

Pax Christi USA Advent prayer service

Monday, December 8, 2025

8:30-9 PM Eastern

Second week of Advent

This week's service is hosted by the Pax Christi USA Indigenous Solidarity working group – our theme is Advent hope: Mary's solidarity for all who journey.



Welcome - Daniel Francis

Opening song -  Called By Earth and Sky

Opening prayer - Mary Beth DiMarco

Lighting of candles on the Advent wreath – Michelle Sherman

As we light the two candles of our Advent wreath, we remember Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem, traveling far from home in faithful obedience to God's call. The second candle is referred to as the Candle of Peace and reminds us that the peace Christ brings is not the absence of struggle, but the presence of justice—peace rooted in right relationship with all our relations. The red candle that will be lit represents our solidarity with the Palestinian community.

Tonight we light this candle for all who journey: for Indigenous peoples who have walked paths of displacement and resilience, for migrants seeking safety and welcome, for Water Protectors traveling to defend sacred lands. Like Mary, who sang of the Great Spirit scattering the proud and lifting up the humble, we await a peace that transforms—one that honors treaties, protects creation, and walks in solidarity with all who seek justice.

First reading, Isaiah 9:1-6 – Sr. Barbara Finch

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.

You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing, as they rejoice before you as at the harvest, as people make merry when dividing spoils.

For the yoke that burdened them, the pole on their shoulder, and the rod of their taskmaster you have smashed, as on the day of Midian.

For every boot that tramped in battle, every cloak rolled in blood, will be burned as fuel for flames.

For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests.

They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.

His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, from David's throne, and over his kingdom, which he confirms and sustains by judgment and justice, both now and forever.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

The word of God

R: Thanks be to God.

Gospel, Luke 1:46–55 – Carrie Hansen

First Nations Version: an Indigenous Translation of the New Testament

When Bitter Tears (Mary) heard this, she was filled with gladness, and her words flowed out like a song. “From deep in my heart, I dance with joy to honour the Great Spirit. Even though I am small and weak, he noticed me. Now I will be looked up to by all. The Mighty One has lifted me up. His name is sacred, He is the Great and Holy One. Her face seemed to shine as she continued, “He shows kindness and pity to both children and elders who respect him. His strong arm has brought low the ones who think they are better than others. He counts coup (touching the enemy as an act of bravery) with arrogant warrior chiefs but puts a headdress of honour on the ones with humble hearts.” She smiled, looked up at the sky, and shouted for joy! “ He prepares a great feast for the ones who are hungry, but sends the fat ones home with empty bellies. He has been kind to the tribes of Wrestles with Creator (*Israel*) who walk in his ways, for he has remembered the ancient promises he made to our ancestors- to the Father of Many Nations (*Abraham*) and his descendants.”

The Gospel of our God.

R: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Spoken and silent reflections

- *When have you witnessed or experienced solidarity in action—someone standing with those pushed to the margins, protecting what is sacred, or speaking truth to power? How did that encounter deepen your understanding of Advent hope?*
- *Mary said yes to God's dream of a world transformed. What is one concrete way you or your faith community can say yes during this Advent season—whether by honoring Indigenous wisdom, welcoming the stranger, protecting creation, or seeking truth and justice? If you haven't started yet, what first step is calling to you?"*

After our prayer service is over, we encourage you to share your answer to tonight's questions with those who are watching with you or by participating in a small group after tonight's service.

Prayers of the people – Sr. Barbara Finch

Our response is, Oh Holy Creator of all that is sacred, hear our prayer.

Closing prayer - Mary Beth DiMarco

Creator of All Things, Great Spirit who breathed life into this land long before Advent was named, We gather as your children in this season of waiting, honoring the light that has guided our ancestors through countless winters. Go with us now as you have always walked with all people, bringing peace to troubled waters, healing to broken relationships, and restoration to all creation. May we walk in a good way.

And as Ted Loder invites us (in his “I Am Silent...and Expectant”) How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given.

May we be silent now, Lord, and expectant... that we may receive the gift we need, so we may become the gift that others need.

Adapted from: [Guerrillas of Grace: Prayers for the Battle by Ted Loder](#)

Closing song:  Coast Salish Anthem | Chief Dan George's Prayer Song