1&3

[WORDS: Mary A. Lathbury & MUSIC: William F. Sherwin. © Public Domain]

UNISON PRAYER OF REFLECTION

[taken from *Calling on God*, Bankson & Sokolove, Eds., ©2014, Skylight Paths Publishing. Page 127]

Mysterious, Holy Promise of new beginnings, we thank you for the good news of the coming Christ, calling us into an unknowable future. Give ear, O holy shepherd of Israel, you who lead your people like a flock. Let your face shine that

we may be saved. Let your presence fill us with your Holy Spirit, for we gather as your church, the people of your flock, the body of the Risen Christ in whose name we worship and wait. Amen.

A SIMPLE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Statement of Faith [by The United Church of Canada, as appearing in *The New Century Hymnal*, ©1995, *The Pilgrim Press*, #887.]

We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Preparation -- "Let Us Break Bread Together"

[WORDS: African American Spiritual & MUSIC: African American Spiritual adapt. and arr. William Farley Smith. ©1989 United Methodist Publishing House. Used by Permission. CCLI Copyright License 21022161. CCLI Song #3205952]

Words of Invitation and Prayer

Sharing of the Elements

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world as your rainbow of hope in an uncertain world. Send us in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE MORNING MESSAGE –

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16

Message – *Seeking Sheep*

Rev. Ruth

Meditation Music: "like a child"

by Daniel Charles Damon, ©1993 Hope Publishing Company, CCLI Song # 1702313. Used by Permission. CCLI Copyright License 21022161

A TIME OF PRAYER

Pastoral Prayers & Silent Prayer

The Lord's Prayer in whatever words are most comfortable for you.

Musical Response

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

OFFERTORY ANTHEM -- "Advent Kyrie"

performed by the vocal choir

by David Lantz III and John Parker, ©2002 by Breckenhorst Press, Inc, CCLI Song # 5764893. Used by Permission. CCLI Copyright License 21022161.

Acknowledgement of Gifts & Offerings*

Doxology: [©Public Domain]

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below; Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter; One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen."

CLOSING SONG -- *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

W&R #153

[WORDS: Charles Wesley & MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard; arr. Ralph Vaughn Williams. © Public Domain. CCLI Song #31999]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A PRAYER OF BENEDICTION— Numbers 6:25

May God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May God's entire being be lifted up upon you and give you peace. Amen.

Sung Response – Let There Be Peace on Earth

[WORDS & MUSIC: Sy Miller & Jill Jackson, © 1955, Ren.1983 Jen-Lee Music. Used by Permission. CCLI Copyright License 21022161. CCLI SONG #93690]

*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.*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE – "Sing with the Spirit"

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## **Ezekiel 34:11-16**

For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.