

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

SOUNDING THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP *from This Year Will Be Different Ann Weems*

One: Who among us does not have dreams that this year will be different?

Many: Who among us does not intend to go peacefully, leisurely, carefully toward Bethlehem?

One: For who among us likes to cope with the commercialism of Christmas which lures us to tinsel not only the tree but also our hearts?

Many: Who among us intends to get caught up in the tearing around and wearing down?

One: Who among us does not long for: gifts that give love, shopping in serenity, cards and presents sent off early, and tree trimming devoid of arguing who's going to hang what where.

Many: Who among us does not yearn for time for our hearts to ponder the Word of God, and the peace of quiet calm for our spirit's journey?

One: This year we intend to follow the Star instead of the crowd. But, of course, we always do intend the best.

Many: This year, when we find ourselves off the path again (as we invariably will), let's not add yet another stress to our Advent days ~ that of "trying to do Christmas correctly"!

ALL: Instead, let's approach the birth of our Lord with joyful abandon!

*OPENING HYMN *Come, O Long-Expected Jesus*

#122

ADVENT WREATH

Readings and lighting the Candle of Peace.

God of reconciliation, You bless us with hope.

You call us to peace.

May we seek Your peace through simple acts of caring and courageous acts of understanding. Amen.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, hear us this day as we open our hearts and our spirits to You. These times in which we live are often confusing and fearful. We are pushed to make preparations for a season which is supposed to bring hope and peace; yet we crowd it with obligations and stresses and shut the door to your healing love and compassion. We find ourselves being on edge, fretful, wondering if we have done enough, can do enough. You answer our fears with your voice, "Peace, be still". Help us to hear you. Slow us down. Encourage us to take some time to listen rather than shout, to stop and rest rather than run. Cause us to look around at situations and people who are in need and to place our focus on helping them. For it is in helping your people and reaching out in love that we will find true peace. These things we pray, in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Jesus said, "I am come to bring you peace, not the kind of peace the world would give to you. My peace I give to you, now and forever." Be at peace. Know God's love is given for you. AMEN.

CHILDREN'S CELEBRATION

PASSING THE PEACE

*GLORIA PATRI

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

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

ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE READING *Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6*

SERMON *Finding Peace in the Midst of It* Rev. Dr. Janet Peck

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord's Prayer

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

THE MORNING OFFERING

*Doxology

*Praise God from who all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God for all that love has done,
Creator, Christ, and Spirit one.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN OF SENDING *Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult* #172

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Pianist Joseph Cough, Jr.

**Please stand if you are able*

We remember in our prayers: Grace and Susan Greene, Don Gage, George Greene, Sammy Soule, Tom Boudin, Margaret Ellsworth, Rose Young, Ron Leeman, Joe Dee, Kathleen Grigg, Betancourt family, and our neighbors at the Edgcomb Green.

Acknowledgements: Except where otherwise noted, music in today's bulletin that is not in the public domain is reprinted/podcast/ streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-739201. All rights reserved.

Edgcomb Community Church

United Church of Christ

*"To bring together our communities in spirituality and loving
service to humankind."*



December 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

"God is still speaking"



An Open and Affirming Congregation

15 Cross Point Road, P.O. Box 113, Edgcomb, ME 04556
www.edgcombchurch.org FB/EdgcombCongochurch

Phone: 207.882.4060

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Janet Peck

Church Coordinator: Marjorie DiVece

Pianist: Joseph Cough, Jr.