

Sermon on the Mount Mennonite Church  
Advent 1, Nov. 28, 2021  
Dare To Imagine God's Goodness

Prelude: Bernette Ensz

Lighting the Peace Lamp

Focus Statement: Can we, dare we, embrace HOPE once more? We can when we remember God's steadfast goodness and the goodness of learning and walking in God's ways.

Call to Worship:

Land Acknowledgement: VT 878

Theme Song: VT 276, Solemn Stillness, Weary Streets

Candle Litany: Leader: We light a candle of hope. And we imagine.

People: God's righteousness, God's steadfast love, God's justice.

Leader: We light the candle to see God's goodness in us, among us.

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

Song: VT ~~239~~  
211, Hope Is A Candle

Confession and Assurance: Leader: A friend once said children grow taller at night – while at rest – bones quietly stretch, and bit by bit their bodies grow. Trees grow silently too – from deep inside – energy is released. Branches reach for the light. People can grow silently too.

People: We confess that all too often we stifle the growth God inspires deep inside of us, preferring the immediate, the good enough, the comfortable.

Leader: In Advent -- O God – cause us to get up on our tiptoes, lean forward, and extend our gaze.

People: Surely God, who caused the righteous Branch to spring up, will enliven our imaginations in this season of hope.

Leader: The realm of God is near. Listen – can you hear it?  
Look – can you see it? Our God says, “Surely the days are coming – they are already here!”

Scripture Readings: Jeremiah 33:14-16, Psalm 25:1-10, 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13, Luke 21:25-36.

Message: Hope

Song: VT 239, He Came Down

Sharing and Prayer Concerns:

Prayer:

Offering:

Offertory: Bernette Ensz

Announcements:

Benediction Song: VT 828, There's a Wild Hope in the Wind

Benediction: Stand up,  
                    Raise your heads,  
                                    Reach toward the light,  
  Wait in growing hope.  
                    Dare to imagine the goodness of our God.

Postlude: Bernette Ensz