

We are here to: Love God, Love Our Neighbor and Serve the World.

December 10, 2023 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM Advent II: "Being Present with Peace"

Music for Gathering *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* Pritchard
Trinity Brass

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Amy B. Gregory
Stewardship Update April Hicks, Stewardship Chair

Becoming Present –an Advent Ritual

We unwrap a present on this second Sunday of Advent with great anticipation for the gift that God will reveal.

We open our hearts as we open the gift!

The promise of Peace is the Divine Gift we receive.

And what will we do with it?

The gift of Christ’s peace reminds us that we can have serenity even in the midst of non-peaceful situations.

Peace is not simply the absence of conflict.

Peace is an ever-present gift that we can open at any time

when we stop, breathe, and trust that we are never alone.

And the gift of peace we can give is to be present for those who feel alone.

We light this Candle of Peace as a sign that we will be Present with Peace in the world.

***Song** *Christ Be Our Light* Farrell

Congregation joins on the refrain:

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Prayer of Presence

**Holy Living Light of God,
you are our Hopeful Presence.**

**Let this hope grow in our lives each day,
so we can be a Present of Hope to others.**

Unwrap and open our hearts.

May it be so.

Amen.

***Opening Hymn** *People, Look East* UMH #202

*You are invited to stand as you are able or comfortable

Responsive Scripture Reading Isaiah 40: 1-11

“Console my people, give them comfort,” says your God.

**“Speak tenderly to Jerusalem’s heart,
and tell it that its time of service is ended...”**

A voice cries out,

“Clear a path through the wilderness for Yahweh!

Make a straight road through the desert for our God!”

**Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low;
let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges become a valley!**

Go up on a high mountain, you who bring good news to Zion!

Shout with a loud voice, you who bring good news to Jerusalem!

Shout without fear, and say to the towns of Judah “Here is your God!”

Like a shepherd you feed your flock,

gathering the lambs and holding them close,

and leading mother ewes with gentleness.

Anthem: 9:00 am *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* Psalmodia Evangelica
Trinity Brass

10:30 am *Waiting for the Light* Schram Combined Youth Choirs

Hymn *Jesus Loves Me (Verse 1)* UMH #191

A Time for Young Disciples

Anthem: 10:30am *Immanuel, God's Precious Gift of Love* Berry
Combined Youth Choirs

Hymn *Jesus Loves Me (Verse 1)* UMH #191

Gospel Reading Mark 1: 1-8

Message “Being Present with Peace” Pastor Brendan J. Fox

Response *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace* TFWS #2171

Invitation to Generosity: Offering Our Gifts and Our Thanks

Offertory *Something Told The Wild Geese* Field/Beck

***Singing Our Praises** to the tune of *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* UMH #211

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host.

And praise Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Prayer Song *Emmanuel, Emmanuel* McGee

Pastoral Prayer

***Sending Hymn** *Jesus, The Light of the World* W&S #3056

***Benediction**

Postlude *In The Bleak Midwinter* R.V. William
Trinity Brass

Please join us for Coffee Hour after the service hosted by the Church Council.

WEEKLY CALENDAR	
Sunday, December 10	
9:00 AM	Worship
10:00 AM	Youth Choir and VOH Rehearsal
10:30 AM	Worship
12:00 PM	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
Monday, December 11	
9:30 AM	Earlybirds
5:30 PM	Scouts/KH
Tuesday, December 12	
9:30 AM	Tuesday Connections
7:00 PM	Scouts/KH
Wednesday, December 13	
8:30 AM	Fix-its
9:30 AM	Explorers
7:00 PM	AA/Fireside Room
7:00 PM	Pub Theology/Pizza Works
Thursday, December 14	
9:15 AM	Seekers
7:00 PM	Choir rehearsal
Friday, December 15	
5:30 PM	Scouts/KH
Saturday, December 16	
6:00 PM	Youth Group/KH
Sunday, December 17	
9:00 AM	Worship
9:45 AM	Youth Choir and VOH Rehearsal
10:30 AM	Worship
11:30 AM	Voices of Hope
11:30 AM	Prepare meal for Soup Kitchen
12:00 PM	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

Welcome

- **Welcome to worship!** If you are new, please fill out a welcome card found in the pews, if you'd like to receive more information. **Thank you for coming** to spend part of your Sunday with us. We hope you experience a sense of God's love and grace here today.
- We will be **collecting prayer cards** during the offering. If you would like your **prayer request** forwarded to the Prayer Chain, please check the appropriate box on the card.

Announcements

- **The Giving Tree** Gifts are due by **December 17th**. Please wrap gifts and attach the "ornament" tag by taping the string to the package so we know who gets the gift. If you have any questions please contact Mark Witkofsky at 518-669-2978. Thank you for your generosity.
- **Heifer International** -For more than 75 years, Heifer International has worked with people around the globe to end hunger and poverty and care for the earth. **Animals, trees and seeds are provided to families to improve food security.** Your gifts save lives. We will have an information table in Knight Hall after Sunday services in December. Please stop by to see the animal gift cards and brochures. Your donation will be gratefully received. The Outreach Commission
- **Christmas Offering** -Our Christmas Offering **helps neighbors near and far.** Our church keeps none of your gifts received from this offering. This year we will again support **Schenectady Community Ministries, RISSE (support for refugees and recent immigrants), The Guardian House Future Playground Fund, Chocacente Scholars (Managua, Nicaragua), Captain/ CHS and the food pantries of SICM, Lifeworks in Ballston Spa and Rensselaer UMC.** Thank you for giving to people in need. The Outreach Commission
- The **youth group** will be getting together on **December 16 at 6:00 pm** in Knight Hall. We will be having pizza, making an ornament and singing Christmas Karaoke. Come and join us for some fun!
- Join us for Christmas Caroling at Glendale Nursing Home on **December 20 at 6:00 pm. All singers welcome!**
- **Committee Chairs** : Please **submit all 2023** receipts, invoices and reimbursement requests to our treasurer Dee Lowman **by December 26** so they can be included in the work of closing out the year. Any questions, please contact Dee treasurer@burnthillsumc.org

Save the Date

- **Sunday, December 31 there will be one worship service at 9:30am.** It will be livestreamed.

The Gift of Being Present

Sunday, December 24, 2023



Advent IV

9:30am Advent Worship: Love

Christmas Eve

3:30pm Short & Sweet

Come as you are for cozy Christmas: pjs, Christmas dresses, etc--you are welcome!
30 minute/ low sensory service with the Christmas story, carols on guitar and candlelight (glow stick, battery candle options too) Snacks served Home before dark :)

7pm Christmas Pageant

Hear our youth tell the story of the birth of the Christ Child through the Christmas Pageant

9pm Candlelight Service

The Christmas Story in scripture, music, carols, & peaceful candlelight



December 10, 2023

Being Present
with Peace



BHUMC Welcome Statement

At Burnt Hills UMC, we aspire to be a community of grace and unconditional love, where all people will find hospitality, compassion and mercy. We seek to welcome all on the journey, to grow together in faith and to go out to serve the world. We welcome people of any age, culture, race, nationality, ability, marital status, economic status, sexual orientation and gender identity, as full participants in the life of our congregation. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we seek to be part of Jesus' movement of love and justice for all of God's children. All are welcome to worship, grow and serve with us.

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