

First United Church, Mount Pearl Pastoral Charge
December 7th, 2025

Praise Medley: C-H-R-S-T-M-A-S, Beautiful Star of Bethlehem

Greeting and Sharing the Peace

Announcements

Introit: A Candle Is Burning **VU 6 vs 2**

Call to Worship:

John came out of the wilderness to preach repentance; he preaches to us still.

Make straight the paths we now walk and prepare the way for God's reign of justice and love.

Gathering Prayer: (unison)

Covenant God, you send us messengers to cleanse and refine us for your coming. Help us endure the mirror of the prophets' message, that we may see you when you suddenly appear among us; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Lighting the Advent Candle - the Candle of Peace:

(Light first blue candle)

1: The second Sunday of Advent has arrived.

We join the dance of dark and light.

2: Imagine the sun setting in the western sky, the darkness welcoming and embracing the sun, guiding it into a peaceful night.

1: As the sun sets, the wisdom of darkness enfolds it.

Darkness guides the light.

2: Orange and red, deep blues and purples join the dance of light and dark.

And the peace of their dance settles upon us.

1: Light and dark, friends and companions.

One cannot exist without the other.

2: And out of their sunset dance bursts forth peace: the peace of God revealed.

May peace dance among us, the peace we know through Jesus.

(Light second blue candle)

Sung Response: (unison)

**Give me sunsets of peace,
let the dark and light dance.**

Give me sunsets of peace, I pray.

**Give me sunsets of peace,
let the dark and light dance,**

let the dark and light dance today.

Peace is coming. Peace is coming.

Peace is coming on Christmas Day.

Christ is coming. Christ is coming.

Christ is coming, shout "Hooray!"

Hymn: There's A Voice in the Wilderness **VU 18**

Call to Confession:

Saints, let us trust in God's love for us and confess our sin, confident in God's mercy.

Refining God, you have sent us prophets and we have not listened. We have not always determined what is best or made way for your reign in our lives, our church, and our society. Forgive us, we pray, and renew your covenant within us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

(Silent reflection)

Friends, I am confident of this:

if we repent, God is sure to forgive us.

The One who began a good work in us will bring it to completion.

Grateful for the promise of joy and of peace,

let us share that peace with one another.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn: Do You Hear What I Hear

A Time for All Ages

Invitation to the Offering:

We are called by God to present a harvest of righteousness – not by virtue of our own works, but by the grace of the one who began a good work in us, and is even now bringing it to completion. Let us bring the offerings of our lives to the Lord.

Offertory: Many Are the Lightbeams **VU 588 vs 4**

Offertory Prayer: (unison)

God of all righteousness, receive these gifts of gratitude, the offerings of our lives. Purify them with your refining fire so that they may serve your purposes and shine with your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 11:1–10

Psalms 72 on page 790 of VU, Parts One and Three

Matthew 3:1–12

Hymn: Make Me a Channel of Your Peace **VU 684**

Meditation

Ministry of Music

Hymn: Eat This Bread and Never Hunger **VU 471**

Celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Hymn: Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness **VU 28**

Blessing:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.