

SUNDAY WORSHIP
Advent 2: Peace & Communion
Sunday • December 7, 2025

Mission Statement: As a community of faith, we welcome all who seek understanding. • As a community of hope, we offer friendship and comfort to those in need. • As a community of love, we provide caring support and shared fellowship to all.

WE ARE A COMMUNITY CHURCH. OUR FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS AND MEMBERS
COME FROM MANY PLACES AND MULTIPLE FAITH TRADITIONS. EVERYONE IS
WELCOME TO FIND A SPIRITUAL SANCTUARY HERE.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING MUSIC

Sharon Novak

— OPENING —

CANDLE LIGHTING: Peace (Advent 2)

Reader: Today we celebrate a meal from 2000 years ago and receive the gift of new life and belonging that has been given to all of us.

People: Each time we sit at a common table, we draw strength and nourishment from each other, fed by Holy Love.

Reader: Today's stories involve coming and going from Bethlehem. People leave their hometown, experience revelations and losses, then come back again. Once home, they find new connections. Families are forged. Hope is cradled in the little village that raises up shepherds, kings, and even the Prince of Peace.

People: Today the second light of the season is peace.

Reader: To whom do we make promises that we will keep watch over each other, and strangers, too? When have we acted as shepherds and advocates, rescuers and healers, leaders and servants?

People: In this season of cold, darkness, and social division, what nurtures peace in individuals, relationships, communities, and the world?

All: Today, may we kindle the second light of the season and invite it to shine within our hearts and lives.

***SONG #127**

*Lift Up Your Heads,
O Mighty Gates (v1-3)*

Sharon Novak

— PRAYING —

PRAYERS OF PEOPLE & SILENCE

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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and glory forever. *Amen.*

CHORAL

I Believe

JCC Choir (2020)

— REFLECTING —

SCRIPTURE

Ruth, Micah & Luke (excerpts)

REFLECTION

Long Ago and Far Away *Rev Gail Doktor*

***SONG [blue book]**

Breathe

*Sharon Novak
vocals led by Jeanette Heidmann*

— OFFERING —

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

— COMMUNION —

CONFESSION

Based on Isaiah 9

One: Advent begins with short days and long nights. It illuminates real and metaphorical darkness.

People: Prophets like Micah shined a light on humanity's recurring imperfections and their hope for redemption.

One: Like our spiritual ancestors, we aspire and strive, then and fall, fail, or turn away from the choices and actions that would contribute to a just and merciful kingdom for all of God's children.

People: Despite its mistakes, Micah promised Israel that another shepherd king like David would help its people.

One: We are the spiritual heirs to the people of Israel. Like them, we have made small errors and major mistakes. May we also be redeemed? Who will rescue us?

People: The Prince of Peace chooses us.

One: The light of Peace seeks a home within us.

People: To welcome Peace, we make space. We admit our worries and woes, we surrender our faults and flaws.

All: *We ask You to forgive us. Kindle light within us. We are servants of Peace, called to seek justice, mercy, and grace for all of God's children, beginning at this common table with seats enough for everyone.*

ASSURANCE of PARDON & INVITATION TO TABLE

BLESSING & SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

***SONG 116** *Let All Mortal Flesh* Sharon Novak

— CLOSING —

BENEDICTION Sharon Novak

May the love of God live in us today, may the love of God live in us today.

May the warmth we feel within us show in all we do and say.

May the love of God live in us today.

May the peace of God be with us today,

May the peace of God be with us today.

May it guide us and protect us, as we go our separate ways.

May the peace of God be with us, May the love of God live in us,

May the love of God shine through us today.

SCRIPTURE 1

RUTH 1 (*excerpts*) — In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. ²The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi ... When they had lived there about ten years, ⁵both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Naomi and Her Moabite Daughters-in-Law ... ⁷ So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. ⁸ But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back each of you to your mother’s house”

... but Ruth clung to her... ¹⁶ Ruth said, “Do not press me to leave you, to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people and your God my God.¹⁷ Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!”

¹⁸ When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her. ...

RUTH 2 — Ruth Meets Boaz — Now Naomi had a kinsman on her husband’s side, a prominent rich man of the family of Elimelech whose name was Boaz. ² And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, “Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain behind someone in whose sight I may find favor.” She said to her, “Go, my daughter.”

... ⁵ Then Boaz said to his young man who was in charge of the reapers, “To whom does this young woman belong?” ⁶ The young man who was in charge of the reapers answered,

SCRIPTURE 2

“She is the young Moabite woman who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab.... So she came, and she has been on her feet from early this morning until now without resting even for a moment.”

⁸ Then Boaz said to Ruth, “Now listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women. ⁹ Keep your eyes on the field that is being reaped and follow behind them. I have ordered the young men not to bother you. If you get thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn.”

¹⁰ Then she fell prostrate, with her face to the ground, and said to him, “Why have I found favor in your sight, that you should take notice of me, when I am a foreigner?”

¹¹ But Boaz answered her, “All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told me, how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. ¹² May the Lord reward you for your deeds, and may you have a full reward from the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge!”

RUTH 4:11 — ¹¹ Then all the people who were at the gate, along with the elders, said, “We are witnesses. May the Lord make the woman who is coming into your house like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you produce children in Ephrathah and bestow a name in Bethlehem ...”

The Genealogy of David

¹³ So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. When they came together, the Lord made her conceive, and she bore a son...¹⁷ he became the father of Jesse, the father of David.

SCRIPTURE 3

MICAH 5:2-5 — *The Ruler from Bethlehem*

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,

who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me

one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of
the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth,

⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.

If the Assyrians come into our land
and tread upon our soil,
we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight rulers.

LUKE 2:4-7

⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to
Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was
descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to
be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who
was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time
came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her
firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid
him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest
room.

CALENDAR for ADVENT & CHRISTMAS



Sun, DEC 7 – ADVENT 2: Peace

- 10:30am • **WORSHIP** with ADVENT 2: PEACE
- 4pm • **EVERYTHING YOU WANTED to KNOW about FRANCISCANS** with Rev. Walt Hampton @ WCC (JCC co-sponsors)

Sun, DEC 14 – ADVENT 3: Joy

- 10:30am • **WORSHIP** with ADVENT 3: JOY
- 1-4pm • **COMMUNITY CAROLING** (arrive early @ JCC to carpool)

Thurs, DEC 18

- 1-3pm • **LADIES COOKIE EXCHANGE** @ Perkins' ([rsvp](#) to JCC via email)
- 6pm • **QUIET (Blue) CHRISTMAS**

Fri, DEC 19

- Evening • **JINGLE JAM & COMMUNITY CONCERT** w/ DellaVallas @ Whitney

Sat, DEC 20

- 7:30am • **MENS' BREAKFAST**

Sun, DEC 21 – ADVENT 4: Love & PAGEANT

- 10:30am • **WORSHIP/PAGEANT** - Advent 4: Love

Wed, DEC 24 • CHRISTMAS EVE

- 5pm • **OUTDOOR WORSHIP**
- 9pm • **CANDLELIGHT & CAROLS WORSHIP**

Thurs, DEC 25 – CHRISTMAS MORN

- 10:30am • **PAJAMAS & BELLS**