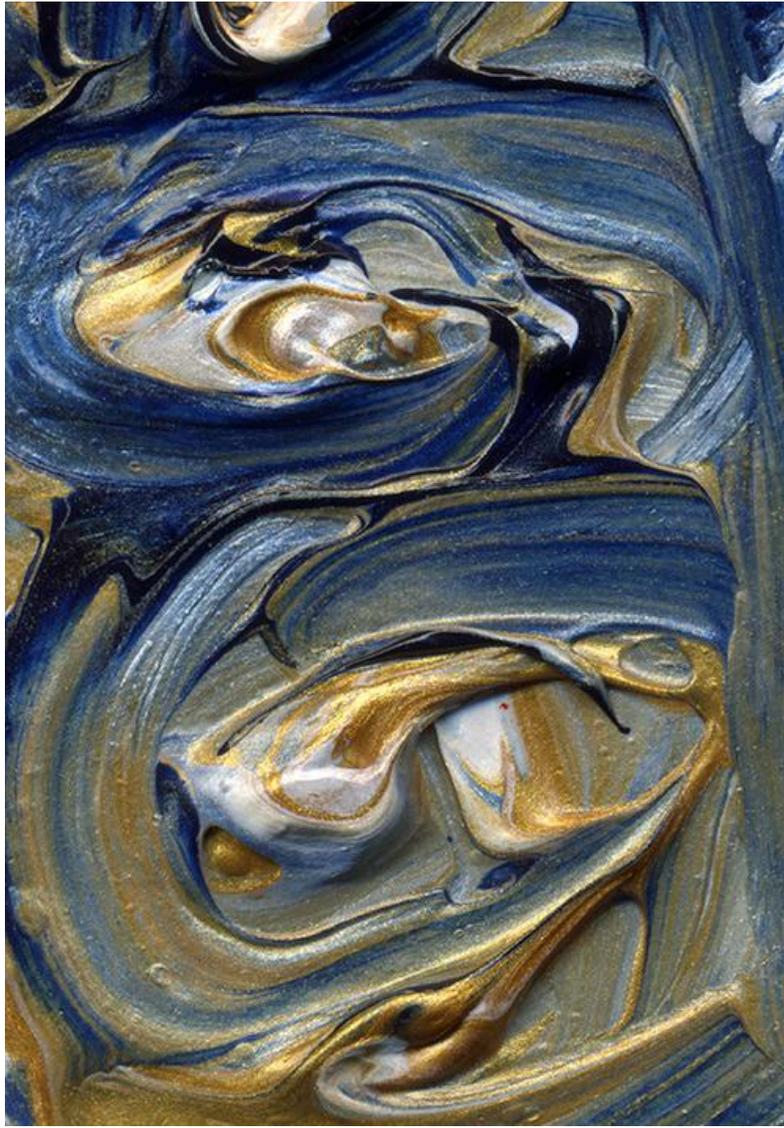


**Peace United Church of Christ
March 8, 2026
Third Sunday in Lent
10:30am**



We Will Find Wellsprings for our Deepest Thirst, Jan Richardson

1111 North 11th Avenue East, Duluth, MN 55805
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Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

Ringling of the Bells

*Call to Worship from Psalm 95

O come, let us sing to our God,
To the rock of our salvation, let us shout for joy!
Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving,
Let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!
In God's hands are the depths of the earth and the heights of the mountains,
God's hands have formed the dry land and the sea,
So we listen for God's voice,
Let us worship God!

*Song *O Splendor of God's Glory Bright* see insert

*Prayer of Confession

Loving God, your will for us is truth and freedom. We long for the hope we find in you. But we confess that we struggle to trust your way. We fail to see you when you appear in our midst. We turn to judgment instead of hospitality. Forgive us and dwell within us. Make us your people, bringing your hope to a broken world. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Beloved, there is nothing we can do to separate ourselves from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
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!***

Scripture Reading

John 4:5-42

Bud Trnka, reader

So Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them

a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship God neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship God in spirit and truth, for God seeks such as these to worship God. God is spirit, and those who worship God must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to Jesus, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of God who sent me and to complete God's work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "Jesus told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of Jesus's word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

