

*BE ALWAYS READY*

*FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT:*

*A CHRISTMAS LETTER FROM JESUS*

Peace United Church of Christ Elkader, Iowa 52043

December 1st, 2024

**PRELUDE:**

**CANDLELIGHTING, BELL RINGING, ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ADVENT THEME:** A Christmas Letter from Jesus

**CHANCEL CHOIR:** "Light of Peace" by Joel Raney

**\*PASSING OF THE ADVENT PEACE:**

L: As we begin this Advent season 2024, let us pass the peace to one another. **(pass the peace, then be seated)**

**LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE**

L: A reading from Jeremiah 33:14-16:

**P:** "The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the houses of Israel and Judah. In those days, at that time, I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David. He shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days, Judah will be saved. Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called, "The Lord is our righteousness."

L: A new world is coming, according to the promises of God. The time is coming.

**P: So we light a candle in hope, watching the clock.**

***The first Advent candle—the candle of hope is lit.***

L: We cannot hasten the future. But we wait with intention and purpose.

**P: Deepen our longing, God. Bless our waiting with word and action.**

L: The Advent wreath is a sign of hope for us, O God. And so we sing as we wait.

**ADVENT SONG:**

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" vs. 1,4,5 #116

**CALL TO WORSHIP: (unison)**

In this dark time of year, God, we long for your coming. When darkness falls upon the world, we long for your hope, peace, joy, love and your healing. As we travel through Advent, may you strengthen our hearts so that we may be steadfast in faith. And now we join in the Advent Affirmation of faith.

We are an Advent people, a people of hope and new beginnings. For us, Advent is a time of waiting. We wait for the coming of Jesus who is the fulfillment of God's promise of hope. We are a redeemed people but we are not clueless. We know that the world in which we live will continue to be filled with pain and sorrow. We know that hatred and violence will continue to exist. We know that suffering and death will be a part of our lives. Because we are Advent people, we know that none of these things will win in the end.

And in our waiting for the Holy One, we work and worship, pray and play. **AMEN.**

**THE WORD IN ADVENT**

**JESUS' CHRISTMAS LETTER continues**

**OLD TESTAMENT:** Psalm 25:1-10 Sue Stott

**EPISTLE SONG:** "Keep Awake, Be Always Ready" #112

**EPISTLE:** I. Thessalonians 3:9-13 Sue Stott  
**GOSPEL:** Luke 21:25-36  
**MESSAGE:** "Jesus—the ADT, Simplisafe of Our Lives"

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**  
**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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. AMEN.**

**OFFERING INVITATION—OFFERING--OFFERTORY**

**\*THE DOXOLOGY:**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above you heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son and the Holy Ghost. AMEN**

*HOLY COMMUNION ON ADVENT*

**\*CONFESSION: (unison) Gracious God, we confess the darkness and cold in our lives. Like barren trees in winter, we sometimes do not bear the fruits of love that you want us to bear. May you forgive our sins, heal our hearts and be born in us again. By your grace, we may bear your light in this world. O come to us, Lord! (sit)**

**SONG:** "As We Gather at Your Table" #332

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:**

L: Beloved children of God, our God is with us. Let us lift up our hearts and give thanks. You walk with us through the dark toward the light. Your presence is the light. Blessed are all who come in your name, blessed is Jesus our risen Lord and Savior, blessed is your holy name who guides in witness and community life.

**THE BLESSING:**

L: On the night of betrayal and abandonment, Jesus shared the Passover with his friends. He blessed the bread and said, "Take and eat; this is my body broken for you." He blessed the cup of blessing and said, "This is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins." As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we remember Jesus' death and resurrection until he comes again. May the Holy Spirit be poured out for us that in our speaking, praying, actions, we are living signs of Christ's coming.

**THE MEAL IS SERVED**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: (unison)**

**Gracious God, we thank you for giving yourself to us. You have placed within us the sign of your covenant, a sign of your faithful love. In Your name, we pray. AMEN.**

**\*BENEDICTION: (unison)**

O God of Advent, may you send us into the world to live and serve as people who believe in your presence here and now, as people who believe in your coming. May people see in us the transformation of the world. For the sake of Christ, we go forth. AMEN.

**\*SENDING FORTH SONG:**

“Come, O Long Expected Jesus” #122

**\*POSTLUDE:**

*WELCOME*

*Peace United Church of Christ 301 N. Main St.*

*Box 268 Elkader, Iowa 52043-0268*

Phone: (563)-245-2126 Email: [peaceucc@alpinecom.net](mailto:peaceucc@alpinecom.net)

Website: [www.peacechurchelkader.org](http://www.peacechurchelkader.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/peacechurchelkader](https://facebook.com/peacechurchelkader)

Rev. Paula Anderson

307 1st St. NW Box 433 Elkader, IA.52043-0433

Home: (563)-245-8022 Cell: 618-292-5105 (no texting)

E-mail: [paula2651@alpinecom.net](mailto:paula2651@alpinecom.net)

**Worship Leaders**

**Today-December 1st**

**Worship:** Pastor Paula

**Reader:** Sue Stott

**Fellowship:** Sue Stott

**Organist:** Laura Moser

**Ushers:** Reimers

**Opening/** Sue Stott

**Next Sunday, Dec. 8th**

Pastor Paula

Mary Webber

Seney/Burns

Laura Moser

Deb D., Diane F.

Gary Kuehl

**Closing**

***PRAYER LIST:***

Bob, Cheryl, Dr. Cranston, Greg Anderson, Gus Augustson, Dave & Diane B-H, Terry Baumgartner, Eli Belser, Betty Buchholz, Jonah Burns and Burns' family, Cheryl, Deb Dennler, Wayne Frentress, Karen Glesne, Linda Glesne, Penny Jacobson, Karla, Ruth Grau, Gerry Kramer, Gary & Nancy Kuehl, Louise, Marlene Marmann, Mary Ann McMillin, Marilyn Nielsen, Ruth and Jenny Olson, Pat, Lucena Phelps, Elaine Radloff, Sharon Reichert, Peyton Rentschler, Joan Strauss, Father James;

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

**9 a.m.-noon—Monday, Wednesday, Thursday**

8-11 a.m.-----Tuesday  
FRIDAY-----OFFICE CLOSED

**WEEKLY CALENDAR OF CHURCH ACTIVITIES**

**TODAY: Hanging of the Greens and Potluck**

**Tuesday:** 11 a.m. Clergy Text Study group

**Wednesday:** 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir  
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

**BULLETIN DEADLINE**

**Friday:** Pastor's Day Off—office closed

**Saturday:** Worship Preparation

***OPENING FOR CHURCH SECRETARY: Peace UCC is currently seeking a part time church secretary. In the TIDINGS, a job description is included.***

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR HURRICANES RELIEF  
THROUGH THE UCC:**

**Make check to UCC: on memo line-Hurricanes 2024**

**Send to:**

**UCC      Box 71957      Cleveland, OH 44194**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>—Hanging of the Greens after worship and Potluck**

**POINSETTIAS?**