Peace United Church of Christ
November 8, 2026
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
10:30am



Prepare the Way, Lauren Wright Pittman

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office@peaceucc.org

Prelude *Don't Carry It All*, The Decemberists

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

Ringing of the Bells

Choral Call to Worship

Come and remember who you are here
Do this to remember who I am
Come and remember you belong here
All belong here

*Call to Worship from Psalm 70 and 78

Let all who seek you, God
Rejoice and be glad in you.
God worked marvels in the land of Egypt
God divided the sea and let them pass through it
and made the waters stand like a heap.
In the daytime God led them with a cloud
And all night long with a fiery light.
God split rocks open in the wilderness
And gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.
God made streams come out of the rock
And caused waters to flow down like rivers.
Let those who love your salvation
Say evermore, "God is great!"
You are our help and deliverer;
Creator, do not delay!

*Song *Pharaoh, Pharaoh*

Pharaoh, Pharaoh
Oh baby let my people go!
Yeah, yeah, yeah...
Pharaoh, Pharaoh
Oh baby let my people go!
Well, the burning bush told me just the other day
That I should come over here and say
Got to get my people out of Pharaoh's hand
And lead them on over to the Promised Land
Chorus:
Pharaoh, Pharaoh
Oh baby let my people go!
Yeah, yeah, yeah...
Pharaoh, Pharaoh
Oh baby let my people go!

Well, all of God's people came to the Red Sea
With Pharaoh's army coming after me
I raised my rod, stuck it in the sand
And all of God's people walked across dry land
Chorus:

Well, all of Pharaoh's army was coming too
So what do you think that I did do?
I raised my rod and cleared my throat
And all of Pharaoh's army said, "Where is a boat?"
Chorus:

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

For free and fair elections, for poll workers, for people who campaign with passion, purpose and integrity.

We give you thanks, O God.

For students, parents, teachers and our community who have supported each other to make it through finals week, another quarter and the start of a new school year.

We give you thanks and ask for renewal and rest, O God.

For those who help in the laboring that brings forth new life. For those that help in the laboring for people approaching the end of life.

We give you thanks and ask for comfort, O God.

For your presence in our daily struggles. For your presence with those who are vulnerable, suffering, living in poverty, without food or shelter, living in violence, war or oppression.

We give you thanks and ask that you intervene to bring mercy, justice, and healing, O God.

For the beauty of this day. For this earth that is made of ancient star stuff, of water, soil and growing things, that generates the atoms that literally make our bones.

We give thanks and ask for your fierce and loving protection, O God. Amen.

*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!

Gospel Reading Matthew 25:1-13 Phyllis Messenger, reader

Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

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

Special Music *For the Beauty of the Earth*, John Rutter

Sermon Amanda McElray Hunter

Song *Of Women, and of Women's Hopes We Sing* see page 6

Community Prayers and Pastoral Prayer Rev. Laurie Crelly

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 *When God Made Me*, Neil Young

*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 *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning* #369, *New Century Hymnal*

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning, for this work's almost done.
Refrain:
Sisters, don't grow weary, brothers, don't grow weary,
children, don't grow weary for this work's almost done.

It's our faith makes us happy; it's our faith makes us happy;
it's our faith makes us happy, for this work's almost done.
Refrain:

We are climbing Jacob's ladder, we are climbing Jacob's ladder,
we are climbing Jacob's ladder, for this work's almost done.
Refrain:

Every round goes higher, higher, every round goes higher, higher,
every round goes higher, higher, for this work's almost done.
Refrain:

