

Worship Service ~ *Longing for Peace*

Second Sunday of Advent, Year A,

7th December, 2024

Luke 1:26-38 / Colossians 1:15-23

Prelude

played by church musician Annie Center,

Gathering Together

Welcome

Good morning, It's my pleasure to welcome you to worship with Olympic View Community Church. Please stand with me, if you're able, and hear the Lord call us into worship.

Call to Worship

One: The Lord whom you seek shall suddenly come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight.

All: Behold, he is coming. Rejoice greatly! Shout in triumph!

One: Our King is coming; the righteous Savior, who shall speak peace to the nations.

All: Come Lord Jesus, reign over us and be our peace!

Invocation

God of your people, with expectant hearts we await Christ's coming.

As once he came in humility, so now may he come in glory, that he may make all things perfect in your everlasting kingdom. For he is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

Opening Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High ~ 197

Lighting the Advent Candle

The Advent reading for this Sunday comes from **Philippians 4:4-7**.

Advent Reading ~ **Philippians 4:4-7**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Advent Candle (Peace)

Reader: *[Light Candle]*

Conflict and struggle "*in the world, in our homes and in our hearts*"
But Christ came - not to declare war - but to bring the gospel of peace.

All: We light this candle to signify God's peace that eclipses the conflict in us and in the world.

Engaging with God Together

Scripture Reading ~ **Luke 1:26-38**

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, **27** to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. **28** And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" **29** But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. **30** And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31** And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. **32** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, **33** and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

34 And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

35 And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. **36** And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. **37** For nothing will be impossible with God.” **38** And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Let’s greet one another with the peace of Christ as we pass the peace.

Pass the Peace

Sharing Announcements and Prayer Requests

In a moment we are going to pray together, but before we do, does anyone have any announcements to share about anything in the life of the church coming up? Does anyone have any joys or concerns to share?

Pastoral Prayer (responsive)

Prayer by pastor

Hymn ***Comfort, Comfort, O My People ~ 176***

Hearing the Word Together

Sermon Passage ~ Colossians 1:15-23

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. **16** For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. **17** And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. **18** And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. **19** For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, **20** and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, **22** he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, **23** if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Sermon ~ *Longing for Peace*

Rev. Jonny Finlayson

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Responding to the Word Together

Call to Serve

A Time for Reflection Played by church musician Annie Center,

Hymn ***O Come, O Come Immanuel ~ 172***

Benediction

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Short prayer by pastor

Postlude played by church musician Annie Center,

Olympic View - Copyright used and reported under CCLI Streaming License 20261246