

December 6, 2020 Service

Welcome

*Call to Worship

We gather here in anticipation,
seeking an encounter with our Holy God,
who comes among us when we least expect it,
who invites us to wrestle with our questions and doubts,
who richly blesses us,
and calls us each by name.
Let's worship God together!

***Hark the Herald Angels Sing/King of Heaven**

*God's Greeting

*Greet each other

Candle Lighting

This second Sunday of Advent we admit that we do not always recognize the mystery of God's presence among us. We journey with Jacob, the deceiver, the one who wrestled with God and lived, we find it is ok to ask of God: Who are you? As Jacob discovered, in our wrestling we may indeed see the face of God. Today we light the candle of PEACE. (light 2nd purple candle)

A candle of peace burns to remind us that God's peace comes when we are in a relationship with God, the peace-maker. And then we are, in turn, challenged to become peace-makers in our world as we hold tight to the truths God reveals to us.
PRAYER: (Congregation)

Dear Jesus,

We seek to become a community of peace as we wait for the mystery and strangeness of your appearing in this world. Amen.

What Child is This

*Confession

Lord Jesus, the longing of your heart is to be in relationship with us, each of us. We recognize that often our relationship with you is messy and complicated. We long to embrace your truth, your promises, but often we find ourselves wrestling with you, wrestling with questions, with doubts. Forgive us Father, for times in which we lack the faith to believe in your goodness, in your faithfulness, and the truth that you are God over all, including the events surrounding our life.

*Assurance of Pardon

The good news of Advent is that you are a wrestling God. You welcome our questions of struggle and doubt. Your mercy and grace are sufficient in accepting all of us which includes questions of who you are. Thank you for embracing us just as we are, for accepting the questions, the doubts and for allowing us to wrestle with them.

We thank you for choosing this wrestler to further your kingdom.

During this Advent season we wait longingly and expectantly.

We wait for God the stranger, Immanuel, God is with us.

*Hope For Everyone

Congregational Prayer

*Children's Blessing

Scripture Reading : Gen 32:22-32

Sermon: Jacob and the Stranger

*Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel (LUYH 61)

*Sing we the song of Emmanuel

*God's Parting Blessing

*Joy to the World (LUYH 92)

Offerings:

1. Woody Nook Ministries
2. Youth Unlimited