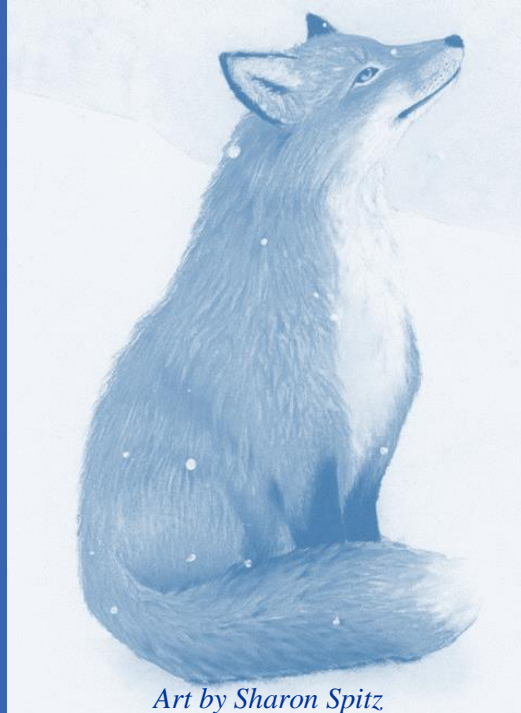


All Creation Waits
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Art by Sharon Spitz

December 3, 2023

Peace Lutheran Church



West Seattle, Washington



“In late fall, in the world’s north, the sun glides low in the sky.

Light dims, the air cools, signaling every living thing.

Animals know what to do when the season of dark and cold spreads over the earth.

Every creature makes changes to its home, its body, its habits.

Every creature makes ready to wait until the earth wakes again into the light & warmth of spring.

Waiting in the cold dark will be hard but each creature knows...

The dark is not an end. It’s a door. It’s the way a new beginning comes.”

Gayle Boss, All Creation Waits



Open Table ~ Open Invitation

We celebrate Christ’s presence in the Sacrament of the Table each week at Peace. Christ, our Host, meets us in this meal of grace and offers himself, fully embodied, in the bread and wine. He invites all to come and meet him in this Holy Meal.

+ GATHERING +

P – *Presider* C – *Congregation* L – *Lector* A – *Assisting Minister*
ELW – *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

PRELUDE

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Arr. Anne Krentz Organ

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP *Please rise as able in body or spirit as we gather at the font.*

P We gather as we live, in the name of God, our Creator, Liberator + and Sustainer.

C **Amen.**

P Dearly Beloved, led by the example of Christ, we are called to rest our hearts in God as we courageously love and serve one another and all of creation. But resting in God during this season of Advent is not easy to do.

C **There are lists to compile, expectations to fulfill, schedules that drive us from sunup to sundown, leaving scant room to pause or ponder. Our longing goes unfulfilled. Where can we turn? Who can show us another way to move through this hallowed season?**

A Animals know what to do when the season of dark and cold spreads over the north. Every creature makes changes to its home, its body, its habits. Waiting in the cold dark is hard, but each creature knows: the dark is not an end but a door; the way to a new beginning.

C **Place us at the feet of wild siblings this Advent, that we might learn from them how to turn our longing into pausing, pondering, and trusting that you, O God, are with us now and ever shall be. Amen.**

ADVENT SONG

There is a Longing in Our Hearts

ACS #1078, *Refrain*

Refrain – All

There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to re -
veal your - self to us. There is a long-ing in our
hearts for love we on - ly find in you, our God.

GREETING

P The abounding grace of Jesus Christ, the steadfast love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

KYRIE

Ky-ri - e e - le - i - son, Chri - ste e - le - i - son,
Ky-ri - e e - le - e - le - i - son.
Ga - thered by your love, we pray for hea - ling and hope. Lord.
give us peace, make us one, sal - va - tion come.
From your per - fect love, bring your per - fect reign to
ev' - ry heart, ev' - ry home; let love be known.
Lord our God have mer - cy, Je - sus Christ have mer - cy,
Save us by your mer - cy Lord. _____

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O God, you are the source of all we are and all we can become.

You breathe life into us and teach us with truth and wisdom. Be with us this season.

Tune our minds and hearts to the rhythms of the land and its creatures, that through them we might learn to rest in you and find courage and confidence in your promised coming.

In the name of the Holy One who was, who is, and who is to come.

