Participants:

Message: Mark

Prayer: Mark

Song Leaders/Liturgists: Luke, Judi, Irene

Piano: Pearl

Drums: Luke

Guitar: Mark

**BE NOT AFRAID: THE PATH OF PEACE**

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP**

**Solo:** (Luke) **Comfort, Comfort Now My People, LU 59: 1**

**Call to Worship**

**(**read by Irene)

One:  *‘Prepare the way*,’ the prophets call,

*‘make ready the highways for God*.’

**All: How we long to walk down the sidewalks**

**in God’s kingdom of peace!**

One: Prepare your hearts,

for God’s realm opens up a new day.

**All: We yearn for the time**

**when the wolf and lamb will live together in harmony**.

One: Prepare the way,

God promises a new day when adversaries will lay down their arms.

**All: We dream of a world transformed by God’s love**.

One: May the God of peace fill your hearts with thanksgiving.

**All: We rejoice for God’s Spirit is in our midst!**

**Song: Hark, the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes, LU 60: 1, 4**

 **ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE**

*Reader 1-Irene; reader 2-Luke, Reader 3-Judi))*

Reader 1: Here is the ember of peace:

Reader 2: In a story passed on through the ages,

Reader 3: : In a love surpassing all loves,

**All: In a God who sacrifices self,**

Reader 1: In the birth of a child,

Reader 2; Who is God,

Reader 3: Jesus of Nazareth,

**All: Emmanuel, God with us**.

Reader 1: An ember whose flame will kindle the world.

*— adapted from Lisa Frenz*

*(Judi—light the Peace candle here)*

**Song: Christ, Be Our Light** (Luke solo)

**Solo:**

**Longing for light, we wait in darkness,**

**Longing for truth, we turn to you.**

**Make us your own,**

**Your holy people**

**Light for the world to see.**

***Refrain***

**All:**

**Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts,**

**Shine through the darkness.**

**Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

**Solo:**

**Longing for peace, our world is troubled,**

**Longing for hope, many despair,**

**Your word alone has pow’r to save us.**

**Make us your living voice.**

***Refrain***

**All:**

**Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts,**

**Shine through the darkness.**

**Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

**WELCOME AND GOD’S GREETING** (led by Mark)

**God Greets Us**

**All: Amen**

**Song: O Come, O Come Emmanuel, LU 61: 7**

**Prayers of the People**

**WE LISTEN TO GOD’S WORD ABOUT PEACE**

**Scripture: Isaiah 11:6-16**

**(Irene) The wolf will live with the lamb,**

 **the leopard will lie down with the goat,**

**the calf and the lion and the yearling together;**

 **and a little child will lead them.**

**The cow will feed with the bear,**

 **their young will lie down together,**

 **and the lion will eat straw like the ox.**

**(Luke) The infant will play near the cobra’s den,**

 **and the young child will put its hand into the viper’s nest.**

**They will neither harm nor destroy**

 **on all my holy mountain,**

**for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord**

 **as the waters cover the sea.**

**(Judi) In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious. In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the surviving remnant of his people from Assyria, from Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt, from Cush, from Elam, from Babylonia, from Hamath and from the islands of the Mediterranean.**

