



ADVENT II
12.07.2025

Return to the Source - Peace

Announcements – Amy Sens

- Paper Prayer requests
- Dec 10 - Bible Study
- Dec 14 - Pageant! and Caroling 4pm, starting at FutureCare. Patterson Park hosts?
- Dec 20 - Youth/Senior Dinner, 5pm
- Dec 21 - Waldorf spiral - call for pine branches
- Dec 24 - Christmas Eve at 9pm
- Dec 28 - Jammies Church
- Jan 1 - 2pm Resolution Run - Support Housing for homeless people: kid, 1 mile and 5k options. Password: "inclusive"

Greeting & Orientation – Amy Sens

I have the uncanny feeling that, just at the end of my life, I am beginning to reinhabit completely the body that I long ago left.

— Alice Walker

Song – Don't Dream it's Over – Crowded House - The Band

There is freedom within
There is freedom without
Try to catch the deluge in a paper cup
There's a battle ahead
Many battles are lost
But you'll never see the end of the road
While you're traveling with me

Hey now, hey now
Don't dream it's over
Hey now, hey now
When the world comes in
They come, they come
To build a wall between us
We know they won't win

Now I'm towing my car
There's a hole in the roof
My possessions are causing me suspicion but there's no proof
In the paper today
Tales of war and of waste
But you turn right over to the T.V. page

Hey now, hey now
Don't dream it's over
Hey now, hey now
When the world comes in
They come, they come
To build a wall between us
We know they won't win

Now I'm walking again
To the beat of a drum
And I'm counting the steps to the door of your heart
Only shadows ahead
Barely clearing the roof
Get to know the feeling of liberation and release

Hey now, hey now
Don't dream it's over
Hey now, hey now
When the world comes in
They come, they come
To build a wall between us
You know they won't win

Don't let them win
Hey now, hey now

Hey now, hey now

Hey now, hey now
Don't let them win

They come, they come
Don't let them win

Advent Wreath Liturgy

One: God speaks of a time when the world will be led by one who has returned to the deep Source from which all breath arises.

All: Wisdom and understanding, steady counsel and hidden strength, knowledge and reverence—these will rest upon him like first light over water.

One: And peace will settle upon the land like a returning tide, gathering all creatures into a shared and gentle stillness.

All: And a little child will show the way back.

One: Today we light the candle of peace (**light two purple candles**), for the Source dreams of a world without harm, a creation restored to its first harmony.

All: In peace, we walk the spiral path and wait for our coming King.

Children's Message - Jim Hamilton

God be in my head
God be in my words

God be in my heart
God be in my hands
God be in my whole self

Passing of the Peace

Reading One – Matthew 1:18-25 (CEB)

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. When Mary his mother was engaged to Joseph, before they were married, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband was a righteous man. Because he didn't want to humiliate her, he decided to call off their engagement quietly. As he was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Now all of this took place so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled:

Look! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son,
And they will call him, Emmanuel.

(Emmanuel means "God with us.")

When Joseph woke up, he did just as an angel from God commanded and took Mary as his wife. But he didn't have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. Joseph called him Jesus.

Psalms Psalm 85 (CEB) - Mercy Like Rain

Refrain: Let me taste your mercy like rain on my face;
here in my life, show me your peace.

Lord, you've been kind to your land;
you've changed Jacob's circumstances for the better.
You've forgiven your people's wrongdoing;
you've covered all their sins.
You've stopped being furious;
you've turned away from your burning anger.

Refrain

You, the God who can save us, restore us!
Stop being angry with us!
Will you be mad at us forever?
Will you prolong your anger from one generation to the next?
Won't you bring us back to life again
so that your people can rejoice in you?

**Show us your faithful love, Lord!
Give us your salvation!**

Refrain

**Let me hear what the Lord God says,
because she speaks peace to her people and to her faithful ones.
Don't let them return to foolish ways.
God's salvation is very close to those who honor him
so that his glory can live in our land.**

Refrain

**Faithful love and truth have met;
righteousness and peace have kissed.
Truth springs up from the ground;
righteousness gazes down from heaven.**

**Yes, the Lord gives what is good,
and our land yields its produce.
Righteousness walks before God,
making a road for his steps.**

Refrain

Prayers of the People – Fred Curtis

Song – Don't Panic – Coldplay - The Band

**Bones sinking like stones
All that we fought for
Homes, places we've grown
All of us are done for**

**And we live in a beautiful world
Yeah we do, yeah we do
We live in a beautiful world**

**Bones sinking like stones
All that we fought for
And homes, places we've grown
All of us are done for**

**And we live in a beautiful world
Yeah we do, yeah we do
We live in a beautiful world**

**And we live in a beautiful world
Yeah we do, yeah we do
We live in a beautiful world**

**Oh, all that I know
There's nothing here to run from
'Cause yeah everybody here's got somebody
to lean on**

Reading Two: Ezekiel 37:1-14 (CEB) - Fred Curtis

The Lord's power overcame me, and while I was in the Lord's spirit, he led me out and set me down in the middle of a certain valley. It was full of bones. He led me through them all around, and I saw that there were a great many of them on the valley floor, and they were very dry.