*Benediction

*Postlude *The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald,* Gordon Lightfoot
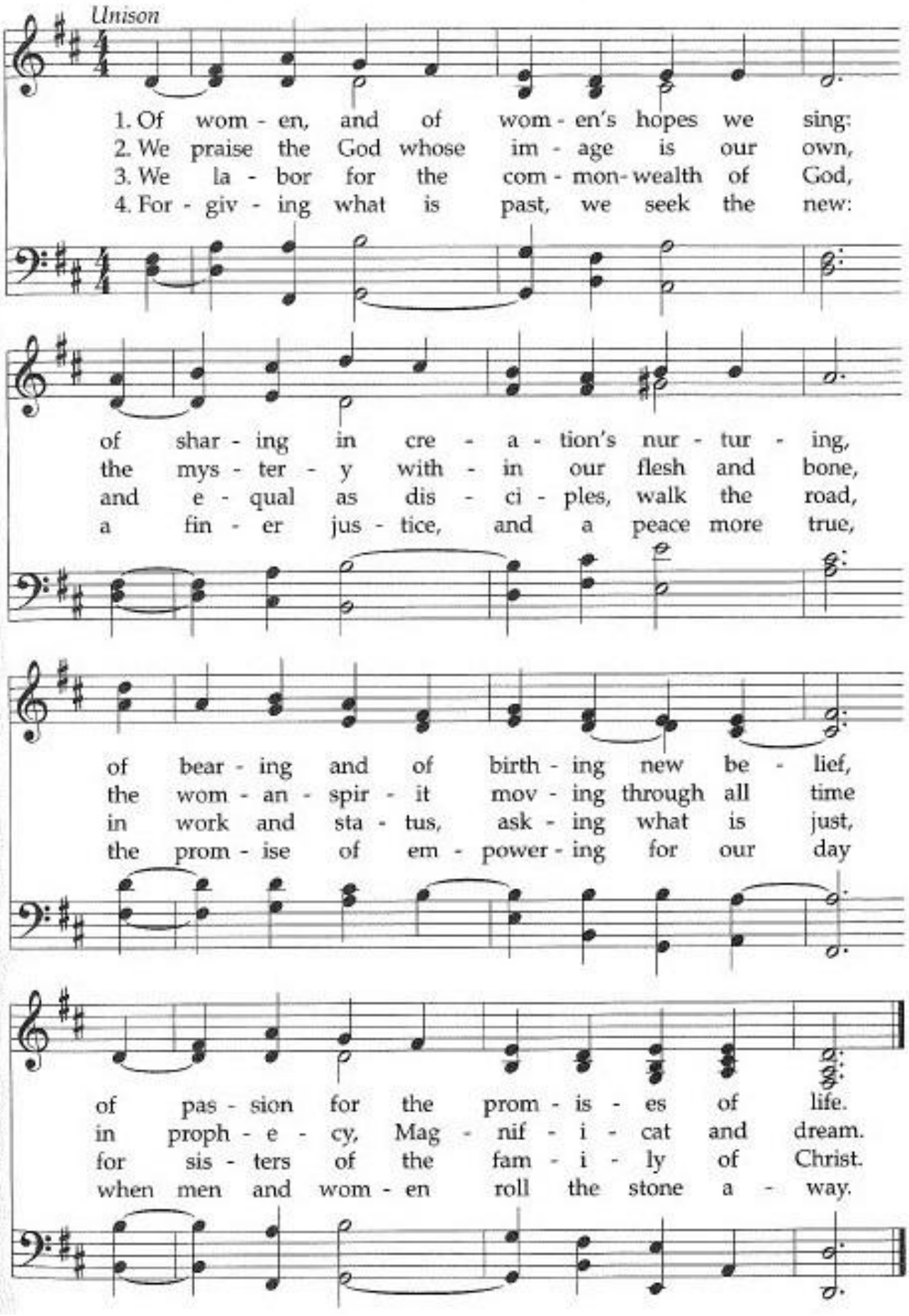
Assisting in Today's Service:
Laurie Berner and Pam Kramer, Ushers
Heidi Olson and Silvee Romberg, Nursery Attendants
Lynn Thier, Mary Wergeland, Carrie Plamann, Rolf Hagberg, and Loni Cran-Hovis, Coffee Hour Volunteers
Musicians: John Bankson, Ian Connell, Ron Deters, and Bud Trnka

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

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Of Women, and of Women's Hopes We Sing 686



Today's Forum: Stewardship & Capital Campaign 101

This year, our concurrent Stewardship and Capital Campaign theme is Preparing the Way. Come to the forum to learn more about our budget, get grounded in the practice of generosity, and dream about what God is doing here and what we could do with God's help. Led by the Stewardship and Capital Campaign Teams.

