

Holding Space, Advent II: PEACE

This liturgy (worship service), was crafted by a small group of individuals who were part of a larger group of Lay Worship Leaders who gathered to learn about EPIC (Experiential, Participatory, Inclusive/Image Rich, and Connective) worship leadership, reflect on the theme of **holding space** in Advent, and collectively prepare for the season.

Based on the readings of the Revised Common Lectionary for Year B, the resource offers prayers and hymn suggestions, and, as time and energy permitted, reflection ideas. Where the authors have used or adapted material written by others, credit is offered at the bottom of the document. The left-hand column identifies the portion of the liturgical element. The middle column contains the words that may be shared. Spoken text for one voice is in regular font. The text for many voices is in **bold** font. Text that is to be shared in unison or responsively is offered in sense lines. The right-hand column offers any guidance for participation or movement.

This resource is offered to you as a gift by all of those who had a hand in preparing it. You are encouraged to adapt it for use in ways that fit your context, with the prayer that it may assist you in creating and **holding space** for hope, peace, joy and love to enter.



Liturgical Element	Content	Guidance
Word of Welcome		
Candle Lighting Litany ¹	Come gather in the light. The light of HOPE (light first candle) We gather this day as a people of God. Come gather as a people of Peace. We gather as ones who choose to pause. We gather as ones who choose to hold space. Amid a fractured and weary world, where division and discord seem constant, we hold space for peace, and for one another.	

¹ Lloyd Bruce, FSLDW Regional Minister

	We gather to silence the clamor of conflict that is both within us and around us. We hold space in holy waiting. <i>Peace Candle is lit.</i>	
Sung Response #90 More Voices (adapted) ²	Don't be afraid through Advent's waiting for peace is stronger than our fear. Keep holding space for peace to enter... For God has promised, promised to be always near.	
Gathering Prayer	In a spirit of Peace, we gather on this second Sunday of Advent. What a wonder it is to know that our God is always near and wished to be so near to humanity that the divine was birthed in the newborn Jesus. In the spirit of Peace, let us gratefully gather for worship.³	
Invitation to Confession	Let us unite hearts as we pray the confessions lying on our hearts.	
Prayer of Confession	Holy one to be about your purpose in these strange and chaotic times gives us peace. To be forgiven when we least deserve it, brings us peace. To let go of regretful things, grant us peace. Please forgive us those things we have done knowingly	

² Jennie Delmotte, Music Director at Sackville United

³ Elaine Bidgood Sweet, Zion Lutheran Church, Minot, ND, USA, Gathering Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2026-2027 Year B

	and unknowingly, lead us to a place of doing what stirs up your peace, let our actions reflect your place in our lives, as we work for a better world that brings us peace. (2)	
Assurance of Grace	Know this: if you are willing, you will be taught, if you are willing, you will be taught. If you pause to listen, you will gain knowledge. Reflect on God's statutes and meditate on the commandments. It is God who will give insight to your mind, and your desire for peace will be granted. ⁴	
Hymn/Song	#18 VU, There's a Voice in the Wilderness	
Ancient Wisdom	Isaiah 40:1–11	
Modern Wisdom	Mark 1:1–8	
Reflection	Preparing while we wait for the coming of Jesus, Call for repentance of sin for peace in the world.	
Hymn/Song	#883 VU, Isaiah 40	
Prayers of the People	Gracious and eternal God, The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ comes to us not in the halls of power, but out in the wild places, carried on a voice crying in the wilderness. Lord, we confess that our lives are often crowded, noisy, and tangled. We build up rough mountains of pride,	

⁴ Elizabeth Stewart, St. Pauls UC, Burns Lake BC, Gathering Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2026-2027 Year B

	deep valleys of neglect, and crooked paths of our own making. Forgive us when we lose sight of Your grace and settle for the shallow comforts of this world. Thank You for sending messengers— then and now—to shake us awake. Thank You for the bold witness of John, calling people to turn around, to confess their brokenness, and to step into the cleansing waters. As we wait and watch for You, Lord, straighten our paths. Amen⁵	
Prayer of Jesus	The Lord's Prayer (in whatever manner your church uses, ie word, music, etc)	
Hymn/Song	#577 VU, I've Got Peace like a River	
Commissioning	You have heard the word of the Lord, now take this message out into the world and may the light of peace be with you.	
Benediction	The peace of God, the Creator, Jesus the teacher and the Holy Spirit, guide you on your way. Amen	

⁵ When we Gather, James G.Kirk , @1983 Geneva Press