

**Peace United Church of Christ
August 3rd, 2025
Eighth Sunday After Pentecost
9:30am**



*Flannery O'Connor in the driveway at Andalusia, 1962,
AP Photo/Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Joe McTyre*

1111 North 11th Avenue East, Duluth, MN 55805

www.peaceucc.org

office@peaceucc.org

Welcome and Announcements

Ringing of the Bells

*Call to Worship

from *Psalms* 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And all that is within me, bless God's holy name!
We worship a God who is full of compassion and mercy,
Slow to anger, patient and kind.
God loves, forgives, and sends us out.
Let us worship God!

*Song

Crown with Your Richest Crowns

#301 NCH

***Crown with your richest crowns the Lamb upon the throne;
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of Christ who died for you,
And to your risen Savior bring your thanks for life made new.***

***Crown Christ whose love has flowed down hands and feet and side.
Look past the peak of Calvary's road to Christ the glorified.
The sun that lights the sky is pale before that sight.
At prayer we glimpse then turn the eye from mysteries so bright.***

***Crown Christ the truth, the life who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife, this fallen world to save.
Christ's glories now we sing, Christ's name we magnify,
Who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.***

***Crown Christ who rules in peace, whose power a sceptre sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise:
Christ's reign shall have no end, for 'round those wounded feet a
fragrant garden shall extend forever green and sweet.***

***Crown Christ who holds the years, embracing space and time,
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime:
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For you have died for me;
Your praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.***

*Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we pray every week that your will be done. But we want our will to be done too. We trust your wisdom. But we want our own beliefs confirmed. Forgive us when we judge others. Forgive us when we believe our way is the only right way. Forgive us when we close our ears and minds and hearts to you. Guide us as we seek to follow your way of love and justice. Amen.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Beloved, there is nothing we can do to separate ourselves from the love of God.
Through Christ we are forgiven! We are restored to community and abundant life. Thanks be to God.

*Passing of the Peace

Story for All Ages

Amanda McElray Hunter

Contemporary Reading

from *Revelation*, Flannery O'Connor

"If it's one thing I am," Mrs. Turpin said with feeling, "it's grateful. When I think who all I could have been besides myself and what all I got, a little of everything, and a good disposition besides, I just feel like shouting, 'Thank you, Jesus, for making everything the way it is!' It could have been different! ... Oh thank you, Jesus, Jesus, thank you!" she cried aloud.

The thick blue textbook, titled *Human Development*, struck her directly over her left eye. It struck almost at the same instant that she realized the surly college girl, Mary Grace, was about to hurl it. Before she could utter a sound, the raw face came crashing across the table toward her, howling.

Special Music

Song of the Birds, Catalan folk song
inspired by Pablo Casals

Scripture Reading

Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God. For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

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

Sermon

Who Am I to Judge?

Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

Song

There Is a Balm in Gilead

#553 NCH

Refrain:

***There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole,
there is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sinsick soul.***

***Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.***

Refrain:

***Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend,
who, if you ask for knowledge, will never fail to lend.***

Refrain:

***If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus, who died to save us all.***

Refrain:

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.

Sung Amen

Offertory

For Byron, op.8, Jim Pospisil

*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.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to God.

And also with you.

We lift them up 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.)

Music During Communion *Berceuse de Jocelyn*, Benjamin Godard

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.

*Song

Pues si vivimos
v1 Spanish, v1 & 2 English

#499 NCH

***Pues si vivimos, para Dios vivimos
y si morimos, para Dios morimos.
Sea que vivamos o que muramos,
somos del buen Dios, somos del buen Dios.***

***In all our living, we belong to God;
and in our dying, we are still with God;
So, whether living, or whether dying,
we belong to God; we belong to God.***

***God sent Christ Jesus to be our shalom,
to show us mercy and healing love;
So in our living, and in our dying,
Christ is our shalom; Christ is our shalom.***

*Benediction

*Postlude

Assisting in Today's Service:

Pam Kramer; Cindy Macaulay; Tom, Monica, Simon Liddle, Ushers
Cindy Macaulay, Connie Schwegman, and Darlene Leafgren, Coffee Hour Volunteers

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

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