

ZION EVANGELICAL UNITED CHURCH

Second Sunday Of Advent ~ Peace

December 7, 2025

Rev. Dr. Zacharia Mandara

Our Mission Statement

“To be a welcoming, Christ-centered community, empowered to share God's love and to make disciples for Jesus Christ through worship, fellowship, teaching, prayer, and acts of caring.”

Prelude **Shelley Jodoin**

Welcome / Announcements **Eunice Getz**

Hymn ***Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*** **#244**

Call to Worship/Lighting the Advent Candle

The psalmist dreamed of a world where leaders govern with righteousness, and the poor are treated with dignity and justice.

In this new creation, the oppressed are set free, the vulnerable are protected and peace flows like a river.

Today, too many experience violence, poverty and persecution
Yet, they yearn to know peace.

We long to live in that new creation, where God's glory is revealed on earth, through justice and peace. Today, on this second Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of peace as a prayer of longing.

Let us pray together:

Living God, help us to recognize your presence wherever people work for peace. Teach us to be instruments of your peace in the world. Come, Lord Jesus.

Prayer of Adoration

God of wisdom and understanding, of peace and promise, you are the giver of life, and you live in us. You have welcomed us as your children and called us to live out your image with hospitality toward each other.

In Jesus Christ, you offer us living water to wash away our sin and sorrow and call us back to paths of justice and righteousness. With the Holy Spirit, you baptize us for service and life in community, refreshing us each day with your presence and purpose. Glory and honour and praise be yours, Creator, Christ and Spirit, this day and every day, now and evermore.

Prayer of Confession

God of peace and promise, we confess that we have taken your commitment to us for granted. We assume what we do is acceptable to you, yet we tend to judge others without compassion. We have been slow to welcome others, especially if their cultures or convictions differ from ours. You call us to repentance, but we resist acknowledging what needs to change in our hearts or our habits. Forgive our self-satisfied attitudes and challenge us with your vision of a peaceable kingdom where all can be made new. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Receive the Good News in peace. With great mercy, God forgives what we have confessed and offers us new life in Christ. Receive the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and be at peace with God, with yourself and with one another. **Thanks be to God.**

Youth Time

Choir

“Redeeming Love”

Prayer for Understanding

God of peace and possibility, we turn to your Word to hear your will and your wisdom for our times. Open our hearts and minds by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit so that we might hear what you are saying to the church through Christ, our Prince of Peace. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Shelley Jodoin

Isaiah 11: 1-10 (pg 673)

Responsive Reading

Psalms 72: 1-7, 18-19

Endow the king with your justice, O God,
the royal son with your righteousness.

**He will judge your people in righteousness,
your afflicted ones with justice.**

The mountains will bring prosperity to the people,
the hills the fruit of righteousness.

**He will defend the afflicted among the people
and save the children of the needy;
he will crush the oppressor.**

He will endure as long as the sun,
as long as the moon, through all generations.

**He will be like rain falling on a mown field,
like showers watering the earth.**

**In his days the righteous will flourish;
prosperity will abound till the moon is no more.**

Praise be to the LORD God, the God of Israel;
who alone does marvelous deeds.

**Praise be to his glorious name forever;
may the whole earth be filled with his glory.**

Amen and Amen.

Scripture **Matthew 3: 1-12 (pg 935)**

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church. **Thanks be to God.**

Message

“Peace and Violence”

Hymn

Angels, From The Realms Of Glory

#259

This Sunday, we celebrate the Advent of Peace, born for us in Jesus Christ. Think of your gifts as seeds of that peace which we can plant in the world God loves for Christ’s sake.

Prayer of Dedication for the Offering

God, our Peace and our Promise, receive our gifts as seeds of gratitude for your gift to us in Christ Jesus. Bless these seeds with growth so that peace will take root in people who face conflict and danger, and are seeking to establish peace in the face of violence. Be their peace and their promise, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of the peaceable kingdom Isaiah envisioned, where predator and prey are reconciled, and children play in safety—we give you thanks for every step taken towards reconciliation among rivals, and every program provided to give children a reliable future. Thank you for policies implemented on behalf of the climate and every vulnerable creature, to give us all hope for an enduring future in the world you love, for peace will not come if the earth keeps tilting out of balance.

God of peace and justice, make us better stewards of the gifts you give us.

God of John the Baptist’s rallying cry, you raised up John in the wilderness as a voice calling us to conversion. We thank you for signs of renewal and change in the church, and in communities grappling with historic injustice and current outcry.

Guide advocates who work for change with both courage and compassion. As we await the coming of Christ, awaken the church to new ways to undertake ministry and mission. Give us the energy and resources to reach out in ways we have yet to have yet to imagine

God of peace and justice, make us better stewards of the gifts you give us.

God of steadfast encouragement, St. Paul called the followers of Christ to live in harmony, and welcomed those perceived as strangers. Thank you for welcoming us when we were strangers to a new community, a new church and a life changed by unexpected circumstances. We pray for people who are apprehensive about this Christmas season because life has changed for them, or circumstances leave them feeling lonely and discouraged. Draw close to those who suffer in body, mind or spirit, and guide us to reach out to someone who needs comfort or encouragement.

