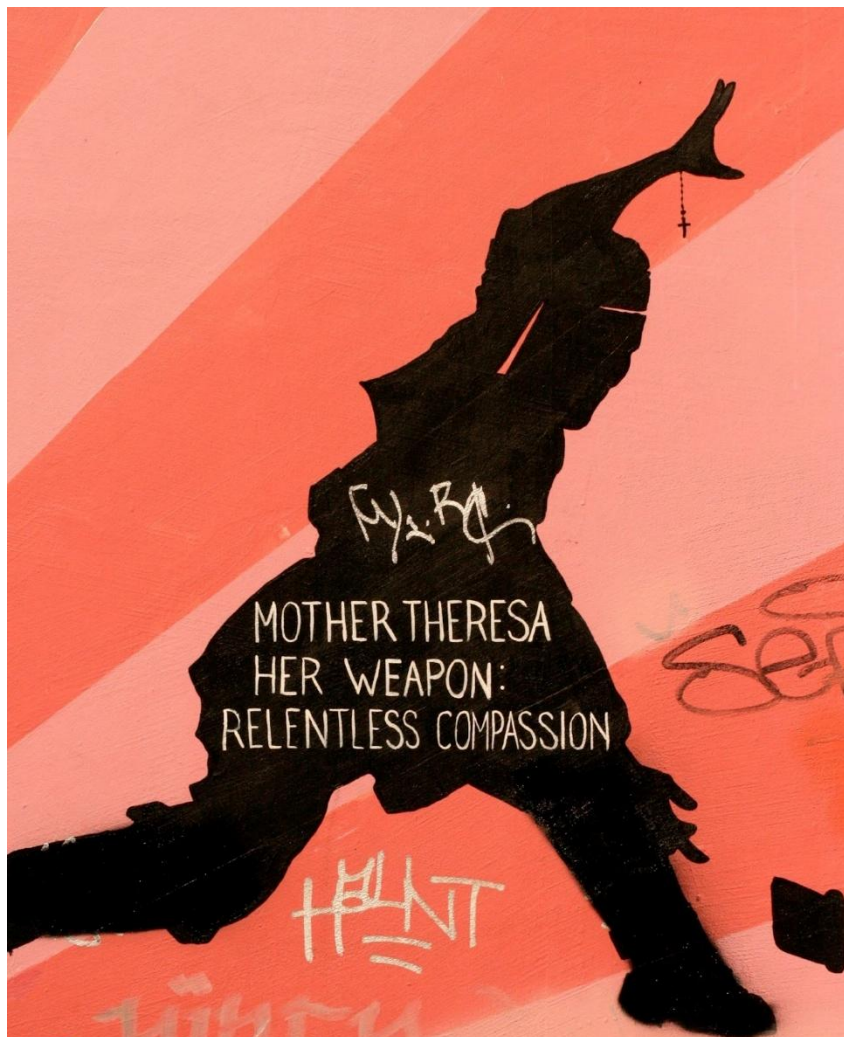


**Peace United Church of Christ
February 1st, 2026
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
10:30am**



Mother Theresa Her Weapon: Relentless Compassion, mural in the Mission District of San Francisco, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, Vanderbilt Divinity Library

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Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Ringin of the Bells

*Call to Worship from Psalm 15

O God, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

Those who do what is right and speak the truth from their heart.

How do we do what is right? How do we speak the truth?

We do not slander, we do no evil to our friends, we cast no shame upon our neighbors.

Our honor is found in walking with God,

We walk with God when we keep our promises.

When we do these things,

We shall never be moved.

*Song Softly and Tenderly #449, New Century Hymnal

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me;

See at the portals Christ waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.

Come home, come home, come home, come home, all who are weary, come home;

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?

Why should we linger and heed not God's mercies, mercies for you and for me?

Come home, come home, come home, come home, all who are weary, come home;

Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing, passing from you from me;

Shadows are gathering, deathbeds are coming, coming for you and for me.

Come home, come home, come home, come home, all who are weary, come home;

O for the wonderful love Jesus promised, promised for you and for me;

Though we have sinned Jesus offers us pardon, pardon for you and for me.

Come home, come home, come home, come home, all who are weary, come home;

*Prayer of Confession from 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Wise and Wondrous God, we long for justice and peace. You tell us that the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to those being saved, it is the power of God. Save us from our exhaustion and apathy. Save us from our need for answers and control. Grant us your wisdom: to choose what is foolish, weak, and low in the world, and to seek the way of righteousness through Christ's transforming love. Amen.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Beloved, let us proclaim the good news together:

Nothing can separate us from the love of God! Again and again, God chooses us. Through Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

*Passing of the Peace

Story for All Ages

Amanda McElray Hunter

Sending the Children

Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,

Gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere!

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Hebrew Bible Reading

Micah 6:1-8

Geof Witrak, reader

Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the Lord has a case against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

"O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
 and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
 and I sent before you Moses,
 Aaron, and Miriam.
 O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
 what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
 and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
 that you may know the saving acts of the Lord."

"With what shall I come before the Lord
 and bow myself before God on high?
 Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
 with calves a year old?
 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
 with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
 Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
 the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"
 He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
 and what does the Lord require of you
 but to do justice and to love kindness
 and to walk humbly with your God?

Choir Anthem *Never Gonna Walk This Journey Alone*

Gospel Reading *Matthew 5:1-12*

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:
 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Sermon

Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

Song	<i>These Footsteps</i>	#15, <i>Praise & Worship Songbook</i>
<i>Follow in these footsteps Cast your burden down Breathe like it's your last Breath Pray without a sound Offer up your best gift Pass it all around. Follow in these footsteps Walk on holy ground.</i>	<i>Jump into the river Feel the current's pull Let it overtake you Let it make you full When you reach the ocean Big and wild and blue. Listen to the waves speak Love is calling you.</i>	<i>You are called my daughter You are called my son Come up through the water Know that we are one Offer up your best gift Pass it all around. Follow in these footsteps Walk on holy ground.</i>

Community Prayers

Song of Micah

#26, *Praise & Worship Songbook*

***To do justice, to love kindness,
to walk humbly with your God, with your God.***
***To do justice, to love kindness,
to walk lightly with your God, with your God.***
***To fall in love, to not let go,
to not stand above, to not stand below.***

The Prayer of Jesus

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we

forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sung Amen

Offertory

*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above ye heavenly host,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen!**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

God be with you.	And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.	We lift them up to God.
Let us give thanks to God.	It is a joy to give God thanks and praise.

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing the Bread and Cup

(In the United Church of Christ all are welcome to participate in Communion. Gluten free crackers are on the tray and we use non-alcoholic grape juice.)

Prayer After Communion

Bountiful God, we give thanks for all we have received at this table through the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world with courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Closing Song

God of Grace and God of Glory

#436, New Century Hymnal

***God of grace and God of glory on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church's story, bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.
From the evil that surrounds us and assail the Saviour's ways,
from the fears that long have bound us, free our hearts for faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days, for the living of these days.
Cure your children's warring madness; bend our pride to your control.
Shame our reckless, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, make our broken spirits whole, make our broken spirits whole.
Set our feet on lofty places; gird our lives, that they may be
armored with all Christ-like graces in the fight to set us free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, in the quest for liberty, in the quest for liberty.
Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
let the search for your salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving you whom we adore, serving you whom we adore.***

*Benediction

*Postlude

Assisting in Today's Service:

Darlene Leafgren, Marsha Hystead, Mike Swanoski, and Cindy Macaulay, Ushers
Marsha & Tom Hystead, Sara & Alex Dean, and Karen Morgan, Coffee Hour Volunteers