C **Amen.**

ADVENT LIGHTING DIALOG

Julie & Ben Ward

ADVENT LIGHTING PRAYER

L Let us pray. Dear God, as we light the first candle on this evergreen crown, we remember our sister, the Painted Turtle. Grant that we may find times and places for blessed stillness this season, trusting that your advent among us will be fulfilled in due time. Through him who is our hope, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

The First Advent Candle is lit.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Pastor Erik

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

Helen Hundley

This communal lament comes from a people who have had their hopes and dreams shattered. The great visions of a restored Jerusalem have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account--to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

- ¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect you came down,
the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen
any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.
⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

L Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

C Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM

He Is the Light That Shines

Ruth Schram

PSALM: Psalm 95

The assembly joins the cantor on each refrain:

For you, O Lord, my soul in still - ness
waits, tru - ly my hope is in you.

The musical notation consists of two staves. The first staff is in 4/4 time and contains the melody for the first line of text. The second staff is in 2/4 time and contains the melody for the second line of text. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Cantor: Creator God, your Breath upon the waters,
brought forth new life where none as yet had been,
breathe once again, invite us into stillness. *Refrain*

O Spring of Joy, rain down upon our spirits,
Our thirsty hearts are yearning for your Word,
Come, make us whole, be comfort to our hearts. *Refrain*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The musical notation is on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a simple melody with eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

The musical notation is on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a simple melody with quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 13th Chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

In today's reading, Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

[Jesus said:] ²⁴In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³² "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

L The Gospel of the Lord.
 C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Erik Kindem

HYMN OF THE DAY

In a Deep Unbounded Darkness

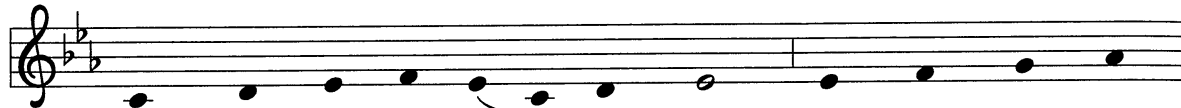
ACS #1093



1 In a deep, un - bound - ed dark - ness, long be - fore the
 2 Though our world is ev - er - chang - ing, you are con - stant,
 3 Joy trans - forms our lips to boast - ing on - ly in your
 4 God of Ha - gar, God of Sa - rah, God of no - mad



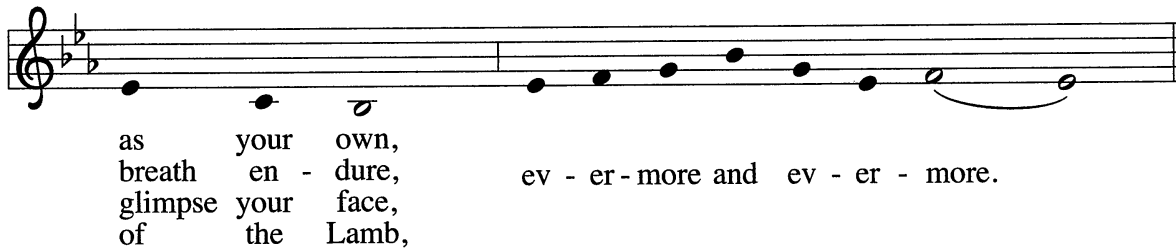
first light shone, you, O God, be - yond all mer - it
 firm, and sure, faith - ful to your cov - 'nant prom - ise.
 match - less grace, send - ing Christ to dwell a - mong us,
 A - bra - ham; God of Mir - iam, God of Mo - ses,



worked a won - der faith makes known: in your mer - cy,
 Trust - ing you, we live, se - cure: sing - ing prais - es,
 Word made flesh in time and space: Friend and Sav - ior,
 Fi - 'ry Pil - lar, great I AM: lead us home - ward,



in your mer - cy, you em - braced us
 sing - ing prais - es, long as heart and
 Friend and Sav - ior, in whose life we
 lead us home - ward, to the love - feast



as your own,
breath en - dure,
glimpse your face,
of the Lamb,
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for church and world, all creation, and all who await God’s day of restoration.

Petitions are offered that end with:

- A Merciful God,
- C **receive our prayer.**

When all petitions have been offered:

- A Listen to these and all our prayers, O God, and restore us with your great and tender mercy.
- C **Amen.**

+ MEAL +

THE PEACE

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

Your financial gifts today support the ongoing ministry of our congregation, cooperative ventures of ELCA congregations throughout Western Washington, and Evangelical Lutheran ministries around the world. We invite you to give generously! You can place your gift in the offering plate, mail in a check, or connect to our secure [Tithely Giving Page](#) via this QR CODE. Whatever size, your gift makes difference—thank you for your support!



