

Life is a constant Advent season: we are continually waiting to become, to discover, to complete, to fulfill. Hope, struggle, fear, expectation and fulfillment are all part of our Advent experience.

**Gold Hymnal**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

*"Songs of Christmas Cheer" Emily Miller, Taylor Patterson*

**\*CANDLE LITURGY**

One: We have lit three candles—for hope, peace, and joy. Today we light the fourth candle—the candle of love. This candle reminds us of God’s love that surrounds us every day. May we also remember the special way that God’s love is revealed in the Christmas story. There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even than death. Help us to love one another as we love ourselves and as we have been loved by God. We love, because God loves us.

**All: Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season. Fill our lives with your grace. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with endless joy. Magnify your love within us that we might be emboldened to love others. Transform our hearts that we may walk in the light of Christ. AMEN.**

**\*HYMN "Angels We Have Heard on High" .....no. 192**

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

**+PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful God, we are a people conditioned to measure truth by proof, by the testimony of witnesses and our knowledge. In Jesus Christ, you revealed yourself and your love, yet we refuse to accept it. We ignore your still, small voice. We dismiss your action in our lives. We take credit for our blessings rather than giving. Scripture is a witness to your grace, yet we fail to open the pages. We want signs of your presence yet we are distracted by our busyness. Forgive us, Lord. Forgive our short attention spans, our desire for the new and our mistrust of the old and familiar. Grant us grace to be still, to listen and to respond to the leading of your Spirit. AMEN.**

**+SILENT PRAYER**

*(please use this time to confess your own personal sin)*

**+KYRIE**

**+ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: God so loved the world that He gave His only Son to forgive and redeem everyone who believes.

**People: By the Christ Child of Bethlehem we are all made new!  
AMEN!**

**\*GLORIA PATRI.....no. 142**

**YOUNG PEOPLE’S MESSAGE**

OLD TESTAMENT                      Isaiah 7:10-17                      pg. 554

CHOIR ANTHEM                      *"Go Tell It"*

GOSPEL LESSON                      Luke 1:26-38                      pg. 831

**MESSAGE**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**\*THE CREED.....,.....inside front cover of hymnal**

**\*HYMN "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" .....no. 197**

OFFERING/OFFERTORY                      *"The Holly and the Ivy"*

**\*OFFERING RESPONSE/THE DOXOLOGY.....no. 382**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND LORD’S PRAYER**

**\*BENEDICTION AND THREEFOLD AMEN**

**\*HYMN "While Shepherds Watched their Flocks" .....no. 175**

Let There Be Peace on Earth      Gold Hymnal no. 681

CHIMES, QUIET MEDITATION      (Congregation seated)

POSTLUDE                      *"Noel"*

(those who are able please \*- stand, +-kneel)

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Altar Guild Workers.....Edie Graff and Dixie Schweitzer

Greeters.....Carl and Vicki Sweigart

Head Usher.....Chris Fitterling

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The Altar flowers are dedicated to all the children who, tonight, do not have a warm, safe, place to sleep.

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

*Let us also pray for those whose needs remain silent.*

Doris Fultz	Kathy Schlegel	Robinette Palsgrove
Mel Gerhart	Scott Leshner	Deb Schleicher
Family of Paul Kring	Mark Bays	Family of Calvin Sauder

#### COMING EVENTS

There will be no Bible Study on December 26<sup>th</sup>.  
Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup> – Choir Rehearsal – 7:00 pm  
Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> – Marketing Committee – 7:00 pm  
Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> – Installation of New Council Members  
Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> – Abigail Butz Memorial Spaghetti Dinner –  
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm  
Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup> – Epiphany Communion  
Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> – Youth Mystery Dinner – 5:00 pm

#### ADVENT HAPPENINGS

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – Fourth Sunday of Advent – 10:30 am  
Service only  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 7:30 pm

# Peace United Church of Christ



December 24, 2017  
Fourth Sunday of Advent