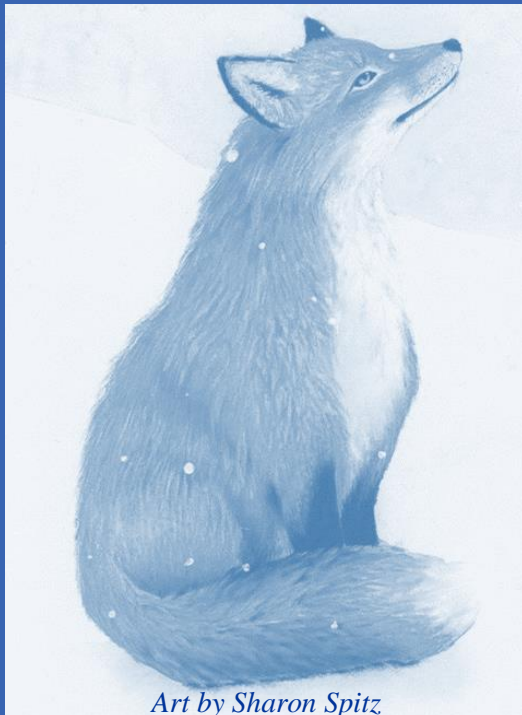


All Creation Waits
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Art by Sharon Spitz

December 17, 2023

Peace Lutheran Church



West Seattle, Washington

+ + +

“In late fall, in the world’s north, the sun glides low in the sky.

Light dims, the air cools, signaling every living thing.

Animals know what to do when the season of dark and cold spreads over the earth.

Every creature makes changes to its home, its body, its habits.

Every creature makes ready to wait until the earth wakes again into the light & warmth of spring.

Waiting in the cold dark will be hard but each creature knows...

The dark is not an end. It’s a door. It’s the way a new beginning comes.”

- Gayle Boss, All Creation Waits

+ + +

Open Table ~ Open Invitation

We celebrate Christ’s presence in the Sacrament of the Table each week at Peace. Christ, our Host, meets us in this meal of grace and offers himself, fully embodied, in the bread and wine. He invites all to come and meet him in this Holy Meal.

+ GATHERING +

P – Presider C – Congregation L – Lector A – Assisting Minister
ELW – Evangelical Lutheran Worship ACS = All Creation Sings

PRELUDE

Verset in the Time of Advent

Lucien Guittard

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP *Please rise as able in body or spirit as we gather at the font.*

P We gather as we live, in the name of God, our Creator, Liberator + and Sustainer.

C **Amen.**

P Dearly Beloved, during Advent we are called to rest our hearts in God as we courageously love and serve one another and all of creation. But resting in God is not easy to do with epidemics of anxiety and fear running rampant in our world.

C **Narratives of suspicion and feelings of distrust keep us from reaching out to others, lest encounters turn into conflicts. And so our longing for community goes unfulfilled.**

P Where can hope be found in this season when darkness and cold reach their zenith?

A Animals know what to do in this season of dark and cold. For some, the road to survival begins and ends with community. Waiting in the cold dark is hard, but each creature knows...

C **the dark is not an end but a door; the way to a new beginning.**

P Seated at the feet of wild siblings this Advent, we're learning from them how to turn our longing into pausing, pondering, and trusting that you, O God, are with us now and ever shall be.

C **Amen.**

ADVENT SONG

There is a Longing in Our Hearts

ACS #1078

Refrain – All

There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to re -
veal your - self to us. There is a long-ing in our
hearts for love we on - ly find in you, our God.

Hymn continues on the next page →

Leader or All

1 For jus - tice, for free - dom, for mer - cy:
 2 For wis - dom, for cour - age, for com - fort:
 3 For heal - ing, for whole - ness, for new life:
 4 Lord, save us, take pit - y, light in our

hear our prayer. In sor - row, in grief:
 hear our prayer. In weak - ness, in fear:
 hear our prayer. In sick - ness, in death:
 deep - est night. We call you; we wait:

Refrain

be near; hear our prayer, O God.

GREETING

P The abounding grace of Jesus Christ, the steadfast love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Chri - ste e - le - i - son,

Ky - ri - e e - le - e - le - i - son.

Ga - thered by your love, we pray for hea - ling and hope. Lord,

give us peace, make us one, sal - va - tion come.

From your per - fect love, bring your per - fect reign to

ev' - ry heart, ev' - ry home; let love be known.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

ADVENT LIGHTING DIALOG

Matthew and Natalie Toso

ADVENT LIGHTING PRAYER

L Let us pray. Dear God, as we light the third candle on this wreath, we remember Isaiah, we remember Mary, and we remember the Honeybees. Teach us our steps for the dance of life, and use us to keep your DREAM alive. In the name of the Holy One who was, who is, and who is to come.

C **Amen.**

The Third Advent Candle is lit.

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Julie Ward

Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year, the prophet, moved by the Spirit of God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;

²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of deliverance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;

³to provide for those who mourn in Zion - to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁸For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

L Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 95

Barbara Jones

The assembly joins the cantor on each refrain:

For you, O Lord, my soul in still - ness
waits, tru - ly my hope is in you.

