

ADVENT 2 | PEACE

*Use the small candle to transfer the flame from the taper to the candles to be lit.
Blow out both the small candle and the taper when both red candles have been lit.*

We come together in the midst of a busy season to take a breath.

To breathe in together the life that God gives us.

To listen to the beat of God's heart and the blessings and lessons this season brings to us.

Last Sunday we lit the candle of **Hope**, remembering the hope which comes in Christ.

(Light 1st Candle).

Today we light the second candle of Advent, the candle of **Peace**.

The flame of this candle reminds us of the **peace** that Jesus brings into this world
and his presence with us.

Jesus said "*I give you peace, the kind of peace that only I can give.
It isn't like the peace that this world can give. So don't be worried or afraid.*"

Our world is not always a **peaceful** world.

People hurt other people.

Countries are at war today.

People don't take care of the world.

People yell and scream at other people.

But God promises **peace**.

During this season of Advent, we pray that we, as well as all people, will seek God's **peace**.

God has a **peaceful** dream for the world, and we dream it too.

We dream of **peaceful** world full of wolves and leopards and lions eating and sleeping and dancing
with lambs, kids, and calves.

We dream of a **peaceful** world where nations come together, where war is a memory,
and we eat at one table.

We light this candle in **Peace**.

(Light 2nd Candle)

On this day, we remember the Lord of All who brings **peace** surpassing all understanding.

When we look at this candle, we remember God's promise of **peace**.

Jesus promised us in John 14:27, "*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.*"

In times of war and hatred, it's hard to remember that Jesus is the one who brings **peace**.

As we approach Christmas, let's remember that God's intention is a place of **peace**
where people shake hands instead of harm one another.

Prayer: Dear God: Thank you for your son, Jesus.

Thank you for those in our world today who seek to act for peace.

Help us look for ways to be peacemakers at home, at church and at school. Amen.