

2 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

The first candle is lit. Silence is kept.

One: Even now, the Peaceful One is drawing near.

Many: Even now, the day of our salvation is at hand.

One: The God who comforts us speaks tenderly to her people.

Many: The Shepherd who feeds us longs to take us into his arms.

One: While we watch and wait for steadfast love and faithfulness to meet,

Many: While we wonder if justice and peace will ever kiss,

One: We can prepare the way of the Lord.

Many: We can clear a path for him in our hearts and in our world.

One: In these days of setback and struggle, we choose to prepare and not to despair.

Many: In a world drunk on wealth and power, we choose to walk the path of peace.

One: For such a time as this, the Holy One comes speaking peace.

Many: For such a time as this, we are called to make peace.

One: Get ready! Our savior comes.

Many: Get ready! The peace of Christ is given for one and for all.

The second candle is lit. Silence is kept.

ALL: FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS, FILL US WITH YOUR PEACE.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

So desperately do we want to avoid conflict that sometimes we speak “peace, peace” when there is no peace. Other times, wanting to prove ourselves right and others wrong, we sow discord and division. Forgive us, O God, and nurture our longing for true peace and justice. Prepare our hearts, that we might more fully receive the peace you offer us through Christ. Make us instruments of your peace. Amen.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

This season of waiting and watching is also a season of preparing. Our generosity prepares the way for hope, peace, justice, and community. This year the UCC Christmas Fund has received a record number of requests for financial assistance—more than twice as many as last year—from active and retired clergy, church staff, and their families. These servants of the church have spent lifetimes baptizing and blessing, teaching and preaching, marrying and burying, comforting and empowering God’s people. Now, through this special mission offering, we have the opportunity to sustain and empower them.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

By the power of your Spirit, O God, may these gifts of gratitude and love lift up your faithful servants from the valley of need. By the power of your Spirit, may these gifts from our hearts bring down mountains of bills and anxiety. Bless these gifts, that they may bring hope to the hopeless, joy to the sorrowful, and deep love to those who have ministered in your love for so long. Amen.