**(Irene) He will raise a banner for the nations**

 **and gather the exiles of Israel;**

**he will assemble the scattered people of Judah**

 **from the four quarters of the earth.**

**Ephraim’s jealousy will vanish,**

 **and Judah’s enemies will be destroyed;**

**Ephraim will not be jealous of Judah,**

 **nor Judah hostile toward Ephraim.**

**(Luke) They will swoop down on the slopes of Philistia to the west;**

 **together they will plunder the people to the east.**

**They will subdue Edom and Moab,**

 **and the Ammonites will be subject to them.**

**The Lord will dry up**

 **the gulf of the Egyptian sea;**

**with a scorching wind he will sweep his hand**

 **over the Euphrates River.**

**(Judi) He will break it up into seven streams**

 **so that anyone can cross over in sandals.**

**There will be a highway for the remnant of his people**

 **that is left from Assyria,**

**as there was for Israel**

 **when they came up from Egypt.**

**Song: Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old**

**Isaiah, the prophet has written of old**

**how God’s new creation shall come.**

**Instead of the thorn tree, the fir tree shall grow;**

**the wolf shall lie down with the lamb.**

**The mountains and hills shall burst forth into song,**

**The peoples be led forth in peace;**

**For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of God**

**As the waters cover the sea.**

**Yet nations still prey on the meek of the world,**

**And conflict turns parent from child.**

**Your people despoil all the sweetness of earth;**

**The brier and the thorn tree grow wild.**

**God, bring to fruition your will for the earth,**

**That no one shall hurt or destroy;**

**That wisdom and justice shall reign in the land**

**And your people shall go forth in joy.**

**Message: The Path of Peace**

**Prayer**

**Song of Response: O Day of Peace, LU 487, 1, 2** (tune 502)

**WE CELEBRATE LORD'S SUPPER** (led by Mark)

You spoke of the days to come, Architect of life,

 when anthills would erupt from dirt,

 when cattle would gather under shade trees,

 when cats would nurture little children,

 when chaos would be transformed into creation,

and we stood within your garden of goodness.

All this beauty, all the wonder, was offered

so, we might walk in your light,

 but we preferred the shadows of sin.

You sent the prophets to us,

urging us to lay aside our foolishness,

 but we continued to rebel against you.

Finally, when no one expected,

you came, not in power but poverty,

a crying baby born to nobodies.

As we continue on our journey to Bethlehem,

as we seek to be alert and awake,

we would proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ died, seeking the good for all;**

**Christ was raised, putting on resurrection’s love;**

**Christ will come, precisely when we least expect him**.

Now, pour out your Spirit upon

the gifts of the bread and the cup

and on those gathered in these moments.

Feed us with the bread which is broken, (*break bread here)*

so, in the days to come, we may

 bring healing to the shattered and

 give comfort to the lonely,

Pour the grace of the cup into us, (*pour wine here)*

so, in the days to come, we may

 wrap others in warm coats,

 lay aside our differences,

 walk with others in the light of justice.

And when you come when we least expect,

to bring all history to an end,

gather us around the Table of peace,

where we will join our sisters and brothers

of every place and time in forever praising you,

God in Community, Holy in One. Amen

The gifts of God for the people of God!

Take, eat….

Take, drink…

**Song: God Reigns! Earth Rejoices, LU 91: 1, 2, 4**

**WE END OUR WORSHIP WITH GOD’S BLESSING AND SONG**

**God Blesses Us**

**All: Amen**

**Song: Walk in the Reign**

***Refrain***

**Close as tomorrow the sun shall appear.**

**Freedom is coming and healing is near.**

**And I shall be with you in laughter and pain**

**To stand in the wind and walk in the reign,**

**To walk in the reign.**

**Comfort each other, for pain soon shall end,**

**A day comes when lion and lamb shall be friends.**

**The sightless shall see then, the speechless sing songs.**

**The name of our God is the righter of wrongs,**

**The righter of wrongs.**

***Refrain***

**Close as tomorrow the sun shall appear.**

**Freedom is coming and healing is near.**

**And I shall be with you in laughter and pain**

**To stand in the wind and walk in the reign,**

**To walk in the reign**

**Oh, one day we’ll know them, the treasure, the pearl,**

**That capture our spirits and brighten our world.**

**We ache to possess them, the burden that frees:**

**The treasure of justice, the pearl of God’s peace, the pearl of God’s peace**

***Refrain***

**Close as tomorrow the sun shall appear.**

**Freedom is coming and healing is near.**

**And I shall be with you in laughter and pain**

**To stand in the wind and walk in the reign,**

**To walk in the reign**

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**Comfort, Comfort Now My People**

*Words: Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt., P.D.*

*Music (FREU DICH SEHR/GENEVAN 42) P.D***.**

**Hark, the Glad Sound**

*Words: Philip Doddrich, P.D.*

*Music (RICHMOND) P.D.*

**Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old**

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**Christ Be Our Light**

*Type: Words and Music;*

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**O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

*Words P.D. Music (VENI EMMANUEL) 15th century, P.D.*

**O Day of Peace**

*Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr. © 1982, Hope Publishing Company*

*Music: (GERMANY) w. Gardiner’s Sacred Melodies, 1815, P.D.*

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**God Reigns! Earth Rejoices**

*Words: Michael Morgan © 2011 Michael Morgan, admin. Faith Alive Christian Resources*

*Music (NOEL NOUVELET) Medieval French Carol, P.D.*

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**Walk in the Reign**

*Text: Rory Cooney, b.1952 Tune: Rory Cooney, b.1952*

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