

**First United Church, Mount Pearl Pastoral Charge  
Second Sunday of Advent, White Gift Service  
December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – 11 am**

**Praise Medley:** Therefore the Redeemed, Jump for Joy, When a Child is Born, There is Joy in the Lord

**Greeting and Announcements**

**Opening Prayer:**

Give thanks to God, for God is good!

**God's love endures forever!**

May the lost, the found, the weary, and the joyful hear...

**God's love endures forever.**

May the thirsty, the hungry, the imprisoned, and the free hear...

**God's love endures forever.**

As we gather and grow, give and receive...

**we sing of God's unfailing love!**

**Hymn:** "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" **VU 36**

***Second Sunday of Advent – 'The Candle of Peace'***

**I Am Walking a Path of Peace** (sung, remain seated)

*I am walking a path of peace, I am walking a path of peace,  
I am walking a path of peace, lead me home, lead me home.*

**Voice 1:**

"The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them." (Isaiah 11:6)

**Voice 2:**

What does peace look like in the new world?

**Peace looks like a flowing river where every living thing has what they need to flourish. Peace looks like a place where those who are weak are not afraid of those who are strong. Peace looks like good conversations around big tables.**

**Voice 2:**

Advent is the beginning of this new world, a better world, where we can boldly build a good life together. (Second Advent Candle is lit)

**I Am Walking a Path of Peace** (sung, remain seated)

*I am walking a path of peace, I am walking a path of peace,  
I am walking a path of peace, lead me home, lead me home.*

**Music by 'The Right Fit'**

**An Advent Prayer of Confession and Healing:**

**As we witness the fear, in the news and in our streets, we make space for hope in our lives. With broken hearts, faltering steps, and a desire for healing, we make gestures of peace with each other. As we greet strangers, neighbours, and friends, we make a place for joy in the chaos of our concerns. Awaiting a future announced and promised by the Living God, we make room for love in our habits, hearts, and homes.** (silent reflection)

**Assurance of Pardon:**

Holy One, you make the crooked ways straight and mend the broken soul. On this day, as we offer simple gifts in the face of profound need, remind us how your grace grows in our giving and receiving. Inspire the rebirth of love—in our world and in our lives—as we dedicate ourselves to your justice and mercy.

**Thanks be to God, amen.**

**Collecting the White Gifts**

**Offertory Hymn:** *What can I give him, poor as I am?*

*If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
yet, what I can, I give him—give my heart.*

**Offertory Prayer:**

**All things come from you, Creating God, and by your grace we offer our gifts in return. Bless us and what we do here, that we and all your people might experience the renewal of life you reveal in Christ Jesus. Open our hearts and minds to receive your continual gift of transformation this day, and always. Amen.**

**Hymn:** Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

## **Music by 'The Right Fit'**

### **Scripture Readings:**

Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalm 85 **on page 802 of VU**

Mark 1:1-8

### **Shepherds**

**Hymn:** While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By  
Night **VU 75 verse 1 & 2** (seated)

### **Angelic Beginning**

Scripture

**Hymn:** While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By  
Night **VU 75 verse 3 & 4** (seated)

Reading

### **Shock and Awe**

Reading

Scripture

**Hymn:** While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By  
Night **VU 75 verse 5 & 6** (seated)

### **Off to Bethlehem**

Reading

Scripture

**Hymn:** O Little Town of Bethlehem **VU 64** (seated)

### **Preparing for the Birth**

Reading

**Hymn:** Hark! the Herald Angels Sing **VU 48**

Reading

Scripture

## **Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

**Prayer Response:** Lord Listen to Your Children Praying  
**VU 400**

**Hymn:** Go Tell It On the Mountain **VU 43**

## **Benediction**