



Peace

Sunday, December 6, 2020

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## Limitless Love | Courageous Action | Spirited Inquiry

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### Purpose Statement

Parkway United Church of Christ strives to be an inclusive community embracing: spiritual nourishment, open—minded inquiry, courageous action, and interfaith partnerships to fulfill God's calling to create a just world for all.

### Congregational Statement

Parkway United Church of Christ, with God's grace, seeks to be a congregation that includes all persons, regardless of race, ethnic, or socio—economic background while respecting differences of gender, marital status, age, sexual orientation, and mental and physical ability. We aspire to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. We invite all to share in the life and leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of participation in our open and affirming congregation.

## PARKWAY UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

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John Nourse, *Pastor Emeritus*

# Welcome to Parkway

**Thank you for joining us this morning.** Please let us know you are here by commenting in the chat.

**Welcome Children.** We invite children to full participation in worship.

**Bell Rung During Lord's Prayer.** A tradition begun when farmers working in surrounding fields would stop their work and join in prayer.

**Subscribe to our email lists:** Text your email address to 22828 or sign up at [www.parkwayucc.org](http://www.parkwayucc.org)

**Communications Requests:** Please use the form at [www.parkwayucc.org/communications](http://www.parkwayucc.org/communications) for all announcements for the bulletin/eNews/website/social media/etc. Bulletin and eNews communications request deadline is noon Monday. Bulletin announcements will generally be run for three weeks prior to the event. However, all announcements will be posted via our various publications as fits in our communications strategy and as resources permit.

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## Wedding Anniversaries

12/12 OWENS, Bill & Pat (56)

## Birthdays

12/6 MATTEUCCI, Ava

12/11 FAGERBERG, Roger

12/6 WINKELMANN, Polly

12/12 ASTON, Carol

12/10 SINGER, Michelle

12/12 OWENS, Bill

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent: PEACE

Sunday, December 6, 2020 | 10:00am on YouTube

**Meditation** *The messenger must have seen the panic in my eyes, for before my anxiety could escalate, he said, “Don’t be afraid, Mary.” His voice moved like honey and he smelled like smoke and blossoms. I forced myself to look up, and his face was ancient, knowing and kind. His name was Gabriel. My breath steadied as I began to take his advice. I needed that swig of peace, so I swallowed Gabriel’s words, “Don’t be afraid.” ~Carol Howard Merritt*

## Lighting the Candles & Ringing the Bell

### Passing the Peace of Christ

“May the peace of Christ be with you.”

(We are intentional about bringing more peace into the world.)

### Welcome Song *Peace Before Us*

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. Dashed lines and slurs are used to group notes for specific lyrics.

Peace be - fore us, peace be - hind us,  
peace un - der our feet.  
Peace with - in us, peace o - ver us,  
let all a - round us be peace.

## Gathering at the Advent Wreath: Peace

## **Hymn** *Lord, What Is All Our Fighting For?*

tune: O Waly Waly, Hymnal #94

**Lord, what is all our fighting for?  
We train our young to go to war.  
A young girl sees the terror spread  
As soldiers shoot her parents dead.**

**Lord, what is our acceptance for?  
We tolerate what you abhor.  
Each day more little ones are lost;  
May we seek truth and count war's cost.**

**How can we help your peace to spring?  
You do not want an offering.  
"Do what is just," you simply say;  
"Love what is kind and seek my way."**

**Lord, what is all our silence for?  
Now make us bold to say, "No more!"  
The world need not be what it's been;  
Your peace will reign! Your love will win!**

Biblical References: Micah 4:3, 6:8; Isaiah 2:4; Matthew 5:9

Tune: Traditional English melody ("Though I May Speak")

Text: Copyright © 2005 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Used with permission.

## **Listening for Peace**

**Children's Time** Children and Youth are invited to separate Zoom classrooms immediately following this Children's Time.

## **Blessing the Children** *Be Near Me, Lord Jesus*

Tune: *Away in a Manger*

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
And teach us, dear Jesus, to laugh and to share.**

## **Committing to Peace** *The Prayer of St Francis*

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.  
O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love. Amen.