Cantor: Emmanuel, the reign of God among us
We long to see and taste your Jubilee
Unbind our lives and set our minds at peace
O Holy Wisdom fill us with your knowledge
That we may follow on the path you show
Teach us to live as one with all your people

CHOIR ANTHEM

The Angel Gabriel

arr. Thomas Hoekstra

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW # 168

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The proper verse may be sung, or all may sing this verse.

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 1st Chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-56

After Mary is visited by God's messenger, Gabriel, she goes to stay with her cousin Elizabeth. Upon seeing her pregnant cousin, Mary realizes that what Gabriel told her was indeed true. Discovering that God's Dream lives, Mary breaks out in a song of exultation.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in [Elizabeth's] womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry,

“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.” ⁴⁶And Mary said:

“My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

⁵⁶And Mary remained with [Elizabeth] about three months and then returned to her home.

L The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

Julie Ward

SERMON

Pastor Erik Kindem

HYMN OF THE DAY

Canticle of the Turning

ELW #723



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are fa - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



Refrain
 My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Janet Cruse

A With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for church and world, all creation, and all who await God's day of restoration.

Petitions are offered that end with:

A Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

When all petitions have been offered:

A Listen to these and all our prayers, O God, and restore us with your great and tender mercy.

C Amen.

+ MEAL +

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

Your financial gifts today support the ongoing ministry of our congregation, cooperative ventures of ELCA congregations throughout Western Washington, and Evangelical Lutheran ministries around the world. We invite you to give generously! You can place your gift in the offering plate, mail in a check, or connect to our secure [Tithely Giving Page](#) via this QR CODE. Whatever size, your gift makes difference—thank you for your support!



OFFERTORY HYMN

We Raise Our Hands to You

ELW #690



1 We raise our hands to you, O Lord, like
2 What good and blessing you bestow are
5 Through grace your new creation lies in



emp - ty ves - sels. Oh, come to us and
free - ly giv - en. Your pow'r will make the
hands held o - pen. O Giv - er of all



give us life from springs where liv - ing wa - ters flow.
weak - est strong and bar - ren branch - es start to bud.
good - ness, come, dwell with us in our earth - ly home.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. God our provider,

C **by your merciful hand abundance springs up from Earth.**

Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.

**Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people,
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts!

C **We lift them to the Lord!**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and almighty God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new when he brings his reign of justice and peace. And so, with Earth and all her creatures, with the church on Earth and all the host of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life;
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

P On the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

**C Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.**

P Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

**C This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*ecumenical*)

P Gathered as one, we pray as Jesus taught us.

**C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.
Come, take your place at the table.

C Thanks be to God!

DISTRIBUTION

We commune processionally. Extend your hands to receive bread. A gluten free wafer is also available. Both wine (dark) and grape juice (light) are available in ceramic cups. Place your empty cup in the box at the end of the front pew on your way back. Children are welcome to receive when their parents believe they are ready, with the support of the pastor. Any who prefer a blessing may cross their hands over their chest as they come forward.

LAMB OF GOD

ELW #196

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take
 a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy up - on us.
 O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 grant us your peace. A - - - men.

COMMUNION HYMN

Blessed Be the God of Israel

ELW #250

1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
 2 With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
 3 My child, as proph-et of the Lord you will pre-pare the way,
 and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
 the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;
 to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.
 So have the proph-ets long de - clared that with a might-y arm
 that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
 Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease
 God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
 in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.
 to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A Let us pray. Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

BLESSING

P The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you,
and the power of the Spirit + give life to you, now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Filled with Hope and Gratitude

ACS #907



1 Filled with hope and grat - i - tude and filled with ver - y
2 God's e - ter - nal mer - cy, meant for all of hu - man -
3 Hun - gry peo - ple eat good things and find an hon - ored
4 Filled with hope and grat - i - tude and filled with ver - y



God, I sing with soul and spir - it ex - ul -
kind, is giv - en as de - liv - 'rance from op -
place; the rich are sent a - way though they are
God, I sing with soul and spir - it ex - ul -



ta - tion, for God has smiled up -
pres - sion. The pow - er - ful and
hun - gry. The prom - ise to our
ta - tion, for God has smiled up -



on the hum - ble ser - vant who will give her
haugh - ty find that they are now cast down, the
fore - bears God re - news for us to - day: the
on the hum - ble ser - vant who will give her



own sweet milk to Christ, the world's sal - va - tion.
low - ly raised be - yond this world's de - ri - sion.
world is filled with God's a - bun - dant mer - cy.
own sweet milk to Christ, the world's sal - va - tion.

A Go in peace. Christ is near.


