

The United Church of Canada  
**Lennoxville United Church**

St Francis Manoir & Grace Village & Manoir Stanstead

A service of Advent meditation for at home

December 2021: Week 2 Peace

**Grounding Prayer**

(Take a deep breath, center yourself within the love of God)

God, You are present, may I/we be transformed by this encounter.

**Opening Prayer:**

Loving God, Holy Creator, Nurturer, and Guide, may we awaken each morning feeling we are part of your greater plan for good. May we have meaningful work and activity in life. Help us to remember that you are the power in whom we live, move, and have our being. When we dispense blessing, forgiveness, and kindness-wherever we find ourselves this day, may we twinkle and sparkle, radiating light and peace, not as this world gives, but as you give. Through Jesus, may we be a star in the shadows of life. Shine in our souls. May our work be your love! Amen.

**Advent Wreath Lighting Liturgy**

*(as the first candle is lit)* On the first Sunday of Advent we lit a candle for Hope.

*(as the second candle is lit)* Today we light a candle for Peace.

This is the Peace we search for:

Peace of mind that enables us to think clearly and act with confidence, Peace in our hearts that enables us to feel calm

and share compassion, Peace in our spirits that puts us in touch with God's love and Christ's Way.

Peace in our homes, peace at work and school,

Peace when we are among our friends,

Peace within the family circle.

Peace within us, Peace around us, A Peace to hold us strong,

A Peace that encourages us to work as Jesus did, for justice and sharing. Amen.

**Hymn: A Candle is Burning (VU6) (tune Away in a Manger)**

A candle is burning, a candle of peace,

A candle to signal that conflict must cease:

For Jesus is coming to show us the way;

A message of peace humbly laid in the hay.

### **Prayer of Illumination:**

Open our hearts, O God. Open our eyes. Open our lives. As we hear the scripture today and as we see the message acted out, open us to the message of Christmas. Help us to live that message all year. Amen.

### **A Reading from the Gospel of John 1:1-9**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

*The Living Word, I listen with my heart, my mind and my spirit.*

### **A Short Reflection:**

Think about a time that you felt at peace...

Think about what 'peace on earth' could look like...

How can you cultivate peace in your own life?

### **Prayers of the People:**

Compassionate God, I humbly come before you trusting in your deep love for all your children, and your deep love for me. I thank you for your gifts in my life (pause to reflect on your blessings). I am faced with challenges and struggles, and so I ask for your courage and strength (pause and reflect on your concerns). I know that you hear me when I call, and I ask that you remind me that you are with me in the challenges and joys of living. Inspire me with your love and empower me with your hope. I pray using the words Jesus gave to his disciples;

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*

### **Blessing & Commissioning**

Thanks be to God, for the Word-Made-Flesh. Go now, celebrating the Light of the World in this season of Advent.

Expand the Light. Announce the hope. Spread the peace. Join the joy. Offer the love! May the word of God continue to be alive through you and me. Amen.

Prayers by:

OP: Jani Francis, Gathering A/C/E 2020-2021 (Year B), 31.

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