

2nd Week of Advent: Peace Liturgy

Invocation

O God of Deep Space and Presence, as we gather together for worship, help us to tap into ancient knowing today. The earth moves and circles around the sun and stars, while gravity continues to hold us close. The change of the seasons and clocked hours of dark impact our days, as this weekly ritual brings us a sense of home and steadfastness too. All the while You are at work. All the while we answer the call to show up however we can, whenever we can, in this miraculous and mysterious life together. Amen.

Litany of the Advent Candle

One: My fellow disciples, poet June Jordan asks, "When will we seize the world around us with our freedom?"

All: Let us cry out, "Now!"

One: And poet Audre Lorde heartens us, I make my now.

All: And power is spoken—peace.

One: As we gather around to light the second Advent candle, let us first bless and embody this now together with sounds of fire: fingers snapping, hands clapping, palms rubbing

against each other, tongues clicking. Yes, friends, let us be in the here and now together! Join me! *(Pause for the body prayer and light the first two candles)* Spirit in this place, we feel you, we hear you, we see you, we trust you!

All: Spirit inspire us, enlighten us, embolden us with the light of freedom and the stars of peace that we are made of.

One: Bless this ceremony of naming our longing.

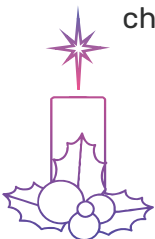
All: Of our everlasting desire for peace, for justice, for you, Emmanuel. Amen.

Prayer of Transformation and Grace

O God of Knowing, there are times when peace surpasses our understanding because we cannot dare to hope for it, because it feels too costly or our hearts are too hardened by the harshness of the world. What actions may unfold from this place? This humble ground of struggle? Sometimes they are acts strengthened by faith, while others are things we do out of a place of burnout, despair, isolation, or selfishness that shows it is justified by its receipts. Forgive us and transform us, O God, perhaps by the kindness of a stranger, by a ballot measure that did pass, or an international protest to violence. As Jan Richardson foretells, may your grace arrive in a shape we did not foresee and may we be open to it changing us. Amen.

"...WHEN THEY SAW THE STAR, THEY WERE FILLED WITH JOY..."

MATTHEW 2:10



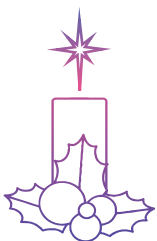
2nd Week of Advent: Peace Liturgy

Invitation to the Offering

Beloved community, as we enter into this time of offering, let us reflect on how we might extend the gift of everyday peace to others: a listening ear to a friend in distress; a safe place to land when your family comes home; a car ride to a doctor's appointment; setting up tables and chairs for the community gathering. May our offerings be a source of comfort and hope, bringing healing to those in need and fostering harmony in our community. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Communal Creator, we dedicate these offerings to the restoration of right relationships in the world, our community, and within our own hearts. Continue to empower us to be advocates of peace at every size, for everyone, and in every place. Amen.



*"...WHEN THEY SAW THE **STAR**, THEY WERE FILLED WITH **JOY**..."*

MATTHEW 2:10