OFFERTORY HYMN

We Raise Our Hands to You

ELW #690



1 We raise our hands to you, O Lord, like
2 What good and bless - ing you be - stow are
5 Through grace your new cre - a - tion lies in
emp - ty ves - sels. Oh, come to us and
free - ly giv - en. Your pow'r will make the
hands held o - pen. O Giv - er of all

cont. on next page →



give us life from springs where liv - ing wa - ters flow.
weak - est strong and bar - ren branch - es start to bud.
good - ness, come, dwell with us in our earth - ly home.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. God our provider,

C by your merciful hand abundance springs up from Earth.

Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.

**Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people,
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts!

C We lift them to the Lord!

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and altender God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new when he brings his reign of justice and peace. And so, with Earth and all her creatures, with the church on Earth and all the host of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life;

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

P On the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

C Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

P Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 C **This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*ecumenical*)

P Gathered as one, we pray as Jesus taught us.
 C **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
 now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.
 Come, take your place at the table.
 C **Thanks be to God!**

DISTRIBUTION *As you come forward to Communion, we invite you to bring
 your food items for the Welcome Table and set them in the front pews.*

We commune processionally. Extend your hands to receive bread. A gluten free wafer is also available. Both wine (dark) and grape juice (light) are available in ceramic cups. Place your empty cup in the box at the end of the front pew on your way back. Children are welcome to receive when their parents believe they are ready, with the support of the pastor. Any who prefer a blessing may cross their hands over their chest as they come forward.

LAMB OF GOD

ELW #196

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take
 O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 grant us your peace. A - - - men.

COMMUNION HYMN

As the Dark Awaits the Dawn

ELW #261



1 As the dark a - waits the dawn,
2 As the blue ex - pec - tant hour
3 As the moon re - flects the sun
4 Shine your fu - ture on this place,



so we a - wait your light. O Star of
be - fore the sil - v'ring skies, we long to
un - til the night's de - crease, may we your
en - light - en ev - 'ry guest, that through us



prom - ise, scat - ter night, lov - ing bright, lov - ing
see your day a - rise, whole and wise, whole and
heal - ing light re - lease, liv - ing peace, liv - ing
stream your ho - li - ness, bright and blest, bright and



bright,
wise, till shades of fear are gone.
peace, O lu - cent Morn - ing Star.
blest; come dawn, O Sun of grace.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A Let us pray. Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

BLESSING

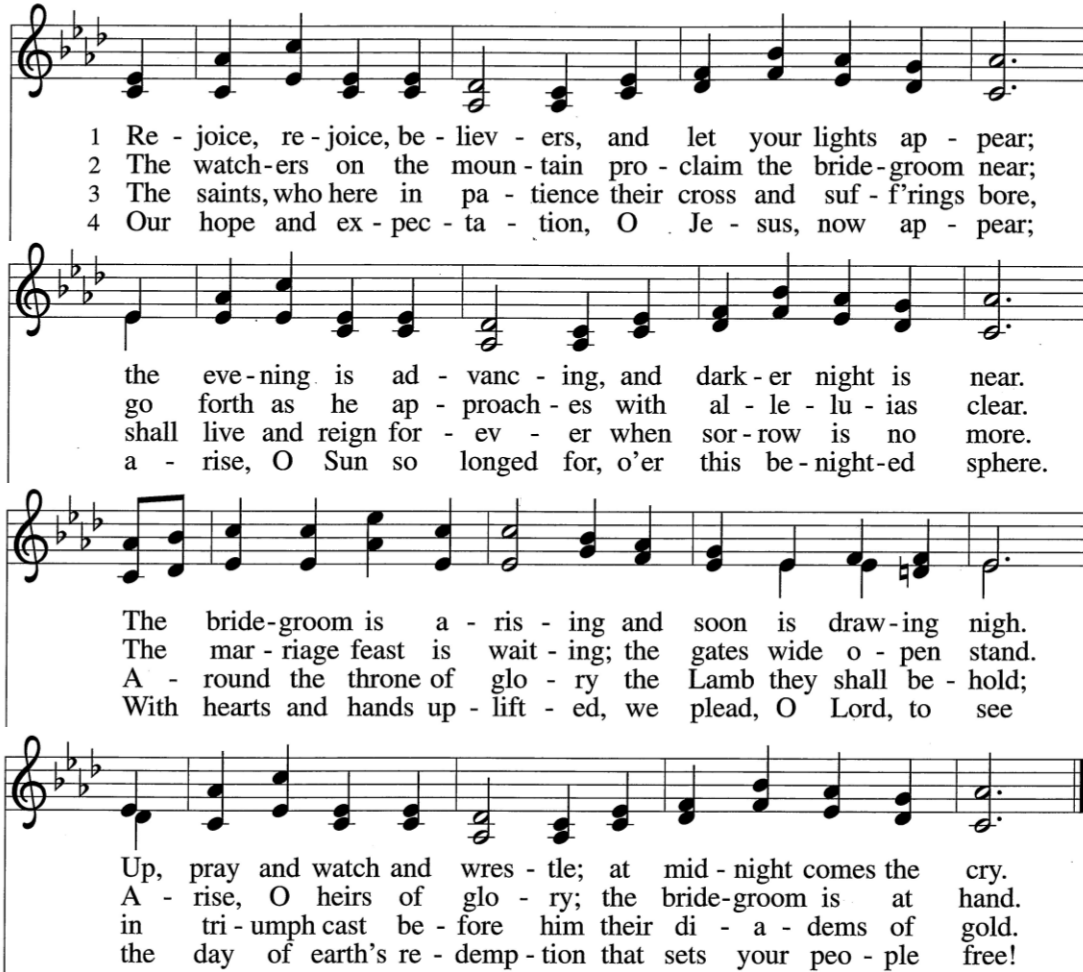
P The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you,
and the power of the Spirit + give life to you, now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

