



Worship Service for December 3, 2023
First Sunday of Advent

Prelude	Marshall Davies
Chiming of the Hour	Paula McKnight
Welcome	Pastor Felix
Centering Moment	Pastor Felix
Praise and Worship Song	Congregation

“A Light of Hope, A Song of Peace”

We light a candle for hope
and our world that’s longing for hope

We light a candle for hope
and our world that’s longing for hope Holy One,
shine with the fire our lives oh

We light a candle for hope
and our world that’s longing for hope

We light a candle for love
and our world that’s longing for love

We light a candle for love
and our world that’s longing for love Holy One,

shine with the fire our lives oh
We light a candle for love
and our world that's longing for love

We light a candle for joy
and our world that's longing for joy
We light a candle for joy
and our world that's longing for joy Holy One,
shine with the fire our lives oh

We light a candle for joy
and our world that's longing for joy

We light a candle for peace
and our world that's longing for peace
We light a candle for peace
and our world that's longing for peace Holy One,
shine with the fire our lives oh

We light a candle for peace
and our world that's longing for peace

Call to Worship

Paula McKnight

LEADER: In Advent we watch and wait.

ALL: We prepare to welcome the Christ Child into the world.

LEADER: Come, Holy Child, come!

ALL: In Advent we prepare for a life of discipleship, witness, and mission.

LEADER: We watch for signs of God's presence breaking into the world.

ALL: Come, Holy Child, come!

LEADER: We watch for signs of God's Divine Nature in each of us.

ALL: Actions of compassion and grace toward each other and creation.

LEADER: Come, Holy Child, come!

ALL: Remind us of our divine essence and holy calling to Hope.

***Hymn**

Marshall Davies

TNCH #112 "Keep Awake, Be Always Ready" vs. 1

Keep awake, be always ready,
 God's time approaches sure and steady,
 God's strength will keep your heart from blame.
 Clouds, the Spirit's light concealing,
 disperse, God's purest light revealing;
 creation will its Sovereign name.
 Dry branches burst forth green,
 God's advent signs are seen:
 Hallelujah!
 Christ's judgment won, God's will be done;
 God's new creation thus begun.

Gathering Prayer

Congregation

ALL: Creator of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for this Advent season and Christmas. We who have so much to do, seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day. We who are anxious over many things, look forward

to your coming among us. We who are blessed in so many ways, long for the complete joy of your kingdom. We are one spiritual community seeking and waiting for your light. We open our hearts to be a home for Jesus. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Peggy Johnson

It is the season of short days and long nights. We light this candle to remember that even in natural darkness, our lights shine. Let us slow down and listen to the sacred voice which is our guide, as we wait to celebrate the coming light in the Child Jesus.

Biblical Witness

Pastor Felix

Mark 13:32; 35-37

Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. 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, or else he may find you asleep when

he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.

Contemporary Witness

Paula McKnight

An Advent Litany (adapted)

Salt

A Website Resource

by Christine Sine

LEADER: The Advent Season is here.

ALL: New light dawning where there has been darkness.

LEADER: The Advent of new birth is here.

ALL: New hope arising where there has been death and despair.

LEADER: The Advent Season of new life is here.

ALL: New light, new hope, new life for all creation.

LEADER: This is a season of preparation.

ALL: We prepare for Jesus whose mission was to heal the divide.

LEADER: We wait with truthful anticipation.

ALL: This is a Season of watchfulness.

LEADER: We watch for the One who heard the cries of the world.

ALL: We wait in anticipation of God's true comfort and solace.

LEADER: This is a Season of promise.

ALL: We wait for the scattering of the darkness that covers the truth.

LEADER: This is a Season of reflection.

ALL: We expect to be transformed so we can be bearers of Jesus' light.

LEADER: This is a Season of fulfillment.

ALL: We await for the wholeness for the world. This is the Advent Season.

Reflection

Pastor Felix

“Wakefulness”

Special Music

Plymouth Choir

““A Light of Hope, A Song of Peace”

We light a candle, and we remember there is hope in the world.

There is hope.

We sing our heartsong, and we remember there is peace in the world.

There is peace.

The days are getting colder, the nights are growing long, but there is warmth and wonder, a candle and a song.

And so we shine till doubt and sorrow cease.

A light of hope, a song of peace.

A single candle will light another, spreading hope through this world, spreading hope.

We'll share our heartsong with one another, singing peace to this world, singing peace.

The days are getting colder, the nights are growing longer, but there is warmth and wonder, a candle and a song.

And so we shine till doubt and sorrow cease.

A light of hope, a song of peace.

And so we shine till doubt and sorrow cease.

A light of hope, a song of peace.

A song of peace.

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Felix

Communion

Pastor Felix

Jesus' Prayer

Congregation

The New Zealand Book of Prayer

**ALL: Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer,
Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is
heaven: The hallowing of your name echoes through
the universe! The way of your justice be followed by
the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done
by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace
and freedom sustains our hope and comes on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts
we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of
temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too
great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is
evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power
that is love, now and forever.**

Amen.

Invitation to Offering

Paula McKnight

Love146

Offertory Music

Marshall Davies

***Doxology**

Congregation

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God for all that Love has done

Creator, Christ, and Spirit one Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Paula McKnight

ALL: Holy One, we commit what we have offered to help sow seeds of hope, peace, joy, and love in the world. Bless now these offerings. May they be used in the service of your divine light.

Amen.

***Hymn**

Congregation

TNCH #107 “Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn”,
verses 1 & 3

Awake! awake, and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning,
sing out your joy, for Jesus is born,
behold! the Child of our longing.

Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
to open wide the heavenly door,
and lives now inside us forever.

In deepest night Christ's coming shall be,
when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free,
so warm and gentle and caring.

One without voice breaks forth in song,
a lame one leaps in wonder,

the weak are raised above the strong,
and weapons are broken asunder.

Benediction

Pastor Felix

Song of Parting

Congregation

Sing! # 201 “Deep Peace” vs. 1

Peace, peace, deep peace,
my peace I give to you.

Peace, peace, deep peace,
my peace I give to you.

Not as the world gives, I give to you,
Not as the world gives, I give to you,

Peace, peace, deep peace,
my peace I give to you.

Postlude

Marshall Davies

Today's Worship Participants

Worship Leader: Paula McKnight

Sound: Tony Trosclair

Video: Sarah Bowman

Projector: Mary Lowell

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