

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 7, 2025

Isaiah 11:1-10

### Vision of Peace

The year was 1481. Switzerland was on the verge of a civil war — again. Forty years earlier, the Old Zürich War raged over succession issues. For a country whose name is synonymous with “neutrality,” such factions seem unfathomable. Human nature, though, is predictable and conflicts are inevitable. This time, though, there would be no bloodstained alpine meadows. Instead, a child of God would emerge to broker peace among the divided villages.

Nicholas of Flüe was his name. He was a man of the mountains who bid farewell to his wife and 10 children two decades earlier to devote his life to God. He left with just a cloak on his back and no shoes. Legend has it that Nicholas, who would later be called “Brother Klaus,” sustained himself with the elements of the Eucharist, eating bread and wine for the remainder of his life.

When unrest came to the country, Nicholas, a former soldier who had seen his share of carnage, knew he had to speak for peace. History does not record what he said, but opposing parties miraculously came together. What was documented was how church bells pealed triumphantly that Christmas of 1481, ringing continuously for four days.

It’s a beautiful story to have on this second Sunday of Advent — one that echoes the vision of peace Isaiah brings to us, where all get along and no one is harmed. There are cows feeding with bears, an infant plays near a cobra’s den, and a child puts its hand in the viper’s nest. The message is clear: On God’s holy mountain there will be no destruction to anyone or anything.

That holy mountain is still, though, a vision. Just ask Switzerland about its warring history. Yet that doesn’t mean we let go of hope. Rather, as God sent the prophets to speak of peace, we are being called to speak to our communities of a better way to live together. We are to be the brokers of peace who, like Nicholas, hold steadfast to the belief that “peace cannot be destroyed, but discord can” and that true peace is “always in God, for God is peace.” It was this thinking that led to Nicholas’ canonization by Pope Pius XXII in 1947, making him Switzerland’s only saint.

The Christmas bells rang with the good news of peace on Earth in Switzerland in 1481 thanks to a soldier-turned-hermit-turned-saint who believed Isaiah’s vision was possible. Imagine the peace we could bring into the world today if we too believed.

*God of Advent waiting, help us become brokers of peace. Soften our hearts and make tender our words so that love is heard rather than hate and discourse. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.*

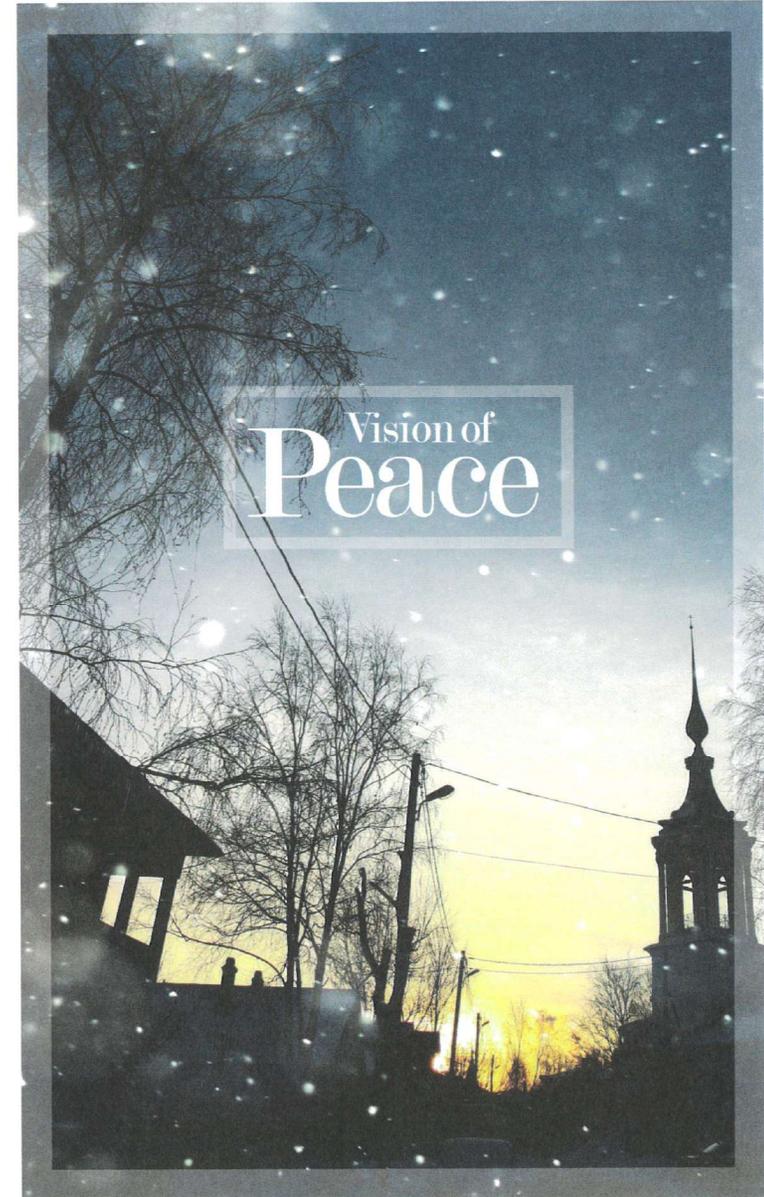
(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today’s Sunday Bulletin.)



