



# Cranston Memorial Presbyterian Church

December 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

## GATHERING

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, SHARED JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**INTROIT AND REKINDLING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

**LIGHTING A CANDLE FOR PEACE**

1. A voice cries out in the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord. On this second Sunday of Advent, we prepare the way for peace.
2. We claim the promise in the coming Christ; that by the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,
3. to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.
4. We light this candle as a prayer that the peace of Christ would be born again in our hearts, in our families, in our communities, and throughout God's world.



**ALL SINGING (Hymn #9, verse 3)**

*O come, O come, Desire of nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind.*

*Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;  
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**\* HYMN #3 Comfort, Comfort You My People**

**CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Coming One, your messengers are all around us, but they are so easy to ignore. You speak through the voices of our neighbors, crying out for dignity and respect. You call to us through the beauty of the season, inviting us to slow down and wonder. As we exchange gifts and share special meals, your voice invites us to gratitude. As we rush toward Christmas, your voice invites us to practice Advent; to notice our hopes and longings, and to prepare our hearts for peace.**

**TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**One:** Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say rejoice. The Lord is near.

**All:** **The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.**

**\* GLORIA PATRI**

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.*

*As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.*

**PASSING THE PEACE**

**TIME WITH THE CHILDREN'**

**SPECIAL MUSIC BoYun Li, violin**

**WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)**

**Speaking One, prepare our hearts and minds to welcome and receive the word you have for us today. Speak into our waiting and hoping; expand our understanding. Amen.**

**EPISTLE READING**

**Philippians 1:6-11 (Common English Bible)**

<sup>6</sup>I'm sure about this: the one who started a good work in you will stay with you to complete the job by the day of Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup>I have good reason to think this way about all of you because I keep you in my heart. You are all my partners in God's grace, both during my time in prison and in the defense and support of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>God is my witness that I feel affection for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.



<sup>9</sup>This is my prayer: that your love might become even more and more rich with knowledge and all kinds of insight. <sup>10</sup>I pray this so that you will be able to decide what really matters and so you will be sincere and blameless on the day of Christ. <sup>11</sup>I pray that you will then be filled with the fruit of righteousness, which comes from Jesus Christ, in order to give glory and praise to God.

## GOSPEL READING

**Luke 3:1-6** (*Common English Bible*)

In the fifteenth year of the rule of the emperor Tiberius—when Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea and Herod was ruler<sup>[a]</sup> over Galilee, his brother Philip was ruler<sup>[b]</sup> over Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was ruler<sup>[c]</sup> over Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas—God’s word came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>John went throughout the region of the Jordan River, calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. <sup>4</sup>This is just as it was written in the scroll of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

*A voice crying out in the wilderness:*

*“Prepare the way for the Lord;  
make his paths straight.*

<sup>5</sup>*Every valley will be filled,  
and every mountain and hill will be leveled.*

*The crooked will be made straight  
and the rough places made smooth.*

<sup>6</sup>*All humanity will see God’s salvation.”<sup>[d]</sup>*

One: For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us,  
for the Word of God within us,

**All: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

*The Practice of Preparing*

Rev. Rebecca Bosarge

**\* AN ADVENT AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: A NEW BEGINNING**

**We believe that the God who spoke creation into being has a dream for that creation, a loving, joyful dream of flourishing and peace. We believe that God is always at work among and within us to realize this dream more fully. We believe that the season of Advent is a new beginning for this dream; a dream born in a humble “yes” to a holy invitation and in cries from the wilderness; in quiet wonder and shouts of praise; in labor pains and shining glory. We believe that this dream of peace and goodwill to all creation is ever being born in us. And so, we say, come; make a new beginning with us. Come be born in us once again. Let us dream together.**

**\* HYMN # 11**

**O Lord, How Shall I Meet You**



## GIVE THANKS TO GOD

### PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

#### \* DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from Whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

#### \* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

## SENDING

\* HYMN #313                      Come Down, O Love Divine

### BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE AND SENDING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

\* *Please stand in body or in spirit*



*Thank you, BoYun Li, for sharing your gift of music with us this morning.*




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**WELCOME TO CRANSTON!** We send two emails each week to those interested: an invitation to worship and a summary of prayer concerns and announcements. If you would like to be added to the email list, please contact Pastor David Annett, by phone or at [pastor@cranstonchurch.org](mailto:pastor@cranstonchurch.org). Considering Membership? Contact Pastor David Annett.

**Session Members:**

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Amy Heekin Gleason	Christian Education	513-477-9751
Bob Lees	Membership and Outreach	513-310-3069
Dave Martin	Buildings and Grounds	513-601-1527
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Ruth Saylor	Treasurer	513-553-4031
Karen Roberts 	Musician	513-633-1964
Rev. David Annett	Minister	513-477-9723

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**PRAYER AND PRACTICE FOR THE WEEK:**

Try this breath prayer:

*His breath filled all living things with a living, breathing light* (John 1:4, The Voice translation).

Fill me (inhale)...with living light (exhale)...

Repeat several times and anytime throughout the day; each time, imagine that living light filling you.

How could you be an instrument of peace? Think about your words, your schedule, your physical environment, your work, your rest, your habits, your attitudes, your thoughts. Where in your daily life could you cultivate peace in yourself and in your world?