Choir Anthem

God Shall Wipe Away All Tears, Karl Jenkins

Contemporary Reading

Blessing of the Well, Jan Richardson

If you stand
at the edge
of this blessing
and call down
into it,
you will hear
your words
return to you.
If you lean in
and listen close,
you will hear
this blessing
give the story
of your life
back to you.
Quiet your voice.
Quiet your judgment.
Quiet the way

you always tell
your story
to yourself.
Quiet all these
and you will hear
the whole of it
and the hollows of it:
the spaces
in the telling,
the gaps
where you hesitate
to go.
Sit at the rim
of this blessing.
Press your ear
to its lip,
its sides,
its curves
that were carved out

long ago
by those whose thirst
drove them deep,
those who dug
into the layers
with only their hands
and hope.
Rest yourself
beside this blessing
and you will
begin to hear
the sound of water
entering the gaps.
Still yourself
and you will feel it
rising up within you,
filling every emptiness,
springing forth
anew.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Jan Murphy

Song

Wade in the Water

#27, *Praise & Worship*

Chorus:

***Wade in the water, wade in the water, children
Wade in the water, God's gonna trouble the water***

***Who are those children dressed in red?
God's gonna trouble the waters
Must be the children that Moses led
God's gonna trouble the waters***

Chorus

***Who are those children dressed in white?
God's gonna trouble the waters
Must be the children of the Israelites
God's gonna trouble the waters***

Chorus

Community Prayers and Pastoral Prayer

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.

Choral Amen

Offertory

Darin Bergsven, jazz guitar

*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!**

*Prayer of Dedication

*Song

Somewhere to Begin, T.R. Ritchie

**People say to me, "Oh, you gotta be crazy!
How can you sing in times like these?
Don't you read the news? Don't you know the score?
How can you sing when so many others grieve?"**

**People say to me, "What kind of fool believes
That a song will make a difference in the end?"
By way of a reply, I say a fool such as I
Who sees a song as somewhere to begin**

**A song is somewhere to begin
The search for something worth believing in
If changes are to come there are things that must be done
And a song is somewhere to begin**

Verse 2) Dream...

Verse 3) Love...

*Benediction

*Postlude

Assisting in Today's Service:

Marsha Hystead, Mike Swanoski, and Darlene Leafgren, Ushers
Marsha & Tom Hystead and Laura Greensmith, Coffee Hour Volunteers

O Splendor of God's Glory Bright 666

1 O Splen - dor of God's glo - ry bright, from light e -
 2 Come, Ho - ly Sun of heaven - ly love, rain down your
 3 O joy - ful be the pass - ing day with thoughts as
 4 O Lord, with each re - turn - ing morn, your im - age

ter - nal bring - ing light; O Light of Light, light's
 ra - diance from a - bove, and to our in - ward
 clear as morn - ing's ray, with faith like noon - tide
 to our heart is born; O may we ev - er

liv - ing spring, true Day, all days il - lu - min - ing:
 hearts con - vey the Ho - ly Spir - it's cloud - less ray.
 shin - ing bright, our souls un - shad - owed by the night.
 clear - ly view our Sav - ior and our God in you.

This morning hymn is based on a Latin text attributed to a 4th-century bishop. It weaves various images of Christ as Light with light-based descriptions of each day's passing. It is set to a dance-like tune from at least the 15th century that enhances the energy in the text.

Custodial Volunteers Needed, March 29-April 8

Dan will be taking a well-deserved vacation and we're looking for custodial support while he is away from March 29-April 8. See the weekly email for a SignUp Genius link or get in touch with Rachel in the office at rachel@peaceucc.org.

Homeless Day on the Hill, Wednesday, March 11

Peace Church is helping organize the Duluth delegation for Homeless Day on the Hill. On March 11, sixty Duluthians will join advocates from across the state to meet with lawmakers in St. Paul to advocate for increased shelter funding, housing solutions, and state policy changes. This event, organized by the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless, connects providers and individuals with lived experience directly to legislators. Peace Church is providing food for the Duluth delegation, and we are seeking donations to help cover the cost of bag lunches, coffee, and snacks for all attendees. Any extra money will help cover the cost of the bus. Donations can be dropped off at Peace Church. Be sure to use the drop-down menu to choose Other and include "Homeless Day on the Hill" in the notes. Want to help out in another way or join the bus ride? Contact Melissa Boyle. 218-340-3151. Thanks for your support.