## Carol *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* — 12<sup>th</sup> Century Latin hymn *Veni Emmanuel*



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
2. O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer Our spir - its
3. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind All peo - ples



cap-tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
by Thine ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of  
in one heart and mind; Bid en - vy, strife, and dis - cord



here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
cease; Fill the whole world with heav - en's peace.



Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

## 1<sup>st</sup> Lesson Genesis 3:8-15 Nathaniel Doty

***In the Garden of Eden, God tells Adam that the serpent will be punished.***

They heard the sound of God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the couple hid themselves from the presence of God among the trees of the garden. But God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” He said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.” Then God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent tricked me, and I ate.” Then God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.”

## Interlude *Savior of the Nations, Come*—Setting Albert Beck

Based on the plainsong melody *Eyn Enchiridon*, (Erfurt, 1524)

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson Isaiah 9:2,6,7 Doris McCarter

***The prophet Isaiah foretells the birth of Christ.***

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.



For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting One, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and the kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

**Carol** *Advent Verse*—arr. Deborah Governor  
**Alleluia, Alleluia! A virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and call his name Emmanuel. Alleluia, Alleluia**

Based on Veni Emmanuel

**3<sup>rd</sup> Lesson** Isaiah 11:1-3a, 4a, 6-9      Christopher Pickett

***Isaiah speaks of the peace that Christ will bring to the world.***

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

**Preparing the Way**

Many:	<b>Blessed be the Lord, God of Israel, who has looked favorably on the people and redeemed them. God has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of servant David, as God spoke through the mouth of holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.</b>  <b>Thus God has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered this holy covenant, the oath that God swore to our ancestors Abraham and Sarah, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve God without fear, in holiness and righteousness before God all our days.</b>
One:	And you, child... you will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare the ways, to give knowledge of salvation to God's people by the forgiveness of their sins.

**Many:** By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high  
will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in  
darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet  
into the way of peace.

## Hymn *Make Me A Channel of Your Peace*



1. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. \_\_\_\_\_ Where  
2. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. \_\_\_\_\_ Where  
4. Make me a chan-nel of your peace. \_\_\_\_\_ It



there is ha-tred, let me bring your love. \_\_\_\_\_ Where  
there's de-spair in life, let me bring hope. \_\_\_\_\_ Where  
is in par-don - ing that we are par - doned, \_\_\_\_\_ in



there is in - ju - ry, your par-don, Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ and  
there is dark - ness, \_\_\_\_\_ on - ly light, \_\_\_\_\_ and  
giv - ing of our - selves that we re - ceive, \_\_\_\_\_ and in



where there's doubt, true faith in you. \_\_\_\_\_  
where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy. \_\_\_\_\_  
dy - ing that we're born to e-ter-nal life. \_\_\_\_\_

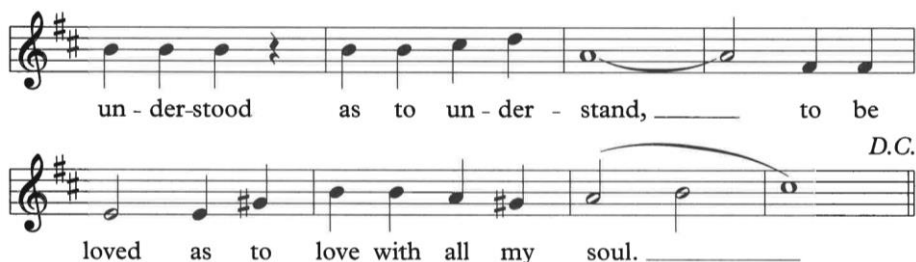


3. Oh, Mas-ter, grant that I may nev - er seek \_\_\_\_\_ so



much to be con-soled as to con - sole. \_\_\_\_\_ To be





#### 4<sup>th</sup> Lesson Luke 1:26-38 Angie Downing

##### ***The Angel Gabriel appears to the Virgin Mary.***

On the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 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 ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to 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 holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