He asked me, “Human one, can these bones live again?”

I said, “Lord God, only you know.”

He said to me, “Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, Dry bones, hear the Lord’s word! The Lord God proclaims to these bones: I am about to put breath in you, and you will live again. I will put sinews on you, place flesh on you, and cover you with skin. When I put breath in you, and you come to life, you will know that I am the Lord.”

I prophesied just as I was commanded. There was a great noise as I was prophesying, then a great quaking, and the bones came together, bone by bone. When I looked, suddenly there were sinews on them. The flesh appeared, and then they were covered over with skin. But there was still no breath in them.

He said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, human one! Say to the breath, The Lord God proclaims: Come from the four winds, breath! Breathe into these dead bodies and let them live.”

I prophesied just as he commanded me. When the breath entered them, they came to life and stood on their feet, an extraordinarily large company.

He said to me, “Human one, these bones are the entire house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope has perished. We are completely finished.’ So now, prophecy and say to them, The Lord God proclaims: I’m opening your graves! I will raise you up from your graves, my people, and I will bring you to Israel’s fertile land. You will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you up from your graves, my people. I will put my breath in you, and you will live. I will plant you on your fertile land, and you will know that I am the Lord. I’ve spoken, and I will do it. This is what the Lord says.”

Song – Breathe on Me, Breath of God - The Band

O breathe on me, O breath of God,
Fill me with life a new,
That I may love the things you love,
And do what you would do

O breathe on me, O breath of God
My will to yours incline,
Until this selfish part of me
Glows with your fire divine.

O breathe on me, O breath of God
Until my heart is pure;
Until my will is one with yours,
To do and to endure

O breathe on me, O breath of God
So shall I never die,
But live with you the perfect life
Of your eternity.

Sermon – Amy Sens

Celebration and Offering

Song – The Light - Regina Spektor – The Band

**The light was shining in my eyes before I closed them
And all the dreams I had the night before came back
The faces that I'd seen looked so familiar
But they're just strangers - I haven't met them yet**

**I know the morning is wiser than the evening
I know that wrong and right can sometimes look the same
So many things I know, but they don't help me
Each day I open up my eyes and start again**

**The light comes shining in my eyes
The light comes shining in my eyes
The light comes shining in my eyes
The light comes shining in my eyes**

**So many stories, I want to tell you
I wish that I could show you the many things I've seen
You and your daddy, you both look like poets
Your eyes are open wide while you are in a dream**

**I know the morning is wiser than the night time
I know there's nothing wrong, I shouldn't feel so down
So many things I know, but they don't help me
Each day I open up my eyes to look around**

**The sun comes shining in my eyes
The sun comes shining in my eyes
The sun comes shining in my eyes
The sun comes shining in....**

**My eyes are closed now
Count the stars inside your mind
Count the breaths, count heartbeats
Count the sounds of life**

**The light was shining in my eyes before I closed them
And all the dreams I had the night before were gone
The faces that I'd seen looked so familiar
But I forgot them all when I saw the sun**

**I know the morning is wiser than the evening
I know that all of life just happens in between
So many things I know, but they don't help me
Each day I open up my eyes and it begins**

The light comes shining in my eyes
The light comes shining in my eyes
The light comes shining in my eyes
The light comes shining in my eyes

The light, the light, the light, the light
The light, the light, the light...

Eucharist & Post Communion Prayer – Jim Hamilton

All are welcome at the Eucharistic table. If you do not wish to participate, feel free to take this time for meditation or personal reflection.

Prayer and Blessing – Jim Hamilton

Closing Announcement:

- **Cleanup: altar, hospitality, name tags, chairs**

Song – New Beginning - Tracy Chapman - The Band

The whole world's broke and it ain't worth fixing
It's time to start all over, make a new beginning
There's too much pain, too much suffering
Let's resolve to start all over make a new beginning

Now don't get me wrong I love life and living
But when you wake up and look around at everything that's going down
All wrong
You see we need to change it now, this world with too few happy endings
We can resolve to start all over make a new beginning

Start all over
Start all over
Start all over
Start all over

The world is broken into fragments and pieces
That once were joined together in a unified whole
But now too many stand alone There's too much separation
We can resolve to come together in the new beginning

Start all over
Start all over
Start all over
Start all over

**We can break the cycle - We can break the chain
We can start all over - In the new beginning
We can learn, we can teach
We can share the myths the dream the prayer
The notion that we can do better
Change our lives and paths
Create a new world**

**And Start all over
Start all over
Start all over
Start all over**

**The whole world's broke and it ain't worth fixing
It's time to start all over, make a new beginning
There's too much fighting, too little understanding
It's time to stop and start all over
Make a new beginning**

**Start all over
Start all over
Start all over
Start all over**

**We need to make new symbols
Make new signs
Make a new language
With these we'll define the world**

**And start all over
Start all over
Start all over
Start all over**

Dismissal – Jim Hamilton
