



Comfort, comfort, O my people, speak of peace, now says our God. Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning beneath their sorrows' load.

Speak unto Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them.

Tell of all the sins I cover, and that warfare now is over.

Hark, the voice of one who's crying in the desert far and near, bidding all to full repentance since the kingdom now is here.

O that warning cry obey!

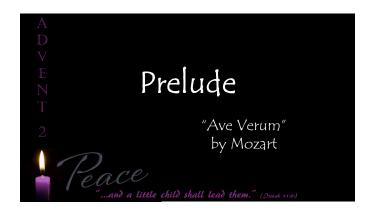
Now prepare for God a way.

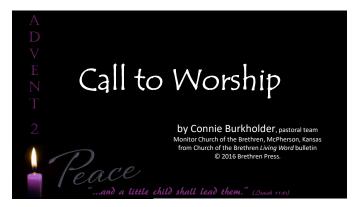
Let the valleys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.

"...and a little child shall lead them." (Dunch 1150)

O make straight
what long was crooked,
make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
now over earth is shed abroad.
And all flesh shall see the token
that his word is never broken.









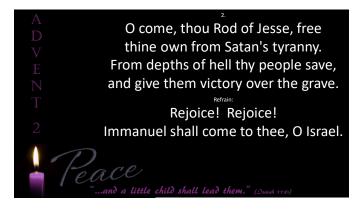


A
D
AII:
V
Ready us, Holy Spirit.
E
Baptize us with the fire.
N
Refine us and clear away anything
T
that keeps us from
receiving Christ into our midst.

Peace
"...and a little child shall lead them." (Omanh 1116)

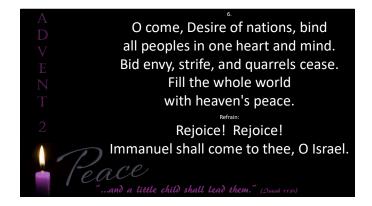


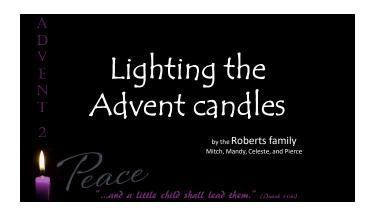




O come, thou Day-spring,
come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

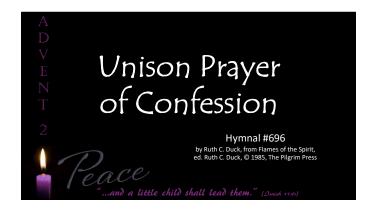












God of love and justice

We long for peace within and peace without.

We long for harmony in our families,

for serenity in the midst of struggle,
and for commitment to each other's growth.

We long for the day when our homes
will be a dwelling place for your love.

Yet we confess that we are often anxious;

we do not trust each other,
and we harbor violence.

We are not willing to take the risks
and make the sacrifices that love requires.

Look upon us with kindness and grace.

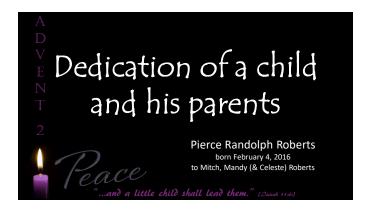
Rule in our homes and in all the world;
show us how to walk in your paths,
through the mercy

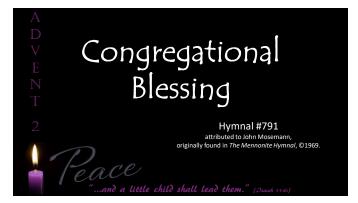












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You have offered your child

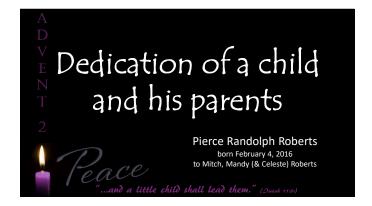
D to the strong and tender providence of God.

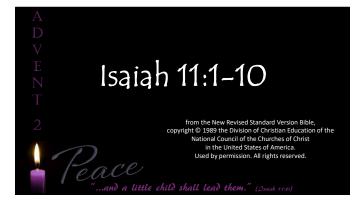
We rejoice with you and give thanks

for the gift of your child.

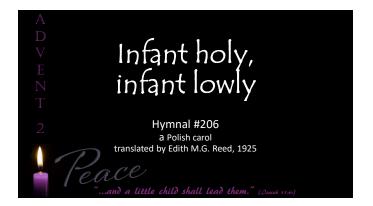
We promise, with humility and seriousness,
to share in your child's nurture and well-being.
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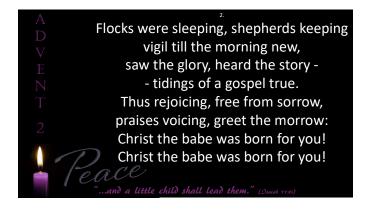




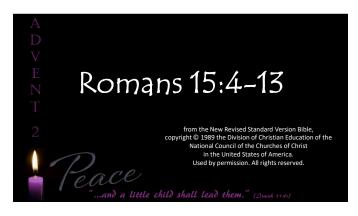


Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging angels singing,
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Christ the babe is Lord of all.







