

Welcome & Intro to time together

Call to Worship:

One Voice: Family of faith, God is at work!

All: God is healing and creating,

redeeming and dreaming,

calling and sending,

listening and loving.

Yes, indeed, God is at work!

So may we worship our God who never gives up.

May we worship our God who holds onto hope.

Amen.

Advent Candle Lighting

One: In a world full of fear,

where do you see glimmers of peace?

**All: We see glimmers of peace in the quiet evening gatherings,
when people shake hands, when loved ones say they're sorry,
and when the church sings together.**

You are right. Even in a fearful world, peace is all around us.

Today we light the candle of peace as a reminder of this good news.
May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world,
peace is present. We only have to look for it.

Light candle.

All: Thanks be to God!

Amen

Worship in Song

Poem:

God in the Kitchen

I called home my first semester of college. I told my mom I was fine,
but I was homesick. She must have heard the truth in my voice.
The ache ate at me. It was a long, slow song, a million tiny ants
slurping the juice from a peach. I was tender and bruised,
in the doldrums of it all. But she could hear all of that. So three states away,
she preheated the oven. Three states away,
she tossed blueberries in a thin layer of flour. Three states away,
she dusted a layer of streusel over the soft peaks
of a dozen warm muffins. And three days later,
I unboxed a package from home—
a dozen blueberry muffins, a love letter with my name on it,
a reminder that I was not alone.
If you're running out of hope, count to three.
God is in the kitchen. She's just waiting for yeast to rise.

Worship in Song

Passing the Peace (embodied)

-Please Stand-

(place palms over your heart)

Leader: God makes peace within us.

All: Let us claim it.

(bind opposite hands together)

God makes peace between us.

All: Let us share it.

The peace of God is here to stay.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

(extend palms out as a blessing to all)

Community Announcements - Invitation to Recurring giving

Sacred Readings

Matthew 11:1-11

Let us open our hearts, souls, bodies, and minds to receive what the Spirit is inviting us into from the Gospel of Matthew:

Now when Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and proclaim his message in their cities.

2 When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples 3 and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" 4 Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5 the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. 6 And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

7 As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? 8 What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. 9 What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

11 "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

For the Word of God in Scripture

For the Word of God among us

For the Word of God within us

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Reflection: *When We're Running Out of Hope, God is at Work*

Communion

Worship in Song

Doxology

Please make a circle around the sanctuary

Blessing and Sending