

Dare to Imagine 2nd Sunday of Advent: Dare to imagine God's embrace!

FOCUS - Imagine the wideness of God's embrace of all creatures and creation!

It will widen our hearts to do the things that make for *peace*.

Welcome

Call to Worship In the quietness of our winter season, God breathes.

God comes close, open-armed.

We are held: tightly, gently, tenderly. God's embrace is wide.

A voice cries in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord,"
and God pulls the cries close.

God is already here.

Prayer

Candle Litany

Leader: We light a candle of peace.

And we imagine:

People: God's tender mercy, God's compassion.

Leader: We light the candle of peace to feel God's embrace, God's nearness,
God's breath.

People: Imagine that . . . we are God's wonders, blessed wonders.

Songs

Confession and Assurance

We bring ourselves into the forgiving embrace of God's presence.

(silence)

Leader: God, we begin these moments of confession by imagining your beauty and
goodness. In silence, we ask you to hold us in peace.

(silence)

Leader: Held in your strength, we give to you the noise, the conflict, and the
irritations that occupy and zap us of energy we need for other thoughts and tasks.

(silence)

Leader: Confident because your arms hold us close, we dare to imagine freedom
from sin. We are ready to step into the crooked and uneven world in which we live,
knowing your hand will guide us.

(silence)

Assurance

Leader: I invite you now to imagine the support of God's hands as you rise to your feet physically or in spirit.

Hear now God's words of assurance and peace:

By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.

(Luke 1:78-79)

Children's time

Scripture Luke 1:67-79, Luke 3:1-6, Colossians 1:13-14

Sermon Light Leading to Peace

Song

Sharing/Pastoral prayer

- After *"Lord, in your mercy"* respond with *"hear our prayer."*

Offering Song

Announcements

Thanks to all who helped decorate the sanctuary for Advent last Sunday.

Sending A smile in light of love with the words "The peace of Christ be with you."

Colossians 1:13-14

For Our God has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.