

**Peace United Church of Christ
July 28th, 2024
9:30am**



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Prelude

There Will Never Be Another You, Warren/Gordon
Solar, Miles Davis

Ojakangas Jazz Quintet

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Bells

*Call to Worship

We gather in community, united by God's love.

We share a sacred story.

We gather with a mosaic of beliefs, experiences, and identities.

We share a sacred story.

We gather at different places on our journey

We share a sacred story.

Through story, song, and sharing, let us worship God!

*Song

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

#1 NCH

***Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, your great name we praise.***

***Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
not wanting, not wasting, but ruling in might;
Your justice like mountains high soaring above,
your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.***

***Your life is lifegiving - to both great and small;
in all life you're living, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves and as flowers,
then wither and perish - but naught dims your powers.***

***So perfect your glory, so brilliant your light,
your angels adore you, all veiling their sight;
All praise we now render as your angels do:
in awe at the splendor of light hiding you.***

*Prayer of Confession

God of all creation, you weave our stories together in a complex tapestry of beauty and pain, despair and hope, one human family seeking love and light together. But too often, we seek easy answers. We deny perspectives we cannot understand, and we seek validation for our own worldview. Grant us the strength to abide with discomfort, the courage to open our hearts to new possibilities, and the generosity to give and receive the practices of Beloved Community. Amen.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, God loves us and there is nothing we can do about it.

God does not love us because of what we have done or left undone.

God loves us simply because we are.

And God's love endures forever. Amen.

*Passing of the Peace

Story for All Ages

Amanda McElray Hunter

Contemporary Reading

One Candle Now, Then Seven More
by Brad Aaron Modlin

Phyllis Cook, reader

I grew up in a family that did not tell
the story. I am listening to it now:

Even the morning you see a robin
flattened on the street, you hear

another in a tree, the notes
they've taught each other, bird

before bird before we were born.
And elsewhere, the rusty bicycle
carries the doctor all the way
across an island. He arrives in time.
Somewhere his sister adds water
to the soup until payday. And
over the final hill in a Southwestern
desert, a gas station appears. No,
the grief has not forgotten my name,
but this morning I tied
my shoelaces. Outside I can force
a wave at every face who might
need it. We might
spin till we collapse, but we still
have a hub: Even at dusk,
the sun isn't going anywhere.
We have lamps. The story insist
it just *looks like there's only*
enough oil to last one night.

Scripture Reading

Mark 16:1-11

Phyllis Cook, reader

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" "When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of O Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

[And all that had been commanded them they told briefly to those around Peter. And afterward Jesus himself sent out through them, from east to west, the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation."]

Now after he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. She went out and told - those who had been with him, while they were mourning and weeping. But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it.

May these words be to us our light and our life. **Thanks be to God.**

Special Music

Liturgy

Sermon

Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

Song

My Shepherd Is the Living God

#247 NCH

***My shepherd is the living God, I therefore nothing need;
In pastures fair, near pleasant streams you settle me to feed.
You bring my wandering spirit back when I forsake your ways,
And lead me for your mercy's sake in paths of truth and grace.***

***When I walk through the shades of death, your presence is my stay;
A word of your supporting breath drives all my fears away.
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my table spread;
My cup with blessings overflows, your oil anoints my head.***

***The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days;
O may your house be my abode, and all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest, while others come and go-
No more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home.***

Community Prayers and 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.

Offertory

Blue Skies

*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

We've Come This Far by Faith

see insert

*Benediction

*Postlude

St. Thomas

Assisting in Today's Service:

Cyndi Brown and Pam Kramer, Ushers
Marci Tuggle, Greeter

The Ojakangas Jazz Quintet, featuring
Greg and Lian Ojakangas, Ian Connell, and Matt Prois

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

Mali Lorenz - Bookkeeper

Rachel Obed - Business Manager

Sophia Farell – Soundboard Technician