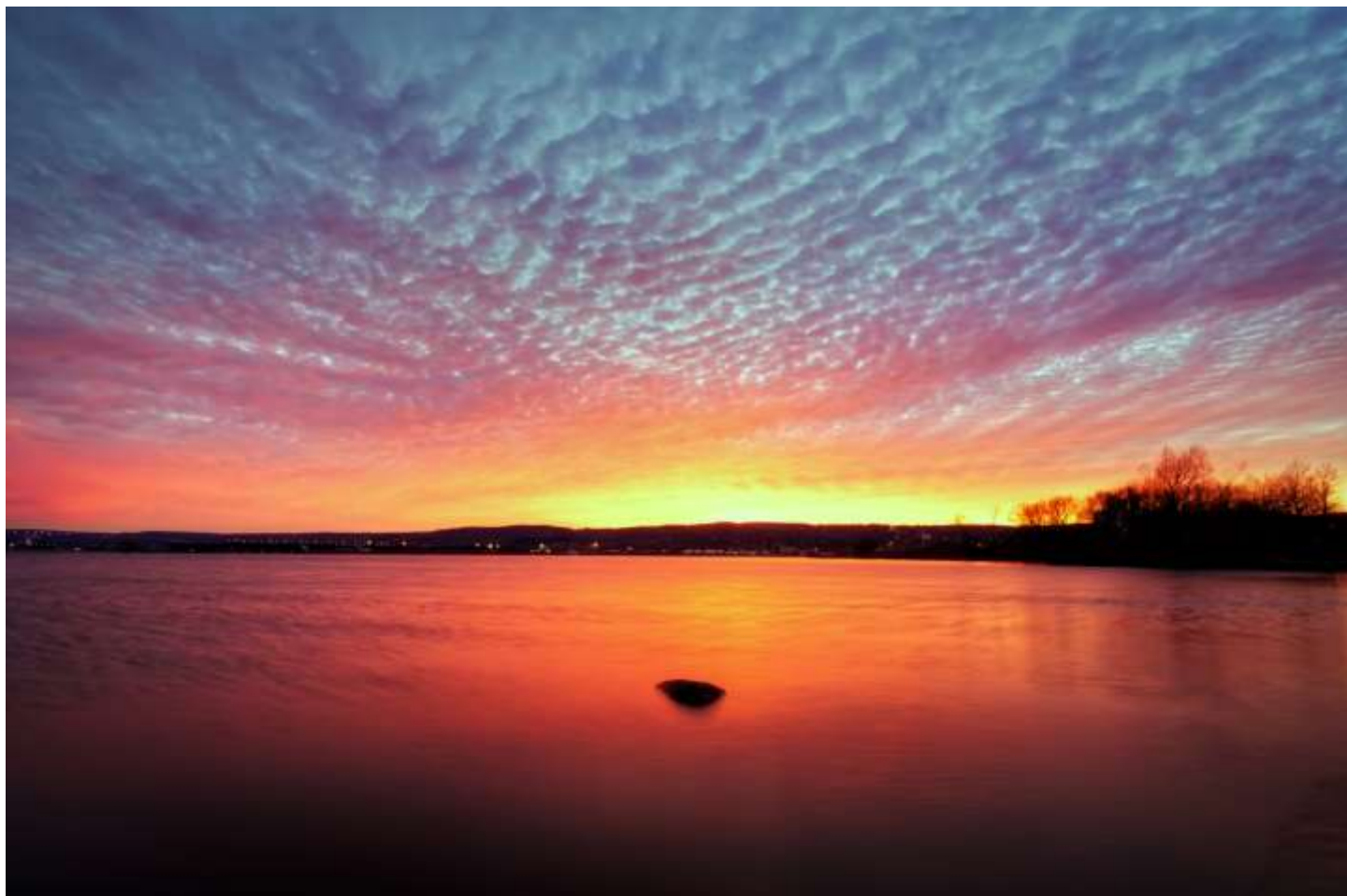


**Peace United Church of Christ
July 5, 2026
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
9:30am**



St. Louis River, americanrivers.org

1111 North 11th Avenue East, Duluth, MN 55805
www.peaceucc.org
office@peaceucc.org

Prelude

Tent Show Band

Welcome and Announcements

Amanda McElray Hunter

Ringling of the Bells

*Call to Worship

God who dwells on the margins,
We call upon you.

God who grounds us in mystery,

Grant us your hidden strength in everything fragile and small.

Spirit of the oppressed and silenced,

Grant us courage in your presence.

May we resist the voices that seek to dominate our souls.

Let us worship God!

*Song *Come, O Fount of Every Blessing* #459, *New Century Hymnal*

***Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of endless praise.***

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.

Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love.

***Here I pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come,
come to trust, at every turning, God will guide me safely home.***

***Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God,
Came to rescue me from danger, blessed body, precious blood.***

O to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew!

Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you.

Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known:

Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your very own.

*Prayer of Confession

God of Liberation, we confess the ways we have been entangled in the workings of empire. How some of us may have sought comfort at the expense of others' dignity, or stayed silent in the presence of suffering, or sought safety over solidarity, or accepted dominance over humility. Let us release the ways we have used our own power as empire would, and let us begin again, in truth and in courage. Help us to see clearly, name truthfully, and resist humbly. Amen.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

God holds us in mercy even when we uphold systems of injustice or are crushed by them. God turns us toward life that sustains and nourishes.

**Through Christ, we are forgiven and set free for abundant life,
honoring all of creation as a sanctuary of the sacred. Thanks be to
God!**

*Passing of the Peace

Story for All Ages

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 Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 Darlene Leafgren,
reader

So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old, and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites in whose land I live, but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

"I came today to the spring and said, 'O Lord, God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master's son.'