ELW #244



1 Re - rejoice, re - rejoice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'rings bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.

The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

A Go in peace. Christ is near.

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Sleepers Awake

Johann Walther



CONTACT INFORMATION

8316 39th Avenue SW, Seattle, WA 98136

206-935-1962

Pastor Erik Kindem's mobile phone number:

206-930-3172

Pastor Erik Kindem's email:

Pastor@PeaceLutheranSeattle.org

Peace Lutheran web page:

www. PeaceLutheranSeattle.org

Kathleen Keyes Office Admin.

Office@ PeaceLutheranSeattle.org

Church Office hours:

Tuesday through Thursday 10:00am-3:00pm

Nicole Klinemeier, Youth Director

206-427-6496

Jon Lackey, Minister of Music

Music@ PeaceLutheranSeattle.org

Find us on  at **People of Peace Lutheran**

SERVING IN WORSHIP

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Pastor | Rev. Erik Kindem |
| Minister of Music | Jon Lackey |
| Advent Dialogue | Julie & Ben Ward |
| Liturgical Assistant | Paul Bliss |
| Acolyte | Esme Klinemeier |
| Lector | Helen Hundley |
| Children's Sermon | Pastor Erik |
| Greeters | Helen Hundley, Shannon Williams |
| Ushers | Barbara Hillier, David Kehle |
| Altar Care | Boots Winterstein |
| Communion Assistants | Shannon Williams, Naomi Kindem |
| Coffee Server | Helen Hundley |
| Nursery Attendant | Heidi Coy |
| Production Techs | Dustin Smith, Alex Wren |
| Counters | Jim Lukens, Paul Bliss |

OUR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Our mission goal for 2023 anticipates receiving offering income of \$25,819 each month. At the end of October we were approximately \$8,500 under our giving goal year to date.

Offering Income received November 2023

| | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| 11/05/23 | \$ 6,574.00 |
| 11/12/23 | \$ 3,370.00 |
| 11/19/23 | \$ 1,726.00 |
| 11/26/23 | \$ 443.00 |
| Electronic | <u>\$11,574.04</u> |
| Total | \$23,687.04 |

Thank you for your gifts which support God's mission at Peace, in the larger community, and internationally through the ELCA.

THIS WEEK'S ACT FOR CREATION

Tomorrow is World Wildlife Conservation Day, an occasion to be aware, reflect, and take action when it comes to issues that are threatening the planet's wildlife biodiversity balance. To help the wildlife in your own backyard, you can shrink the size of your lawn and create beds of native plants to feed native critical critters, including insects and birds. Keep cats indoors where they're safe and can't act on instinct to kill birds. Turn off all outdoor lights at night so birds and bats can sleep and see. And make plans to join us for the *All Creation Waits* reading with author Gayle Boss next Sunday, December 10! **Pray for Creation:** We pray that climate justice and social justice will prevail at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai.

