# Visions United Spirit Gathering December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 – Advent 2 (Peace) How Does a Weary World Rejoice? We Find Joy in Connection

\* Stand as able

## **Our Community Gathers**

# **Gathering Music/Prelude**

# **Acknowledgement of Land**

God's Doors Are Open to All!

Open Doors · Open Minds · Open Hands · Open Hearts

Visions United seeks to be a safe place for people of all races, creeds, ages, cultural backgrounds, sexual orientations and gender identities to worship.

## **Sharing of WOW moments**

\*Carol (standing) VU#5 All Earth is Waiting Words: Gertrude C. Suppe©1989 The United Methodist Publishing House Music: Alberto Taule ©1993 Cento de Pastoral Liturgica All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE A – 720804

## **Gathering Invitation**

Response: All earth is waiting...

The Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

Lighting of the Advent Candle – Peace Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

One: How does a weary world practice peace?

All: By listening before we speak

and saying sorry when we need to.

One: By advocating for justice and caring for our neighbor.

By practicing Sabbath and forgiveness and reconciliation.

All: By choosing grace over hate and opening the door for each other.

One: There are a million ways to practice peace.

So today we light the candle of peace as a reminder and a charge.

All: With God's help, may we bring peace into a weary world. Amen.

\*Advent Song (standing) An Advent Dream Words: Peter Lightfoot. Music: Zhang Shuai (Snowflakes, Snowflakes 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic Games)

Peace is the dream - - that comes from above.

Peace is a dream that we all - - need more of.

Peace is a dream - - that comes from the Dove.

Peace is our dream, from our hope, joy, and love.

#### Chorus:

Angels, angels singing in the night,
Waking to - coming to - bringing in the light:
Angels, angels – here the babe you see:
Gloria, gloria – here for you and me.

## **We Listen for Wisdom**

# Theme Conversation for All Ages

Handbell Choir Away in a Manger Medley Music: William Kirkpatrick 1895;

arr. Desmond Hassell 1992.Music: James R. Murray 1887. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE A – 720804

Children leave for programming.

Theme Recap How Does a Weary World Rejoice (Instrumental)

Wisdom Reading Luke 1: 24-25 Elizabeth conceives.

Luke 1: 26-38 The Angel visits Mary

Handbell Medley Carol of the Bells - I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day - Ring the Bells

Arr. Martha Shaw. Music: Mykola Leontovych; Johnny Marks; Harry Bollback.
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Wisdom Reading Luke 1:39-45

**Reflection** We Find Joy in Connection

We Respond with Prayer and Gratitude

**Song** MV#158 Dream a Dream Words: Shirley E. Murray ©1997 Hope Publishing Co.

Music: Ron Klusmeier@2005, www.musiklus.com.

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**Our Community at Prayer** 

Invitation to Generosity & Blessing of Our Gifts (Gifts brought forward during singing)

**Song** O What a Wonderful Gift (*Ref., v2, ref.*) Words/Music: Linnea Good © 1992, Borealis Music. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE A – 720804

Refrain:

Oh — what a wonderful gift! Oh — what a wonderful gift!

God gives lives of hope and --love.

Oh, what a wonderful gift!

Verse 3: For all that we receive

For all the love we hold

We answer with our thanks to God And share them with the world.

Refrain plus tag: Oh, what a wonderful, Oh, what a wonderful, Oh what a wonderful gift!

# The Work of the Congregation – Announcements

## We Go Forth to Be a Blessing

\*Song (standing) VU#48 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing Words: Charles Wesley 1739, alt.

Music: Felix Mendelssohn 1840, adpt. William Cummings 1856.

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Blessing

**Postlude Music for the Journey** 

Thank You for Joining Us!

May Each of Us Carry the Spirit into the world with us.