

**St Andrew's and St George's West
Order of Service, 6 December 2020**

Second Sunday of Advent



Theme: Tender comfort, gentle peace

Music: Lift up the gates eternal

Welcome

Call to Worship

Praise God from the tops of the highest mountains

Grant us peace, Loving God

Praise God from the bottoms of the deepest valleys

Grant us peace, Merciful God

Praise God from the bumps in the road

Grant us peace, Gracious God

Praise God from the still waters

Grant us peace, Compassionate God

Praise the God of highs and lows, rough places and smooth

We come to praise the God who brings peace to us all

Hymn 281 People look East

(video from 2019)

People, look East. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth, and set the table.

People, look East, and sing today:
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there:
give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look East, and sing today:
Love, the Rose, is on the way.

French traditional Carol
Music: arr. Martin Shaw

Advent Candle Lighting

In this second week of Advent,
as the waiting and expectation heighten,
we light a candle for peace and pray for the courage to stand up for it.

May it light the way.

(Light two candles).

Hymn 284 (verses 1 and 2)

Hope is a candle, once lit by the prophets,
never consumed, though it burns through the years;
dim in the daylight of power and privilege –
when they are gone, hope will shine on.

Peace is a candle to show us a pathway,
threatened by gusts from our rage and our greed,
Friend, feel no envy for those in the shadows -
violence and force their dead-end course.

Richard Leach

Sharing Peace with one another

Making Peace with Prayer: Ripples in the Divine Sea by Steven James (adapted)

Prayer

“Peace.
It does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble, or hard work.
It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart.” (Anon.)

Silence

Loving God, you take the risk of being with us and loving us.
Thank you.
When we grieve, you comfort us;
when we are weary, you let us rest.
You want us to have calm in our hearts and minds,
peace in our souls
and in the world.

Prayer of confession

Yet sometimes peace can seem like a distant dream there is so much going on which unsettles us.

We find ourselves stuck in the deep valleys of life and their shadows.
We hurt ourselves and others with jagged words or angry silence,
we criticise ourselves and others from the place of our woundedness.

Merciful God,
help us see fragility as something we have in common.
May it be a source of healing rather than a weakness to be exploited,
may sharing our fragility lead to understanding that where there is comfort,
you are in the midst of it.

Gracious God,
from all of the places of fear and pain in our lives,
speak comfort to us, call us to prepare our way back to you.
Forgive us when our human reactions of fear and anger close us off from the ways
of peace that you desire for us.
Open our eyes and our hearts that the path to you might be revealed before us,
guiding us in compassion and mercy to your holy and everlasting peace. Amen.

Words of affirmation

Our words and deeds are just for a season, only a part of this great Creation.
But the grace of God endures forever, filling all that has been, all that is, and all that is to come.

In all our seasons, we are called to prepare for our God, who forgives all our sins.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40: 1-11 (NRSV)

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"
See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Anthem Comfort ye my people

Comfort ye my people,
saith your God;
Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her,
that her warfare is accomplished,
that her iniquity is pardoned.

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness,
prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Isaiah 40:1-3
GF Handel, Tenor recitative from Messiah

Reflection

Hymn 659 Put peace into each other's hands

Put peace into each other's hands
and like a treasure hold it;
protect it like a candle flame,
with tenderness enfold it.

Put peace into each other's hands
with loving expectation;
be gentle in your words and ways,

in touch with God's creation.

Put peace into each other's hands
like bread we break for sharing;
look people warmly in the eye:
our life is meant for caring.

And at Communion, shape your hands
into a waiting cradle;
the gift of Christ, receive, revere,
united round the table.

Put Christ into each other's hands
He is love's deepest measure;
in love make peace, give peace a chance
and share it like a treasure.

Prayers for Others

Sung response: Wait for the Lord, his day is near.
 Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart. (CH4 276)

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven.
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us in the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Sung response: Wait for the Lord, his day is near.
 Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart. (CH4 276)

Blessing and Sending

Peace be with you.
Righteousness be in you.
Comfort be among you.
Faithfulness be around you.
Go out into the world
reminded of God's steadfastness
revealing God's glory
redefining this season of waiting into preparation for the

dawn of God's holy light.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
abide with you this day, and evermore. Amen

Sung Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious unto you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace.

Organ Music Pastorale BWV 590 J.S. Bach

Worship Leaders: The Reverend Dr Rosie Magee, Arthur Chapman
Advent Candle Lighters: Toby and Oscar Marcham
Ripples in the Divine Sea: Amy Marcham and Frances Cooper
Scripture Reader: Shona Philip
Director of Music: Brigitte Harris
Vocal ensemble: Eleanor Cozens, Eleanor Wilson, Caitlin McGillivray, Drew Crichton, Tim
Cooper, Andrew Carvel
Soloists: Frances Cooper, Andrew Carvel
Pianist: Tim Cooper
Organ accompaniment: Drew Crichton, Brigitte Harris, Eleanor Wilson
Technical team: Alison Bruce, Andrew Carvel, Susan McLarty, Mary Margaret Scott

Sources:

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