#### **Carol** *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

1. The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came, His  
 2. "For know a bless - ed moth - er you shall be, All  
 3. Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head, "To  
 4. Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born In

wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame; "All  
 gen - er - a - tions praise con - tin - ual - ly, Your  
 me be as it pleas - es God," she said, "My  
 Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn, And



## 5<sup>th</sup> Lesson Luke 2:1, 3-7 Dexter Cameron

### ***The birth of Jesus is described by Luke.***

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

## **Hymn** *People, Look East* [Besançon carol melody | text adapted]

**People, look East. The time is near of the crowning of the year.**

**Make your house fair as you are able,  
trim the hearth, and set the table.**

**People, look East, and sing today: Love the Guest is on the way.  
Furrows, be glad.**

**Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there:**

**Give up your strength the seed to nourish,**

**That in course the flower may flourish.**

**People, look East, and sing today: Love the Rose is on the way.**

**Stars, keep the watch.**

**When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,**

**Shining beyond the frosty weather,**

**bright as sun and moon together.**

**People, look East, and sing today: Love the Star is on the way.**

**Angels, announce to all of these Him who is coming from the East.**

**Set every peak and valley humming with the word,**

**our God is coming.**

**People, look East, and sing today: Love, our God, is on the way.**

## 6<sup>th</sup> Lesson Luke 2:8-16 Dan Burkhardt

### ***The shepherds journey to the manger.***

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

## Hymn #23— *Angels We Have Heard on High*

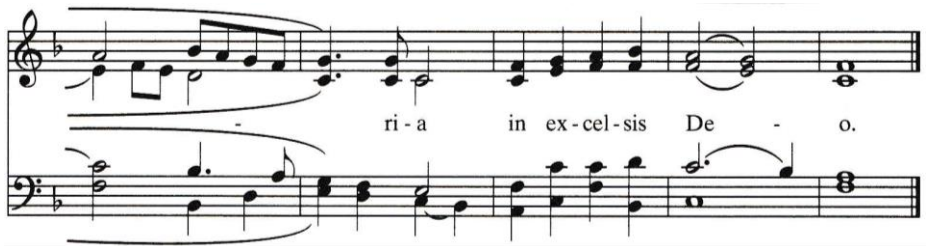
1. An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,  
 2. Shep-herds, why this ju - bi-lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?  
 3. Come to Beth-le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

And the moun-tains in re-ply Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav - en - ly song?  
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

*Refrain*

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glo



## 7<sup>th</sup> Lesson Matthew 2:1-11 Evelyn Buretta

### ***Three wise men follow the star and are led to Jesus.***

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

### **Carol** *Wexford Carol*—arr. Ed Harris

**Good people all, this Christmas-time,  
consider well, and bear in mind**

**What our good God for us has done, in sending the beloved Son.**

**With Mary holy we should pray to God with love on Christmas day;  
In Bethlehem upon that morn’, there was a blest Messiah born.**

**Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep  
their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep;  
To whom God’s angels did appear,  
which put the shepherds in great fear.**

**“Prepare and go,” the angel said, “to Bethlehem; be not afraid,  
For there you’ll find this happy morn’  
a princely babe, sweet Jesus born.”**

**With thankful heart and joyful mind,  
the shepherds went, this babe to find.  
And as God’s angel had foretold, they did a Savior Christ behold.**

**Within a manger He was laid, and by His side, the Virgin maid  
Attending on the Lord of life, who came on Earth to end all strife.**

**Good people all this Christmas-time,  
consider well and bear in mind  
What our good God for us has done  
in sending this beloved Son.  
With Mary holy we should pray to God  
with love on Christmas day;  
In Bethlehem upon that morn',  
there was a blest Messiah born.**

American Folk Hymn | Text: Charles Wesley [1744]

## **Mission Moment** 2<sup>nd</sup> Mile Advent

Circle of Concern, Emmaus Homes, **The Christmas Fund**

## **Offering Our Gifts to God**

### **Response**

**Praise God for gifts of hope and peace  
Praise God for gifts of joy and love  
Praise God for sending Christ to dwell  
On earth with us—Emmanuel. Amen.**