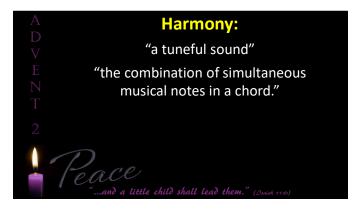


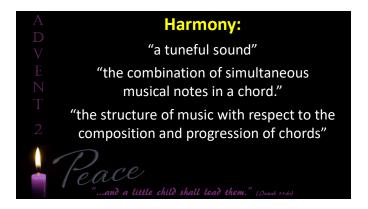


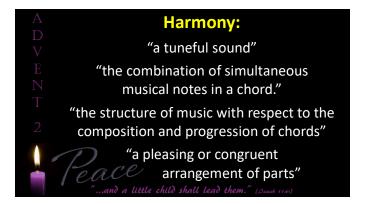


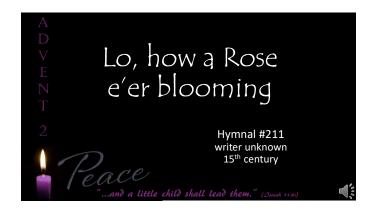










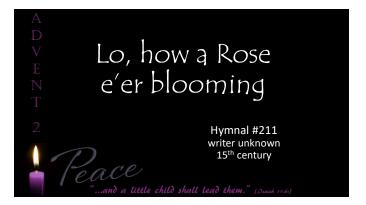


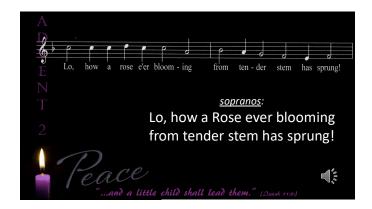




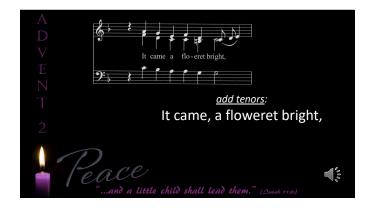






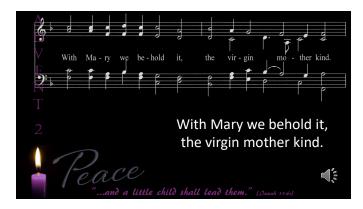












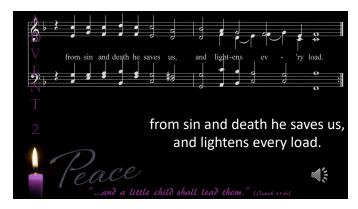


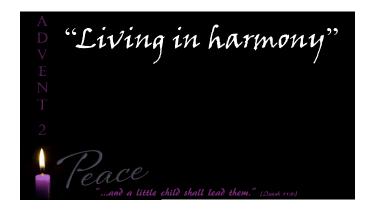


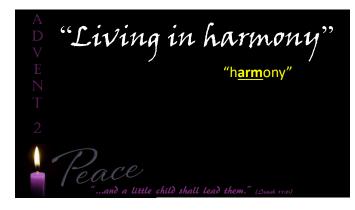


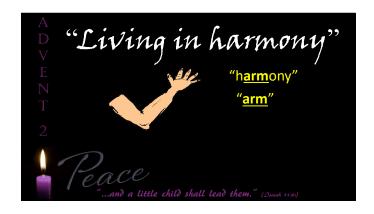


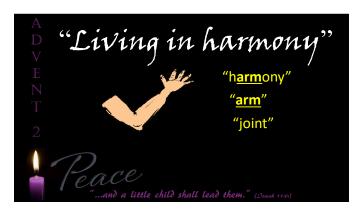






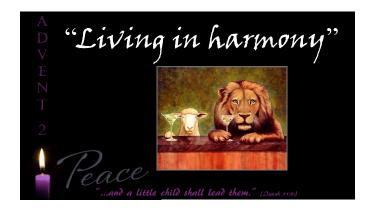


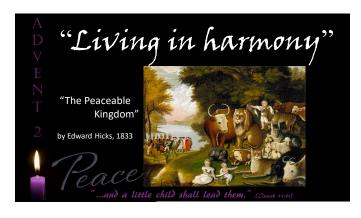




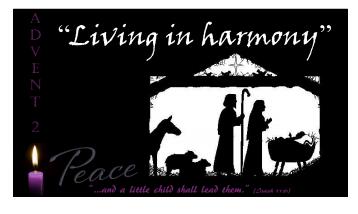












"...and a little child shall lead them." (Dunch 1920)

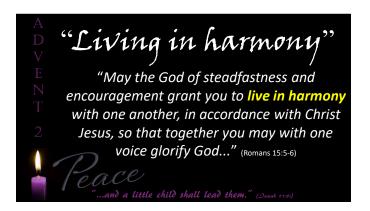
"Living in harmony"

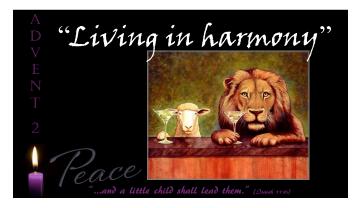
"May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify God..." (Romans 15:5-6)





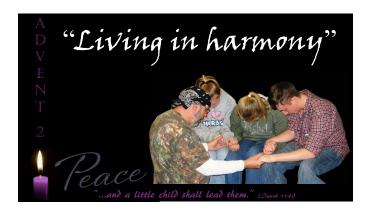














Blessed be the God of Israel,
who comes to set us free,
who visits and redeems us,
and grants us liberty!
The prophets spoke of mercy,
of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill the promise
to bring our people peace.

Now from the house of David
a child of grace is given,
a Savior comes among us
to raise us up to heaven.
Before him goes the herald,
forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation,
the harbinger of day.

On prisoners of darkness
the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness
upon the sinner's eyes,
to guide the feet of pilgrims
along the paths of peace.
O bless our God and Savior
with songs that never cease!

