

**Order of Service at the United Reformed Church  
December 7, 2025 9:30 a.m.  
Second Sunday of Advent**

## APPROACHING GOD

Prelude                      Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence                      "Picardy," arr. Livingston

*(Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in His hand,  
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.)*

*(A time of silence to prepare our hearts to worship; please silence your cell phone)*

Salutation  
Grace and peace from God the Father and Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

**Candle Lighting Liturgy** (Molly Rembis)

Last week, we lit the candle of Hope. Hope reminds us that God is faithful—even when the promise takes a long time to show up. Today we light the candle of Peace. Before Jesus was born, an angel appeared to Zechariah, and then to Mary. Both of them were afraid. Both of them had questions. But God met them with peace. Peace doesn't mean everything makes sense. Peace is what happens when we trust that God is close, even when we don't understand. So today, as we light this candle, we remember that peace isn't quiet or easy—it's courage in the middle of the unknown. (*Lighting the Advent candles.*)

Call to Worship  
In days of waiting and nights of wondering, God draws near.  
**We are not forgotten. We are not alone.**  
Zechariah doubted. Mary questioned. Yet peace still found them.  
**God's peace breaks into our fear and fills our silence.**  
So come—bring your questions, your hopes, your whole self.  
**Come, Lord Jesus—draw close to peace.**

\*Opening Hymn (Insert) I've Got Peace Like A River

## Call to Confession

God's peace meets us not in perfection, but in our pause—when we dare to be still

enough to hear. Let us confess the ways we have resisted peace, and the fear that keeps us from trusting God's presence.

**Prayer of Confession**  
God of Peace, we confess that we are more comfortable with control than with calm. When You invite us to trust, we hesitate. When You call us favored, we doubt our worth. Like Zechariah, we question Your timing. Like Mary, we wonder how Your promise could include us. Forgive us for confusing peace with predictability. Teach us the kind of peace that listens, the kind that waits, the kind that believes even in the dark. Come close, O God—and let Your peace be born in us. Amen. (a moment for silent confession)

**Words of Assurance**  
Hear the good news: God's peace does not depend on our perfection—it meets us in our pause and lifts us in our “let it be.” The One who came to Mary and Zechariah still comes to us with mercy and with might.  
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Passing the Peace  
The peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you.**

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

## Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading Luke 1:5-38

The Word of God, for the People of God!

**Thanks be to God!**

Sermon Courage In the Dark

## RESPONDING TO GOD

<hr/> <p>Hymn of Response (Projection) <i>Please Remain Seated</i></p>	<p>Remember Mercy</p>
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\*Affirmation of Faith (Insert)

Offertory                      Of the Father's Love Begotten                      13th century plainsong  
*(Of the Father's love begotten, and, O Holy Ghost, to Thee,  
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be.  
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,*

*evermore and evermore!)*

\*Doxology

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

\*Prayer of Dedication

Communion Hymn (#500 Blue Book)

Abide With Me (Verses 1-3 and 5)

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Communion Prayer, Prayers of The People and The Lord's Prayer

Announcements

\*Closing Hymn (#77 Blue Book)

Be Still My Soul

\*Benediction

Postlude

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Swedish melody, arr. Cassler

## Our Invitation

Welcome to United Reformed Church! As we join together in prayer, song, and praise to God, we pray that the blessings and fellowship you find here will enrich your life. *If you are physically able, an asterisk (\*) indicates an invitation to stand.*

Bold text signifies opportunities for the congregation to read and respond responsively.

**Pastor Office Hours: Wednesday 5-7 PM; Sunday 10:30 AM-12:30 PM**

**Church Office Hours: Tue, Thurs, and Fri 9AM-2PM; Wed 3-7 PM**

### Church Staff

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