

Guide us into true readiness, even though we do not know the date and time when true peace will reign. Wake us up; shake off the cobwebs of our complacency; and take us with you on the path up your holy mountain. Plant your peace within us, so that each day, each moment we may be ready for the harvest of your love. Amen.

A Moment of Silent Reflection

Kyrie #750

**All: Lord have mercy upon us.
Christ have mercy upon us.
Lord have mercy upon us.**

Words of Assurance:

The light of God's love shines brightly! The invitation is given: Come, walk in the light.

***Act of Praise Gloria Patri**

All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

***Passing the Peace of Christ: (Responsive) (Psalm 122:8)**

Pastor: The psalmist sings, "For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, 'Peace be within you.'" Turn now to your own relatives and friends, your sisters, and brothers in Christ, gathered here in the house of the Lord, and greet them with these same words: "Peace be within you."

People: And also, within you!

All: Amen.

(Let us take a moment to wave our love and peace to our neighbors!)

New Testament Lesson:

Romans 13:11-14

Gospel Lesson:

Matthew 24:36-44

Sermon:

"To the Point!"

Our Morning Prayers

The Candle of Remembrance is lit in hope that the Holy Spirit would bring peace to the world. In lighting it we remember all past and present military personnel and first responders, especially those in harm's way.

Call to Prayer: "Pray"

All: Pray___, pray___, pray___ for peace within our world_____.

Pray___, pray___, pray___ for peace within our souls_____.

Pray___, pray___, pray___ for love and unity_____.

Quiet our busy hearts, Pray, pray, pray.

Pray___, pray___, pray___.

Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer

Prayer of Our Savior: (Unison)

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 debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever.

Amen.

Invitation to the Offering:

If this Advent is to be about more than going through the motions, then we must get ready for the Prince of Peace in new and radical ways. One of those ways is to care for others as our Lord cares for us. (pg. 5)

Let us give genuinely of ourselves to assist others in need. I invite you to use this time of offering as an opportunity to get ready for Christ's arrival.

Recognition of Our Time of Sharing:

Offering Music

***Offertory Response: "Doxology"**

All: Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, you heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

***Offering Prayer: (Unison)**

Thank you, God. Thank you for the wake-up call, reminding us to be ready. Thank you for not giving up on your vision of peace. Thank you for the opportunity to gather each week in your house, that we might encourage one another to stay on your path. And thank you for the opportunity to give these gifts for your ministry, that together we might help the world be ready to receive the Prince of Peace, in whose name we pray. Amen.

***Hymn: "Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates"**

#117 NCH (vs.1-4)

***Benediction:**

As you leave the house of the Lord, open your eyes to the signs of God's presence all around you. Stay awake and be constantly ready to welcome the Prince of Peace. Put on the clothes of Jesus Christ and walk with the Spirit in the path of light. Go in peace. Let all of God's children join and say together, **All: Amen.**

***Benediction Response: "Amen" #812 NCH**

***Postlude**

***Call to Worship: (Responsive)**

L: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."

P: For in God's house we shall find hope and healing.

L: In God's house we shall find forgiveness and friendship.

P: May peace be within the walls of this house of God.

L: Come, let us go to the house of the Lord.

P: Come, let us sing our praises to God who loves and redeems us.

Amen.

***Opening Prayer: (Unison)**

When, O God, will the day of peace come? When will the nations stream to your holy mountain and beat their swords into plowshares? When will the long night of war and hatred, give way to the dawn of love, righteousness, and joy? We are ready for the dawn, O God. Shine your light into our world, mighty One of peace. Illuminate the path and give us the wisdom and courage to follow your light. We pray in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

***Opening Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"**

#116 NCH (vs.1,4,5)

Call to Reconciliation: Prayer of Confession: (Responsive)

Pastor: God, we are ready now. We want peace now. We long to receive the Prince of Peace in our world today. But don't delay too long, Holy One, for soon we'll be busy with parties, and decorating, and baking, and shopping. Our lives are crammed so full, we find it hard to calendar you in; we find it hard to locate the time to welcome the Light of the World.

People: We need your help, O God. Teach us to set aside our party wardrobes and clothe ourselves in Jesus Christ. (pg. 3)