8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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St. John's United Church of Christ  
 Second Sunday of Advent  
 December 7, 2025



\* Please stand if it is comfortable to do so. **Bold print** is everyone in unison

**WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, GREET ONE ANOTHER** (be seated)

**PRELUDE**

**CHURCH BELL** (the bell invites us to worship)

**GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP** (responsively)

Make ready a pathway for our God.

**Clean out the debris in our hearts and our closets.**

Clear out a space in our calendars.

**Put aside any sense of unworthiness**

And focus on the One who comes to love us.

**Prepare a place in our homes and hearts.**

Set the table and light the candles,

**For Christ is coming.**

\* **OPENING HYMN** *like a child* #133

\* **WE INVITE GOD TO WORSHIP** (unison)

**On this Second Sunday of Advent, O Lord, we come to praise your holy name for your unmatched love given to us in Christ. Enable us to humbly receive your grace and dutifully dedicate ourselves to worshipping and serving you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\* **RESPONSE** *Come, O Long Expected Jesus* (v.1) #125

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH** – Zoey & Charlotte Bahr

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** *Jesus Loves Me*

**OFFERING INVITATION\*\***

Let us give back to God with gratitude for all blessings received.

\* **RESPONSE** *In the Bleak Midwinter* (v.4)

\* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (unison)

**Open our eyes and ears. Revive the desert places in us that we may yet blossom. Don't let the world be cold or dry. Bring your promises close to it. Freshen it. And let us stand on tiptoes of expectation, daily through Advent, convinced that we will find your footprints on our paths, and that one day soon we will see these gifts blossom as flowers in the desert. Amen.**

**ANTHEM** *O Come to Set Us Free* McDonald

**WE GATHER IN PRAYER**

Silent Prayers – Pastoral Prayer-The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

Congregational Response: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (chorus) #119

**SCRIPTURE:** Old Testament: Isaiah 11:1-10

New Testament: Matthew 3:1-12

L: The Word of God for the People of God **P: Thanks be to God**

**MESSAGE** *Stumped*

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

\* **CLOSING HYMN** *Watcher, Tell Us of us of the Night*  
*(sung to Come, Ye, Thankful, People Come #718)*

\* **BLESSING** (responsively)

May the rough places in your life be made smooth. May the valleys of despair be filled with comfort. May the door to your heart be wide open.

**May the glory of Emmanuel be with us all our days.**

\* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** *Go In Peace* #445

\* **POSTLUDE**

## Announcements

\*\* You may place your offerings in the designated basket or online at myucc.org and click on the *contribution* button. Please prayerfully consider setting up regular online donations to continue our outreach into the community.

**DINNER & CONVERSATION:** This week's dinner will be at Dragon 2000 at 6:00 pm Thursday night. Please sign the list in the back of the sanctuary so we can reserve a large enough table.

### November Youth Dates

12/14 (Sunday) 4pm-5:30pm

12/21 (Sunday) 6pm-8pm

**UGLY SWEATER DAY:** Grab your "ugliest" Christmas sweater and wear it to worship on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Join in the fun as we celebrate the season.

**HAT & MITTEN TREE:** A bare Christmas tree stands in our entry ready to be decorated with hats, mittens, gloves and scarves to be given to children in need at Riley Elementary. Please help decorate our tree with these items.

