

**WORSHIP PLAN**  
**Sunday, December 10, 2017**  
**Foothills United Church, Calgary**  
**Second Sunday of Advent – Peace**

**GATHERING**

**Prelude Music**

*Bill Bradley*

*Time for Reflection and Prayer Candles*

**Greeting**

Presider: Wendyanne Mothersole

**Lighting the Advent Candle**

One: Last Sunday we lit the first candle-the candle of hope.

Today we light the second candle, the candle of peace.

We light it knowing full well that peace is elusive, and in some parts of the world, it is almost completely absent. Yet in this season of Advent, we trust that God is never absent from us. God is always preparing something new. And even where there is war and conflict, whether between countries, within families, or within our own hearts, God is present, gently leading us to new possibilities.

Light the candle of Peace (Purple Candle)

2.

**Voices United: #6 A Candle is Burning**  
**Verse 2.**

**A candle is burning, a candle of peace,  
a candle to signal that conflict might cease:  
For Jesus is coming to show us the way;  
A message of peace humbly laid in the hay.**

Two: Loving God, in this time  
of preparation and planning,  
We thank you for the hope and peace  
you unfailingly offer us.

Show us the creative power of hope.  
Teach us the peace that comes from justice.  
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,  
That we may walk in the light of Christ.

As we prepare for the light of the world,  
May the peace of Christ surround and enfold all of us,

**We will share in the Spirit;**

**We will find consolation in love.**

The peace of Christ is not out of reach,  
It is elusive, but we are steadfast.

**We will welcome Christ into our hearts.**

**We will live lives worthy of the Gospel.**

**We will move forward in hope and in peace.**

Adapted by Justin McNeill from contributions from Jeanyne Slettom.

3.

### **Call to Worship**

We continue on the journey of Advent,  
**sharing our stories of faith.**

We gather at the banks of the Jordan,  
**hearing the Good News, “the kingdom of  
heaven has come near!”**

Let John’s gift of the Holy Spirit renew  
our commitment,  
**so we will witness to God’s love revealed  
through Christ Jesus!**

Written by Sandy Ferguson.

Gathering, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2017-2018  
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### **Opening Prayer**

This Advent season is the reminder  
of your coming amongst us, O God.

To us, you are a mystery, and yet  
you also come to us

often in the midst of ordinary life.

In our despair: you are the God of Hope.

In our turmoil: you are the God of Peace.

And so, we enter into this time of worship with  
confidence and hope, know that you are always  
ready to meet us and bless us with love.

Amen.

Written by Kim Falls.

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4.

### **Passing of the Peace**

*We stand to welcome one another:*  
Peace of Christ be with you  
**And also with you!**

**Hymn: Hark the Glad Sound  
Voices United: #29**

### **Listening**

**Hebrew Text:  
Isaiah 40: 1-11**

**Responsive Reading:  
Psalm 85, VU #802  
(Part 1)**

**Gospel Reading:  
Mark 1: 1-8**

**Hymn: Maranatha  
More Voices #19**

**Reflection:  
Rev. Candace McNeill**

**5.**  
**RESPONDING**

**Hymn: There's a Voice in the Wilderness**  
**Voices United #18**

**Prayers of the People**

**Prayer Candles**

All may come up and light a candle

**The Lord's Prayer (Sung)**  
**Voices United: #959**

**Offering Invitation**

Through these gifts, may we be agents of peace  
in your world;  
Lifting people up in love so that they can experience  
an abundant future. Amen.

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**Gift of Music**  
Joanna Busch

**Hymn: Grant Us, God, The Grace**  
**Voices United: #540**

**6.**  
**Dedication Prayer**

As we prepare, O God,  
for the festival of Christ's birth  
help us to give in expectation of his return.  
May our gifts be used to prepare the world  
for Christ's coming,  
when all creation shall sing your praise. **Ame**  
Celebrate God's Presence, 1R002.  
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**Sending**

**News, Plans, Birthdays, Celebrations**

**Hymn: Comfort, Comfort Now My People**  
**Voices United #883**

**Blessing**

Enter this Advent week with peace.  
Enter this Advent with patience.  
May your waiting be rich  
and the presence of our God  
full and near to you.  
Bear God's hope to this world,  
like one candle overcoming the shadows.

Written by Robin Wardlaw.  
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**Organ Postlude**  
We pause to listen  
before we share coffee time