C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Fugue in D Major

G.F. Handel

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Church Office hours: Tuesday through Thursday 10:00am-3:00pm
Nicole Klinemeier, Youth Director 206-427-6496
Jon Lackey, Minister of Music Music@ PeaceLutheranSeattle.org
Find us on  at **People of Peace Lutheran**

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Pastor	Rev. Erik Kindem
Minister of Music	Jon Lackey
Advent Dialogue	Matt & Natalie Toso
Cantor	Barbara Jones
Liturgical Assistant	Janet Cruse
Acolyte	Wyatt Gray
Lector	Julie Ward
Children's Sermon	Julie Ward
Greeters	Randy Hernandez, Nancy Hauger
Ushers	John & Debi Flint
Altar Care	Liz & Randy Hernandez
Communion Assistants	Liz & Randy Hernandez
Coffee Server	Heidi & Ruth Eilers
Nursery Attendant	Heidi Coy
Production Techs	Paul Bliss, Alex Wren
Counters	Kristin Gimelli Hemme, Randy Hernandez

OUR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

*Our mission goal for 2023 anticipates receiving offering income of \$25,819 each month.
At the end of October we were approximately \$8,500 under our giving goal year to date.*

Offering Income received December 2023

12/03/23	\$ 2,417.00
12/10/23	\$ 1,982.39
Electronic	<u>\$ 3,770.41</u>
Total	\$ 8,169.80

*Thank you for your gifts which support God's mission at Peace, in the larger community,
and internationally through the ELCA.*

THIS WEEK'S ACT FOR CREATION

The Winter Solstice is Thursday and with it our longest night of the year. As Gayle Boss reminds us in *All Creation Waits*, the darkness of Advent is not an end, but the way to a new beginning. For the church, it is the beginning of a new year, a year filled with opportunities to not just care, but *act* for creation. Check out PLC's 2024 Climate Action Plan under Announcements on our website and the paper copy pinned to the narthex bulletin board. Then consider how *you* want to act for Creation in 2024. **Pray for Creation:** We pray that we will be attentive to our ailing planet as we make choices about how we will celebrate the birth of God's Son this year.

DECEMBER 20 – Midweek Advent Services

This year's final Midweek Advent Service will take place at the Winterstein home. Join us for a simple soup meal @ 6pm followed by simple service @ 7:00pm. Come for one of both! (Note: one of the soups each week will be vegan 😊) **Our theme this Advent is PAUSE – PREPARE – PONDER**, and links us to the emphasis we're observing in our homes and in Sunday worship with: *All Creation Waits*. Join us for a reflective and hospitable evening! For more information call: 206/762-1362.

DECEMBER 17: A FIRST LOOK AT FUNDING OUR MISSION

Today after worship the church council will provide an opportunity to preview and comment on the coming year's draft budget, which is now under development for 2024. meeting will be in-person only.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

Poinsettias will once again beautify our sanctuary this Christmas.

Plants are **\$11.00 each** and you can mail your order in/drop it off/or place it in the offering plate.

We need to receive your order by Sunday, December 17th. Please include the number of plants you wish to sponsor, the name(s) of the person(s) you are honoring, and your name.

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT/CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday, December 24th is doing double duty this year – as both the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve. The Worship Planning Team has set the schedule as follows:

4th Sunday of Advent Worship @ 10:30am (Live streamed) No Sunday School or Adult Forum.

Christmas Eve Family Service @ 5:00pm with costumes! Come one and all and be part of the drama.

Christmas Eve Holy Communion Service @ 9:00pm, lessons and carols, message, Eucharist.

PRAYER LIST

Please continue to remember the sick and home-bound of our congregation and others who have sought our prayers: Sick/Recovering: Kathy Anderson; Cay Bell; Joyce Bitner; Mary Bocker; Jan Burt; Melanie Coulson; Heidi Coy; Karl Coy; Larry Cruse; Marsha Davis; Laura Dwyer; Joe Flint; Marge Flint; Dawn Gringorten; Signa Gustafson; Donna Heiland; Liz Hernandez; Mary Jacob; Ken Keyes; Dee Levy; Justin Makboul; Evelyn Martinez; Eddie McDaniel; Ken McPherson; Erin McPherson; Steve Metzler; Katrina Moore; Bill Morrell; Penelope Grace; Michelle Pierce; Rachel; Irma Runge; JoAnne Spangler; Pat Spangler; Sean Stephens; Sarah Taylor; Pam Webber; Judy Wiggins; Patti Wunder.

Homebound: Jim Baker; Connie Benjamin; Lee Lamson; Jan Madsen

We express our Christian sympathy to the Flint family on the death of Marge Flint, John Flint's sister-in-law, on December 8. Marge is survived by her husband Greg and daughter Becky.

PROTOCOL FOR PRAYER LIST We will keep people on the prayer list for one month unless otherwise specified or unless you contact the Peace office to extend the time.

RECONCILING IN CHRIST AFFIRMATION OF WELCOME

Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness, in a world that can be filled with alienation and brokenness. In faithfulness to the Gospel and to our Lutheran heritage, we answer Christ's call to be agents of healing and safety, particularly for people who have been marginalized by our society.

As a Christian community, we invite all people to join us as we work to better understand the meaning of grace for our lives. We welcome people of all sexual orientations and gender identities into the life and mission of our congregation.



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