Prayer Chain Gathering, Today, 11:30am in the Music Room

Prayer Chain get together has been rescheduled for Sunday, November 8, after the 10:30am service. We'll meet in the Music Room. Light refreshments will be served, and Tom Liddle will lead a discussion on prayer. Hope to see you there! Please RSVP to Linda Goese at lrgoese@gmail.com today!

Chum Assembly, Tuesday, November 10, 6:00-7:30pm, Vineyard Church

Chum is hosting its November Assembly on November 10 at Vineyard Church (1533 W Arrowhead Rd.). From 6:00-6:30pm you will have the opportunity to socialize and hear directly from Chum Program Staff, before the official meeting which will go from 6:30-7:30pm. You do not need to be a Chum delegate to attend! These meetings are a wonderful opportunity for you to engage with the Chum community and hear updates about Chum's exciting transitions.

Land of Neighbors Listening Session, Sunday November 15, 4:00-5:30pm, Harrison Community Center 3002 W 3rd St

Land of Neighbors aims to move beyond outrage and division. This session is a time to create space for neighbors to speak honestly about what matters to them, listen to others, and explore what action might look like together. Join us at the Harrison Community Center from 4:00-5:30pm for dinner, honest conversations, to connect with your neighbors, and help us see what we share. Childcare is available; please let us know if you'll be bringing any children. After this session we will begin choosing actions for all of us in the area to work on together. I don't know what those actions will be because we will use your input to determine what they are! For more information and registration, visit https://minnesotalandofneighbors.org/events/duluth-111526

PALS November Event

On November 12 at 5:00pm the PALS group will once again meet to repackage flour, sugar, and coffee to be included in the Thanksgiving boxes prepared by the Chum food shelf staff. Last year we raised $2,000 to buy the supplies and make a substantial cash contribution to the food shelf. Please consider supporting this project with a contribution made by bringing or sending a check to Peace Church with PALS in the memo line. Contributions can also be made online at the church website, again putting PALS in the appropriate line. Please make your contribution as soon as possible and then plan to join us that evening. When the repackaging is completed, we will enjoy a pizza supper.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, **Tuesday, November 24, 6:30pm, at Peace Church**

Join our wider community in the Fellowship Hall at Peace UCC from 4-6pm for a community Thanksgiving meal hosted by Neighborhood Youth Services. Then head upstairs for our community interfaith Thanksgiving service at 6:30pm, featuring a mass choir, readings shared by local clergy, and an offering received for Neighborhood Youth Services and Chum.

Preparing the Way: Capital & Stewardship Campaign Commitment Sunday – November 15 at both services
On Sunday, November 15, our worship will include a blessing of our commitments to our 3-year Capital Campaign and our annual Stewardship Campaign. We will celebrate the many ways we are Preparing the Way for future generations to praise God, live the way of Jesus, and build the Beloved Community, both within and beyond our walls. Plan to bring both commitment cards if you haven't submitted them already. If you've already submitted yours (thank you!) or plan to do so online (thank you!), there will be other ways for you to signify your commitment prayerfully in worship.

This Week's Schedule

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

Tuesday, November 10
4:00pm HR Committee Meeting in the Fireside Room and Zoom
6:00pm Property Team Meeting in the Staff Lounge and Zoom

Wednesday, November 11
8:30am Chum Breakfast Making in the Kitchen
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
5:30pm Childcare Available in the Nursery
5:30pm Belonging and Community Team Meeting in the Fellowship Hall
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
7:15pm Confirmation 2 in the Chapel
7:30pm Confirmation 1 in the Fireside Room

Thursday, November 12
8:00am Men's Breakfast at Perkins on London Road
5:00pm PALS Food Repackaging in the Fellowship Hall
5:30pm Worship & Arts in the Staff Lounge
7:00pm Capital Campaign Team Meeting on Zoom

Sunday, November 15
Preparing the Way: Commitment Sunday
8:30am Worship with **Holy Communion. Sermon** by **Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis**
9:30am Self-Serve Coffee in the Narthex
9:30am Forum: Spiritual Practices for Hope and Resilience in the Fireside Room
10:00am Childcare Available in the Nursey
10:30am Worship with **Sermon** by **Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis. Children's Church** with **Amanda McElray Hunter**
11:30am Coffee Hour in the Fireside Room
11:30am Book Group Discussion in the Music Room