



The Second Sunday of Advent  
"Bethlehem Candle"  
The Candle for Love & Christ's Birthplace



*Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ*

*December 4, 2021*

*How far is it to Bethlehem?*

Jenna Welcome

Usher Ringing of the Bell

Sean Prelude

Jenna \*Call to Worship

Adapted from Psalm 111, *Psalms for Praying* by Nan Ci. Merrill

(\*Please rise or be seated, as you wish. Please pray with us aloud with your masks on, if you would.)

Creator of All,

Your steadfast Love is food for our souls,

Nourishment in times of fear.

You are ever-mindful of your covenant,

a very Presence to the weary and troubled.

Your Voice is truth to those who listen.

Your Virtues are sure, written on the hearts

of all peoples.

You bring new life to the world;

Abundance is your gift to us,

Your Spirit endures for ever;

Your Love is with us now and always.

Sean Begins playing *One Candle is Lit* as Jenna reads the following.

Jenna \*Lighting of the Advent Candle for Love

(\*Please remain standing or be seated and join us in singing the first two verses of *One Candle is Lit* for Hope and Love.)

Sean As we begin the lighting process, please lead us in these two verses.

Come surely, Sweet Jesus, as dawn follows night,  
our hearts long to greet you, as roses, the light.  
Salvation draw near us, our vision engage.  
One candle is lit for the Hope of the Age.

Come, wanderer where lion and lamb gently play,  
where evil is banished and faith takes day,  
a babe in a manger to fool the world's eyes.  
One candle is lit for God's loving surprise.

Jenna \*Unison Prayer Adapted from "Prayer" ~Abhishiktananda  
(\*Please be seated and pray aloud with us.)

God's presence to us and our presence to God – or better –  
our awakening to the fact that *God is here*,  
have nothing to do with any particular working  
of our sense or mind.

God is here; Love is here; that is all.

If we ourselves also are here, we are precisely in  
the "being-here" of God.

It is in God that we are truly present, here and now,  
at this moment in time, at this point in the universe,  
beside one another in God and Love.

In this way we pray and are assured of God –  
and God's *everywhere-Love*.

Jenna \*Passing of the Peace  
(\*Please rise or be seated.)

May the Peace of the Risen Christ be with you  
**And also with with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

\*(Please remain standing, if you wish, and join us in signing "Comfort,  
Comfort O My People.)

Sean        \*Hymn        “Comfort, Comfort O My People”    New Century Hymnal #101

“Comfort, comfort O my people, tell of peace, thus says our God;  
Comfort those whose hearts are shrouded, mourning under sorrow’s load.  
Speak unto Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;  
tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.

For the herald’s voice is calling in the desert far and near,  
Biding us to make repentance since the realm of God is here.  
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;  
Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills now down in greeting.

Direct shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain!  
Let your hearts be true and humble, for Messiah’s holy reign.  
For God’s glory ever more shall be known o’er all the world;  
And all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.

Jenna        Joys and Concerns...

We take this time to share our Joys and Concern with one another. While we navigate this time of safe practices, we refrain from passing a microphone. Please wait for Ray who will repeat your Joys and Concerns for all to hear...

Jenna        \*The Prayer of Jesus  
\*(Please rise or be seated and join us in praying the Prayer of Jesus, as you learned to pray.)

Creator God who is in heaven  
Hallowed\* be your name.  
Your kingdom come, your will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil.  
For yours is the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory Forever, Amen.

Sean "Prepare Ye" Godspell (1973)

Jenna Gospel Reading Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea; Herod Tetrarch of Galilee; Philip his brother tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis; and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene,

In those days, during the high-priesthood of Anna and Caiphas, the Word of God came to John, ben-Zechariah, in the desert. John went through the entire region of the Jordan proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. and is written in the words of Isaiah, the prophet:

"A herald's voice in the desert, crying,  
'Make ready the way of our God;  
clear a direct path.  
Every valley will be filled,  
and every mountain and hill will be leveled.  
The twisted paths will be made direct,  
and the rough road smooth—  
and all humankind will see the salvation of God.'"

Sean \*Hymn "Little Bethlehem of Judah" New Century Hymnal #113

Little Bethlehem of Judah, what **goof** news you bear!  
Out of you will come the Ancient One as heir.

Though your people suffer trouble, waiting for the child.  
Soon all strife and hatred shall be reconciled.

Long awaited comes the Shepherd who will rule the earth;  
God made low has come to serve in human birth.



Ray Communion Prayer

God be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to God.  
**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Ray Jesus said:  
I am the bread of life.  
You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

Jenna In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread. It is indeed right, always and everywhere, to give thanks to you, Creator God. You are our Divine Path, the path of wind, sea, earth, fire and more.

You are the Universe's guarantee.  
The Hope of all creation, precursor and protector of Justice and Love; Freedom and Love.  
Hope and Joy and Peace and Love.  
All these things and more are assured by You.

Beauty and spirit and goodness abounds in our midst because you are within and around us. You are the inner life, the outer life, the eternal life we share. How amazing and wonderful that we have come to know you and seek to know you more.

Ray            So, we turn to Jesus and his words to the disciples at that last supper

Friends, see Jesus, now... Breaking the bread, giving it to his disciples and saying:

“This is my body, given up for you in more ways than you can imagine, here in Spirit Wonder, on the edge of unimaginable eternity.

Whenever and wherever you do this, remember me. Remember what I have taught you. Love and teach others, as I now and forever love and teach you. And after he blessed and shared the bread, Jesus lifted a cup, and again gave thanks to God, whom he called Abba. And, he said to the disciples...

“This is the Cup that will always flow abundantly in our lives together. Whenever you do these things, do them in remembrance of me.

These are the Gifts of God for All the People of God. Come to this table

Sean            \*Church Covenant – Sung in Unison  
\*(Please remain seated and join us in singing.)

In response to God’s love,  
we covenant with each other to be faithful  
to the demands and inspiration of the eternal spirit,  
revealed in the event of Jesus Christ;  
to accept and respect each other with love and concern i  
n our worship and witness;  
to reach out with the courage of our convictions  
in the cause of justice, liberation and equality for all;  
In this, we covenant to keep the ultimate promise;  
“I care, I am with you.”

Ray            \*Benediction & Sending Forth  
(\*Please rise if you wish.)

Usher           Ringing of the Bell

Sean            Postlude                    The Chancel Choir