"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder, and she went down to the spring and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshiped the Lord and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

And they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse

along with Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

“May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes.”

Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man, and the servant took Rebekah and went his way.

Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field, and, looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel and said to the servant, “Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Special Music

Higher Ground, Charles H. Gabriel

Gospel Reading

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

“For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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

Sermon

Rev. Kayla Coffee-Prose

Song *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say* #489, *New Century Hymnal*

***I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast."***

***I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad,
And there I found a resting place, where Jesus made me glad!***

***I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give
The living water; thirsty one, draw near, and drink, and live."***

***I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I am redeemed.***

***I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this lost world's Light,
Look unto me; your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."***

***I looked to Jesus, and I found my guiding Star, my Sun;
And in that light of life I'll go till traveling days are done.***

Community Prayers and Pastoral Prayer

Gudrun Witrak

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!**

*Prayer of Dedication

*Closing Song *Holy, Holy, Holy* #277, *New Century Hymnal*

***Holy, holy, holy, God the Almighty!
Early in the morning we praise your majesty.
Holy, holy holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!***

***Holy, holy, holy! Saints adore you truly,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim bow before you only,
From the beginning, God eternally.***

***Holy, holy, holy! Though we know but dimly,
Though the eyes of humankind your glory may not see,
You alone are holy, you alone are worthy,
Perfect in power, in love and purity.***

***Holy, holy, holy, God the Almighty!
All your works shall praise your name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!***

*Benediction

*Postlude

Assisting in Today's Service:

Warren Post, Gayle & Jack Kelly, Ushers

Cameron Herrity, Bergen Hublely, and Mary & Don Galloway,

Coffee Hour Volunteers

Tent Show Band: Cyndi Brown, Mike Swanoski, Sophia Farell, Danny O'Neill, Matt Prois, Cathy Ameel, Ian Connell, Carrie Kelsey, Bud Trnka, Andrew Cragun, and John Bankson

Our liturgy in this season is adapted from
Liturgies for Resisting Empire by Kat Armas.

Peace United Church of Christ Staff

Alex Nelson - Livestream Technician

Amanda McElray Hunter - Children, Youth and Small Group Coordinator

Bri Dornbush - Office Coordinator

Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis - Pastor

Carrie Kelsey - Kitchen Manager

Dan Shepard - Maintenance

Jim Pospisil - Music Director

Rev. Laurie Crelly - Pastoral Care Chaplain

Mali Lorenz - Bookkeeper

Rachel Burnett - Business Manager

Sophia Farell - Soundboard Technician



Scan this QR Code to donate

Summer Worship Series: *Liturgies for Resisting Empire* by Kat Armas

In *Liturgies for Resisting Empire*, Cuban American theologian and writer Kat Armas provides a roadmap for Christians seeking a countercultural way of living that prioritizes community and humanity over dominance and power.

Armas combines spiritual practices and biblical theology to help us create authentic belonging to God, ourselves, each other, and creation. She begins by examining how empire affects us daily through its pervasive ideologies and systems of control. Drawing from decolonial and postcolonial biblical interpretation, she explores how the New Testament church resisted Roman imperial power while building communities centered on God's kingdom values rather than worldly dominance. Pastor Corinne, Pastor Laurie, and Amanda selected this book to guide our summer worship and after-worship discussions. It speaks to themes we've been hearing from many folks at Peace Church: they are hungry for a deep Christian faith that speaks to the hard stuff going on in our world, or they are deconstructing from faith traditions that harmed them and seeking a path toward reconstruction. Join us June 28-August 30 for worship and table conversation at coffee hour, and buy a copy of the book at bookshop.org or one of our local bookstores!

Peace Church Directory App



Have you joined the Church Center app yet? This is a great way to stay connected, engaged, and involved at Peace Church! This has replaced our Instant Church online directory. Use the QR code to download the app from the app store.

Once logged in, you can update your directory profile photo and manage what information other members are able to see. You can give online and connect with your church groups too!

Please note that you can create an account at any time but will need to have been invited to join and share in Peace United Church of Christ's private directory. Email office@peaceucc.org if you do not have access to the directory yet.

Bi-Monthly Peace Bell Newsletter

Do you receive our bi-monthly newsletter? We have paper copies in the Narthex, they are on our website, we can email you a digital copy, or we can mail you a paper copy. If you would like to start receiving the Peace Bell, please let Bri in the office know: stop by in person, call the office, or email office@peaceucc.org.

We Want Your Feedback!

As we anticipate a capital campaign to address necessary repairs to our building and build our resilience into the future, we want to hear what you think. What projects would you prioritize? What would inspire you to give? Share your



thoughts with our capital campaign team with this **anonymous** survey at the link below. **This should only take you about 10 minutes to complete.** The survey will close on **Monday, July 6.** Thank you for your participation!

This Week's Schedule

Monday, July 6

9:00am Yoga with Robin in the Fireside Room and Zoom

Wednesday, July 8

8:30am Chum Breakfast Making in the Kitchen

1:00pm History Team Meeting in the History Room

5:00pm Bible Study in the Fireside Room and Zoom

5:00pm Grounds Improvement Team Meeting in the Fellowship Hall

Thursday, July 9

8:00am Men's Breakfast at Perkins on London Road

7:00pm Capital Campaign Team Meeting on Zoom

Saturday, July 11

High School Youth Trip to Washington DC

Sunday, July 12

9:30am Worship with Holy Communion. Sermon by Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

10:30am Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall

10:30am Liturgies for Resisting Empire Discussion in the Music Room