Pi(e) Day Fundraiser for Youth Trips, Saturday, March 14, 10:00am-12:00pm

Thanks to all those who ordered pies! Pickup for ordered pies will be during our Pi(e) Day event on Saturday, March 14, 10:00am-12:00pm. Even if you didn't order a pie, come for a bake sale, math games, and time to connect in community.

Second Annual Uplifting Peace Silent Auction, Friday, May 1, 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall

We are looking for donations! Gourmet meals, handcrafted items, boat cruises, artwork, cabin stays, music concerts, baked goods, theme baskets, whatever comes to mind! Send an email to PeaceUCCAuction@gmail.com to describe your donation and with any questions about the auction. Last year we auctioned 120 items with all proceeds going to our justice work. Be creative! Nothing is too big or too small.

Sunday Morning Forums, February 22-March 29: Walking the Palm Sunday Path in Lent

This Lent, we are joining with Christians across the country to encourage people to follow Jesus along the path he walked into Jerusalem and eventually to the cross. We will use resources from Working Preacher at Luther Seminary and the Ministry Lab at United Theological Seminary to dive deep into the theological and spiritual resources our faith has to offer us in these times. We are building toward a large, public, ecumenical Palm Sunday Parade & Public Witness, planned in coalition with 10+ Northland congregations.

Palm Sunday: The Power of Love, Sunday, March 29, 3-5pm, First Lutheran Church, Duluth

Since September, Christian clergy across the country have been planning for Palm Sunday as a meaningful moment to live our faith in public. Who is this Jesus who walked into Jerusalem and eventually to the cross? The Gospels depict him as a leader who stirred up an obvious contrast between the power of domination and the power of love. Together with Christians across the Northland, representing over a dozen congregations and counting, we will gather for worship, hospitality, and mutual aid, not just proclaiming but also living Jesus's call to love and care for our neighbors.

This Week's Schedule**Monday, March 9**

9:00am Yoga with Robin in the Fireside Room and Zoom
7:00pm Boy Scouts in the Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, March 10

4:00pm HR Committee Meeting in the Fireside Room and Zoom
5:00pm Food Prep for Homeless Day on the Hill in the Kitchen
6:00pm Property Team Meeting in the Staff Lounge and Zoom

Wednesday, March 11

Homeless Day on the Hill - All Day
1:00pm History Team Meeting in the History Room
4:00pm Finance Committee Meeting in the Staff Lounge and Zoom
5:00pm Soup Supper in the Fellowship Hall
5:15pm Grounds Improvement Team Meeting in the Youth Room
5:30pm Childcare Available in the Nursery
5:45pm Bible Study in the Fireside Room and Zoom

5:45pm Kids' Club in the Wildwoods Room
6:15pm Choir in the Sanctuary
6:30pm Middle School Youth Group in the Youth Room
6:30pm High School Youth Group in the Wildwoods Room
7:30pm Confirmation 1 in the Fireside Room
7:30pm Confirmation 2 in the Chapel

Thursday, March 12

2:00pm Belonging & Community Team Meeting in the Staff Lounge and Zoom
3:00pm Dismantling Racism Team Meeting on Zoom
5:30pm Worship & Arts Team Meeting in the Fireside Room
6:00pm Rapid Response Training in the Sanctuary
7:00pm Capital Campaign Team Meeting on Zoom
7:00pm Pastoral Relations Committee Meeting in the Fireside Room

Saturday, March 14

10:00am Pi(e) Day Youth Fundraiser in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, March 15

8:30am Worship with **Holy Communion. Sermon** by **Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis.**
9:30am Self-serve Coffee in the Narthex
9:30am Forum: Walking the Palm Sunday Path in Lent part 4 in the Fireside Room
10:00am Childcare Available in the Nursery
10:30am Worship with **Sermon** by **Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis. Children's Church** with **Amanda McElray Hunter.**
11:30am Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall



To donate electronically, please scan this QR code.

Peace United Church of Christ Staff

Alex Nelson - Livestream Technician
Amanda McElray Hunter - Children, Youth, and Small Groups Coordinator
Bri Dornbush - Office Coordinator
Carrie Kelsey - Kitchen Manager
Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis - Pastor
Dan Shepard - Maintenance
Jim Pospisil - Music Director
Rev. Laurie Crelly - Pastoral Care Chaplain
Mali Lorenz - Bookkeeper
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Sophia Farell - Soundboard Technician