God of peace and justice, make us better stewards of the gifts you give us.

God of justice and equity, the psalms, the prophets and the gospels proclaim your care for the poor, and your expectation that your people will look to the needs of the vulnerable. We thank you that Canada has resources to share and pray that our leaders will attend to longstanding injustice and urgent need without excuse or delay.

We pray for places torn apart by war—Ukraine, Palestine, Sudan, Nigeria and for communities devastated by storms, floods, fire or drought. Challenge any who would hoard scarce resources or profit by exploiting others. Open our hearts to share what we can, even in these difficult times. God of peace and justice, make us better stewards of the gifts you give us.

Hear our prayers, O God and strengthen us to serve you in faith and obedience. We offer our prayers through our Lord Jesus Christ who taught us to pray together, **Our Father...**

Benediction

Go in peace this day, ready to bear fruit worthy of your commitment to Jesus Christ and his kingdom of justice and peace. And may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Sing— “A Christmas Blessing”

May the Child of Christmas peace and joy impart;
May the Christ of Christmas dwell within your heart. Amen.

Hymn While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks #272

Postlude Shelley Jodoin

Congregational Meeting

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FACEBOOK
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Zion,

As we gather together on this Second Sunday of Advent, we can thank God that we are able to freely express our faith when so many in the world cannot. As we light the Candle of Peace we are encouraged to prepare our hearts for Christ's coming, and reminded to live as peacemakers in a troubled world. May you be filled with the peace of Christ this day.

A Congregational Meeting will take place right after our Service. We would appreciate if everyone would attend this important meeting.

Coffee Time will follow our Meeting. Today is Birthday Cake Sunday. Thank you to Susan and Joan for hosting the celebration of all our December birthdays. We extend warm greetings to Rev. Mandara today for a very Happy Birthday and we pray the year ahead will bring him good health. Please take a moment to check our sign up chart on the office bulletin board for upcoming Sundays.

Decorating for Christmas has taken place over the past couple of weeks. Our decorating team did an amazing job of making our Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall look beautiful. Thank you to Betty Wodzak, Kathy Ness, Burton Maves, Heather Lariviere, Mike Kearns, Bev Jones, Susan Hanniman, Eunice Getz, Reg Getz, Joan deHaan, and Sherry Blaedow for coming out to make our Sanctuary and Hall look beautiful.

Choir Practice will be held on Wednesday, December 10th at 2:30 at Wesley.

Advent Food Bank Collection box is set up at the parking lot doors. Please remember to help share blessings this season.

Our Outreach Committee met on November 23rd and it was decided that we would distribute some of our Outreach Funds before end of year. Our Daily Bread Ministries will receive \$50, First Step Options will receive \$100, and Wesley United Church Soup Kitchen will receive \$300. Also it was decided that we will transfer \$1000 from our Outreach Account to our Building Account to go toward our New Sign Fundraiser.

New Sign Funds Raised To Date--\$3608.95

This total includes the \$1000 transfer from our Outreach Account. Thank you for all the donations. Simply write, "New Sign" on your offering envelope if you would like to help support this effort.

A Christmas Craft Sale took place at Zion yesterday. Proceeds from the sale will be used to provide local support as needed. A huge thanks goes out to all our volunteers.

Volunteers for Snow Removal are needed. If you could help with clearing the walkway at the front of the building, including the door by the mailbox, the stairs to the lower parking lot, or the parking lot door entrance, before our Sunday Worship time, please let Eunice know. These are the areas that are not accessible to the plow. It would involve shovelling or the use of the snow blower.

The Third Sunday of Advent, December 14th will be held at Wesley at 11:00. This will be a joyous celebration of music and a hot Potluck Dinner will follow the Service.

Year End Committee Reports need to be submitted to the office by Christmas to prepare for the completion of our Annual Report Book.

Zion's Pastoral Care Team is seeking people who would be interested in helping with the Pastoral Care of Zion. If you would like more information, please speak to Armelda Maves.

Keep in your prayers those who are grieving the loss of loved ones, those experiencing or recovering from illness and surgeries and those going through challenging and difficult times. We especially ask that you remember in prayer, Rev. Dave Bauman & Maureen, Myrtle Gutz, Erna Maves, Evelyn Maves, Sandra Maves, Rev. Mandara, Doreen Schroeder and Martin Verkruijsen.

December Christmas Services

Advent 2— 11:00—December 7th at Zion (Today)

***Zion Choir, Congregational Meeting Following Service, Birthday Cake Sunday**

Advent 3— 11:00—December 14th at Wesley

***Joint Christmas Choir, Hot Potluck Dinner**

Advent 4— 11:00—December 21st at Zion

Christmas Eve— 4:00—December 24th at Zion

***Christmas Carols, Scripture Readings,
Special Music—Miranda Lockley—Violinist,
Zion Choir**

December 28th— 11:00—Joint Service at Zion

***Lay Participation, Message by Bailey Jodoin,
Joint Choir, Light Lunch served by Zion**

Upcoming Community Events are posted on our office bulletin board. Please look for all the details if you are interested in attending. Support to a number of causes is made possible through these events.

***Christmas Cantata & Concert—St. Andrew's United Church
—December 14th—2:00**