DECEMBER 6, 13, 20 – Midweek Advent Services

This year's Midweek Advent Services are being hosted by Boots and Paul Winterstein on the first three Wednesdays of December. Join us for a simple soup meal @ 6pm followed by simple service @ 7:00pm. Come for one of both! (Note: one of the soups each week will be vegan 😊)

Our theme this Advent is PAUSE – PREPARE – PONDER, and links us to the emphasis we're observing in our homes and in Sunday worship with the Advent Devotional book: *All Creation Waits*. These reflective gatherings in the home of Peace members recalls the roots of the early church, when the communities planted by Paul on his mission journeys inevitable took place in people's homes. Please join us for a reflective and hospitable evening! For more information call: 206/762-1362.

PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT DECEMBER 4

Monday, December 4, 7:30pm – Benaroya Concert Hall, Seattle. Join PLU for this beloved holiday tradition, as the Choir of the West, University Chorale, and University Symphony Orchestra present the annual PLU Christmas Concert. Works by Dan Forrest, John Rutter, Caroline Shaw, Rosephanye Powell, and Mack Wilberg highlight our traditional carols and seasonal favorites. Join us as we explore the theme of “Light”, and seek illumination, joy, and renewal in the Christmas season. Learn more and get tickets here: <https://www.plu.edu/christmas/>

SOCK IT TO HOMELESSNESS!!

Comfort tired feet. Lift weary spirits. Give someone hope. Operation Nightwatch has a goal of collecting 30,000 pairs of socks in the next six months. Will you help? Find the Blue Tub in the narthex. Socks are critical to the comfort and well-being of homeless people. Imagine what it must be like to have the same pair of nasty, wet socks on your feet, 24-hours a day. Not good. There will be an open house December 3, 2023 12:30 to 2:00 pm at the Shelter Dispatch Center. For more information, call 206-323-4359, email info@seattlenightwatch.org or click here: [Find Out More](#)

DECEMBER 17: A FIRST LOOK AT FUNDING OUR MISSION

Early in December each year the council provides an opportunity to preview and comment on the coming year’s draft budget, which is now under development for 2024. This year, that opportunity is scheduled for Sunday, December 17th following Worship. This meeting will be in-person only.

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT/CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday, December 24th is doing double duty this year – as both the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve. The Worship Planning Team has set the schedule as follows:

4th Sunday of Advent Worship @ 10:30am (Live streamed) No Sunday School or Adult Forum.

Christmas Eve Family Service @ 5:00pm with costumes! Come one and all and be part of the drama.

Christmas Eve Holy Communion Service @ 9:00pm, lessons and carols, message, Eucharist.

CHRISTMAS GIFT BAGS FOR WELCOME TABLE!

As in past few years, Peace members are invited to fill a big bag with essentials and some fun things, too. Find 15 large plastic bags in the Narthex; list of needed items included. Please consider signing up for one (or more!) bags. You can return your filled bag to Peace by December 15 -- or take it directly to the WIN Holiday celebration on Saturday, December 16 at the Body of Christ courtyard - just two blocks east of McClendon's Hardware. This is a great family project! Questions: Marcia Olson

PRAYER LIST

Please continue to remember the sick and home-bound of our congregation and others who have sought our prayers: Sick/Recovering: Kathy Anderson; Cay Bell; Joyce Bitner; Mary Brocker; Jan Burt; Melanie Coulson; Heidi Coy; Karl Coy; Marsha Davis; Laura Dwyer; Joe Flint; Marge Flint; Caity Gerhardt; Dawn Gringorten; Signa Gustafson; Donna Heiland; Mary Jacob; Ken Keyes; Dee Levy; Justin Makboul; Evelyn Martinez; Eddie McDaniel; Ken McPherson; Erin McPherson; Steve Metzler; Katrina Moore; Bill Morrell; Penelope Grace; Michelle Pierce; Rachel; Irma Runge; JoAnne Spangler; Pat Spangler; Sean Stephens; Sarah Taylor; Pam Webber; Judy Wiggins; Patti Wunder.

Homebound: Jim Baker; Connie Benjamin; Lee Lamson; Jan Madsen

PROTOCOL FOR PRAYER LIST We will keep people on the prayer list for one month unless otherwise specified or unless you contact the Peace office to extend the time.

RECONCILING IN CHRIST AFFIRMATION OF WELCOME

Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness, in a world that can be filled with alienation and brokenness. In faithfulness to the Gospel and to our Lutheran heritage, we answer Christ's call to be agents of healing and safety, particularly for people who have been marginalized by our society. As a Christian community, we invite all people to join us as we work to better understand the meaning of grace for our lives. We welcome people of all sexual orientations and gender identities into the life and mission of our congregation.



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