### **Prayer of Dedication**

**Holy One here—and not yet here—we are grateful for the gift of  
Your love, which is beyond our understanding. Thank You for the  
glimpses of You and the ability to share You with others. May these  
gifts be expressions of our gratitude. Let them link us with You,  
with each other, and with the world you hold in Your peace  
embrace. May these gifts be messages of hope and beacons of light  
against the darkness in our world. May they even bring joy! Amen.**

## **8<sup>th</sup> Lesson** John 1:1-5, 10-12, 14 Jeff Downing

***John unfolds the mystery of Christ's birth.***

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, and the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory of God's only son, full of grace and truth.

## **Invitation to the Communion Table**

## Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

**Our** [Creator/Mother/Father/Holy One] **who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

[A variety of names for God are welcome here—including in the Lord's Prayer.]

## Sharing the Bread and Cup

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

**For the nourishment of spirit, mind, and body, for hope that we begin to see, and for comfort from the Prince of Peace, we share our gratitude, Gracious God.**

**Encourage us in these shortened days.**

**Through the long nights of this season, may your hope carry us until dawn arrives again - that we will experience and share deep joy. Amen.**

## Benediction

### Hymn *Go Now in Peace*



Go now in peace, go now in peace, may the love of



God sur-round you ev-ery-where, ev-ery-where you may go.

## God's Light Goes Forth

### Postlude

Improvisations on *Bereden Väg För Herran* (Prepare the Way, O Zion)

Original melody published 1697



# Announcements

*Be on the lookout for more information about creches, cookies, caretakers and candles! These are physical distanced opportunities for us to be engaged in community this Advent.*

## Tuesday Evening Dialogue December 12

2nd & 4th Tuesdays | 7:00pm | via Zoom

Please join us for a special TED Zoom session to share one of your favorite children's books. It can be a book you enjoyed as a child, one you enjoyed reading to your children or a new children's book that you have found to be special in some way. Maybe it's a book that is silly or sweet, beautifully illustrated, thought provoking or just plain fun. Doesn't matter. Just join us and feel like a kid again! Since this is the last session of the year, please bring any ideas you may have for new books to read starting in January.

Contact Helen Race: raceh@att.net | 314-401-4382

### Zoom Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89263841824?pwd=eIVDSVVUMHZZeStLZIBLeEZjWVBVZz09>

**Meeting ID:** 892 6384 1824 | **Passcode:** Book Club

**Phone:** (312) 626 6799 US | **Passcode:** 410992587

## My Time as a Country Lawyer Presented by Phil Smith

Sunday, December 13 | 11:15am | YouTube connection details TBA

Phil Smith was born and raised in Louisiana, MO. and practiced law in a one lawyer shop for decades. During that time, he ran successfully for State Representative from his district. He spent a lot of time in Jeff City, when the Democrats ruled. He was a supporter of Governor Mel Carnahan for many years. Locked in those experiences are many stories, which Phil will share with us. Contact Richard Scherrer: 90fivetpr@gmail.com

## Pledge Campaign for our Mission & Ministry 2021

We are still accepting pledges: <https://parkwayucc.org/giving/pledge/>

Thank you for your continuing support of Parkway United Church of Christ.

## Alzheimer's Walk Recap

The results of the St. Louis Walk to End Alzheimer's have been tabulated. The St. Louis Walk was the 4th largest in the country. In this year of COVID and the walk-in neighborhoods, Parkway's contribution was \$1,670.00. Thank you, Parkway. Donations are still accepted on the website:

[http://act.alz.org/site/TR?team\\_id=619694&pg=team&fr\\_id=13574](http://act.alz.org/site/TR?team_id=619694&pg=team&fr_id=13574) or by checks made payable to: Alzheimer's Association. Send them to me so I can submit them with a donation form to be credited to the PUCC team. They must be received by Dec. 31, 2020. Thanks to all who donated, walked in our small group of 6, and supported the *Walk To End Alzheimer's*.

~Joyce Ruiz, Faith Outreach Ambassador and Team Captain.

