Stone Church of the Brethren

December 10, 2023, Second Sunday of Advent How Does a Weary World Rejoice? We Find Joy in Connection

"As we look to the Gospel text, many sermons may emphasize how Elizabeth provides sanctuary for Mary. However, this year, we hope to highlight a different angle: perhaps Mary's arrival is what pulls Elizabeth out of her seclusion, allowing her to experience joy and delight. We want to highlight the mutuality of their joy—even if they each cannot feel joy for themselves, they are both holding joy for each other. From that connection, joy grows."

-Lisle Gwynn Garrity

PRELUDE Go Tell It on the Mountain Brian Middleton
Stone Church Ringers

WELCOME Pastor Cindy

SUNG CALL Light Dawns on a Weary World^ Bringle/Rowan
TO WORSHIP (see insert for music)

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

Bekah Ford & Alisha Boerstler

Bekah: How does a weary world practice peace?

All: By listening before we speak and saying sorry when we need to.

Alisha: By advocating for justice and caring for our neighbor. By practicing Sabbath and forgiving seventy times seven.

All: By choosing grace over hate and opening the door for each other.

Bekah: There are a million ways to practice peace. So today we light the candle of peace as a reminder and a charge.

All: With God's help, may we bring peace into a weary world. Amen.

Bless'd Be the God of Israel^ *Song 174 TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN Mini-Pageant** Luke 1: 24-45 Gabriel: Henry Elder; Mary: CC Elder Elizabeth: Catherine Weld; Pregnant Mary: Elsie Weld SONG Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming^^ 211 Strength in Numbers Pastor Ben MESSAGE *Song Comfort, Comfort, O My People^^ 176 SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 40: 1-11 Alisha Boerstler and Bekah Ford MUSICAL Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence Jason W. Krug Tara Yorke: clarinet REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY Pastor Cindy

Song While We Are Waiting, Come^ 1032

SENDING** Pastor Ben

POSTLUDE God Rest You Merry Gentlemen Trad. English Carol/ Loren & Donna Rhodes Arr. Lani Smith

*Please Rise, as Able, in Body or Spirit

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LIGHT DAWNS ON A WEARY WORLD