**FAMILY CHRISTMAS MOVIE** will take place on December 14th at 5:00 pm in Memorial Hall with a light supper served. The movie will be *Disney's A Christmas Carol* featuring the voices of Jim Carrey, Gary Oldman, Colin Firth, Cary Elwes, Bob Hoskins and Robin Wright. Everyone is invited, but please sign the sheet in back of church if you plan to attend so we can plan the food.

**NEXT SUNDAY** the children will present their Christmas program in worship

**"The Ballad of Bethlehem"**, a Pepper Choplin cantata, will be performed at 4 PM, this Sunday afternoon, at the Washington High School Auditorium, by the Southwest Indiana Cantata Choir, and includes a 22-piece orchestra and a live nativity scene. Narrators will be speaking Creole, Spanish, and English; the choir will sing in English. 17 churches from 6 counties participate in this event. A cookie and wassail reception follows! You are invited to attend!

## Prayers and Posts

**We ask for continuing prayer requests for:** Jessica Connor and family, Gary Meyer, Don Osborne, Jr. and Conway Wilson. The Family of Mark Schutter, Jasmine Zeller, Cindy Utley, Janice Strange, Tony Riley and Ellen Riggs. Mollie Joice, cousin of Darcie Bahr and prayers for Bobby Bahr. Katrina Memering is currently in Barnes Hospital in St. Louis with fluid on her lungs and an infection. Her surgery for a kidney transplant was scheduled for December 11. Please continue to keep her and the donor in your prayers.

### Shut-in Addresses:

Susie Milligan - Colonial Assisted Living, Room 118, 1622 S Hart Street Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

Leona Conway - Aperia Care, C Wing Room C-35, 3801 Old Bruceville Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

Marge Beamon - The Villages at Oak Ridge, Room 303, 1694 Troy Road, Washington, IN 47501

### At Home:

Gary Meyer

Mike Lankford

Until further notice, all prayer requests or updates should be relayed to Janet Goodman instead of the church office. Email: [terrybaseball@gmail.com](mailto:terrybaseball@gmail.com)  
Text or phone call: 812-887-2797.

### This Week in the Life of St. John's

#### Sunday, December 07

Adult FF Class 9:30am  
Worship 10:30am  
Communion 10:30am

#### Tuesday, December 09

Nominating Committee Mtg. @ 6pm

#### Thursday, December 11

Dinner & Conversation Dragon 2000 @ 6pm  
Outreach & Benevolence @11am

#### Monday, December 08

BABE Store 12-5:30pm  
Friends 5:30-6:15pm

#### Wednesday, December 10

Messy Church Core Team Mtg. @5:30pm  
Choir Practice @ 7pm  
Christian Education Mtg. @6pm

#### Friday, December 12

Pastor Debbie is Off

### Looking Ahead In November

#### Sunday, December 14

Adult FF Class 9:30am  
Children's Program and Youth Event  
Youth Meeting @ 4-5:30pm  
Movie @ 5:00

#### Tuesday, December 16

Girl Scouts 4:30-6pm

#### Thursday, December 18

Dinner & Conversation Procopio's @ 6pm

#### Monday, December 15

BABE Store 12-5:30pm  
Friends 5:30-6:15pm  
Church Board 7pm  
Mission and Worship @ 6pm

#### Wednesday, December 17

Choir Practice @ 7pm  
January Newsletter items Due in Office

#### Friday, December 19

Pastor Debbie is Off



### Staff and Volunteers

<b>Pastor:</b>	Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins
<b>Secretary</b>	Kim Butler
<b>Liturgist:</b>	Kyle Doggett
<b>Head Usher:</b>	Kim Godare
<b>Organist:</b>	DeEtta Welte
<b>Music Director, Pianist:</b>	Becky Brockman
<b>Children &amp; Family Ministry Coordinator:</b>	Will Meyer
<b>Nursery Attendant:</b>	Darcie Bahr
<b>Projection:</b>	Jill Doggett
<b>Sound:</b>	Brian Fillingim
<b>Church Board President:</b>	Ed Cummings

### Did You Know?

St. John's Sunday Morning Worship Services are streamed **LIVE** on our church's Facebook page, "**St. John's United Church of Christ Vincennes.**"

**Or**, you can watch the Worship Service at your convenience by going on the church website, "**myucc.org**" and clicking on "Worship Service" for a particular date.

You can also download a copy of each monthly **church newsletter** from our church website to keep up with all the activities.