# Prayer List

as of December 2, 2020

## Celebrations

**All the acts of kindness that are happening near and far!**

**The momentum toward justice and equity.**

**Advent** - our journey to Christmas!

## Concerns

**Charlotte Smith and family** - grieving and giving thanks for Dwight.

**Liz Lyons** - as she recuperates at home after recent surgery.

**Polster-Roeslers; Monica** - dealing with Covid-19.

**The Grundys** - grieving and giving thanks for Christopher's father.

**Justin Williamson** - intensive care at St. Luke's Hospital (Svenson).

**Tommy Kurz** 14 yr old - brain surgery on Dec 7 to alleviate seizures.

**Carolyn & Hank Kraichley** - serious health challenges (McKenzie).

**Healthcare workers, homeless** and many others at risk right now.

**Physical Distancing...** if anyone needs groceries, medicine and/or other support, please reach out to [kevin@parkwayucc.org](mailto:kevin@parkwayucc.org); 314-330-0629

**People who are struggling with their mental health.**

**People who aren't feeling safe at home** but are remaining there.

**Individuals in all levels of leadership** as they make decisions today.

**Healing of relationships between the public and the police.**

**Those affected by natural disasters yesterday/today/tomorrow**

## Continuing

**Bob Boyd and family** - as they grieve and give thanks for Karen.

**Cherie & Mike Stolze** - her health; her father's kidney disease.

**Nelson Spencer** - very serious heart condition (Ellie Svenson).

**Blake** - recent cancer diagnosis (Greg Schmelig).

**Lori Connors** - for strength, stamina through some health challenges.

**Ruth Peace & Pinky Wilcoxon** - PUCC sisters with health challenges.

**Bill Darland** - ongoing health issues.

**Anthony** - multiple challenges as he lives his post-incarceration life.

**Gary** - risky behaviors; seeking balance and stability (McKenzie).

**Grateful Tran** - in prison; struggles w/schizophrenia (Evelyn Buretta)

**Bob** - continues to struggle with Parkinson's (McKenzie).

**Christopher, Gail & Bill Haack** - chronic health challenges.

**The extended Eggebrecht Family** - healing and wholeness.

## Home/Care Facility/Rehab Center

**Millicent Guerri** - living with cancer... 14300 Conway Meadows Ct E, Chesterfield, MO 63017 [birthdate: December 5]

**Marv Herpel** - *Brookdale West County*; 785 Henry Ave, #217; Ballwin, MO 63021; 636-227-5838 [birthdate: March 3]

**Pat Klein** - *Anthology Senior Living of Wildwood*; 251 Plaza Dr, #325; Wildwood, MO 63040 [birthdate: September 21]

**Bill Klein** - *Anthology Senior Living of Wildwood*; 251 Plaza Dr, #104; Wildwood, MO 63040 [birthdate: March 8]

**Pearl Sellenriek** - *Friendship Village Memory Care Division* #1001; 15250 Olive Blvd, Chesterfield, MO 63017 [birthdate: March 31]

**Dwight Smith** - *Garden View*; 13612 Big Bend Rd, Room #2407; Valley Park, MO 63088; 636-923-8693. Now Charlotte can walk from *Cape Albeon* to visit with him at his window. [birthdate: September 6]

**Sue Houser** - *Bethany Ctr for Rehab & Healing*; 421 Ocala Dr - #209B; Nashville, TN 37211; 615-577-2049. [birthdate: July 8]

## Other

**President Trump, Congress**, all local, national, world leaders - those continuing, starting, returning to leadership... including **Biden|Harris**.

**The “me too” Movement** - shining a light on sexual abuse.

**All people who live with mental illness.**

**PUCC Family** (and others) struggling with healthcare costs and limits.

**Our Missouri Mid-South Conference and St Louis Assn UCC**

**Variety of Parkway members/friends** - employment issues.

**Victims of Natural and Created Disasters** around the world.

**Peace and Justice** near and far.

**US Military** around the globe.

## St Louis Assn UCC Covenant Partner

Week ending December 6 - St. Martin UCC, High Ridge; [stmartinucc-hr.com](http://stmartinucc-hr.com)

Week ending December 13 - Ivy Chapel UCC, Chesterfield; [ivychapel.org](http://ivychapel.org)

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## An Advent Prayer for Focus

Michelle Torigian

Spirit of Strength who abides with us in the sparkles and shadows-

In the midst of this glitzy season

Filled with every distraction known to people,

Give us the focus to finish what we've started.

May Advent draw our attention to the sweetness of the journey-

Not the saccharine superficial sentiments of cultural expectation.

May Advent enliven our spirits and energize our tired minds.

May Advent drive us away from disturbances

And give us the gall to reach into the caverns of injustice

to aid in the delivery of God's holy righteousness.

Amen.

In this **Second Week of Advent, the week of *Peace***, you may want to offer this prayer... over and over again so it can wash over you...

Calm me, Lord, as you calmed the storm;

still me, Lord, keep me from harm.

Let all the tumult within me cease,

enfold me, Lord, in your peace.

Calm me, Lord, as you calmed the storm;

still me, Lord, keep me from harm.

Let all the tumult within me cease,

Lord, enfold me in your peace.

Calm me, Lord, as you calmed the storm;

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Lord, enfold me in your peace

enfold me in your peace

me in your peace

your peace

peace

peace

peace

## **An International Prayer for Peace**

*(Adapted from the Upanishads by Satish Kumar)*

Lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth.  
Lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust.  
Lead me from hate to love, from war to peace.  
Let peace fill our heart, our world, our universe.  
Peace, peace, peace.

## **Prayers for Peace**

O God, who would fold both heaven and earth in a single peace:  
Let the design of your great love lighten upon the waste of our wraths and sorrows:  
and give peace to your Church, peace among nations,  
peace in our dwellings, and peace in our hearts:  
through your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen

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Eternal Lord, whose kindom knows only the dream of righteousness and justice, and where your only power is love, send forth your spirit so that all the peoples of the earth will join together as children of one God, for yours alone is the kindom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

## **Prayers for Justice**

Grant us, Lord God, a vision of your world as your love would have it:  
a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor;  
a world where the riches of creation are shared, and everyone can enjoy them;  
a world where different races and cultures live in harmony and mutual respect;  
a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love.  
Give us the inspiration and courage to build it, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

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Almighty God, guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the Commonwealth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

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Almighty God, you have given all peoples one common origin, and your will is to gather them as one family in yourself. Fill the hearts of all with the fire of your love and the desire to ensure justice for all our sisters and brothers. By sharing the good things you give us, may we secure justice and equality for every human being, and a human society built on love and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2020

## Messengers of Hope

Isaiah 40:1-11

The prophets are not always easy company. As a body, they would be difficult dinner companions. It's hard to imagine them sitting down to conversation about the weather or kindly inquiries about how the grandchildren are doing. Others shake hands politely. They blow raspberries.

The prophets calling and passion is to reveal the truth that God has shown them. Most of their listeners, in their time and ours, would rather have their truths served with a sugar coating. So, the prophets rarely win any "likeability" polls.

But if you can handle your truth served rare and with minimal dressing, the prophets are bracing conversation partners. Their bluntness springs from a deep and always unsatisfied yearning to bring everyone closer to God. And yet, sometimes, the poets surprise with an after-dinner song of joy.

Today, in the fortieth chapter of the book of Isaiah, the prophet leaves behind his fiery ranting and offers words which at last sound less like a lecture and more like a lullaby. Maybe this comfort, this intimacy with God is what the prophets had in mind all along. Can you listen past their prickly rhetoric to hear what they really want for those who listen - in their time and in ours?

*Comfort, comfort my people,  
says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem.*

Today, on this second Sunday of Advent, listen! There are prophets speaking in your city, in your county, in your church. Sometimes those prophets are cranky. Sometimes they stick out their tongues instead of smiling. Sometimes they lecture, rather than hum lullabies. And that lecture can feel like it's really close to home.

But you'll know a true prophet by this. That their words bring you ever closer and more intimately into relationship with a God who wants nothing more than to know and be known.