

Peace United Church of Christ
October 18, 2026
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
10:30am



Woven Bird, Tree, and Flower Motif, William Morris

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www.peaceucc.org
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Prelude

In Walked Bud, Thelonious Monk

Welcome and Announcements

Ringin' 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 96

Sing to God, all the earth, declare God's glory!
Great is our God, creator of heaven and earth.
Sing a new song to God; join with all creation in praise!
We witness God's marvelous works.
Worship God, all the earth! Declare God's goodness!
Rejoice and be glad, for God is great!

*Song Sweet, Sweet Spirit #293, New Century Hymnal

***There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
there are sweet expressions on each face,
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.***

Refrain:

***Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise.
With-out a doubt we'll know that we have been revived
when we shall leave this place.***

***There are blessings you can not receive
till you know that Spirit's fullness and believe;
you're the one to profit when you say,
"I am going to stay with Jesus all the way."***

Refrain:

*Prayer of Confession

Sovereign God, you invite us to belonging. You seek to know us fully, and you reveal yourself to us through your Word. We confess that we struggle to trust your good, true names for us and others. We make idols of the trappings of empire. We worship what is not you. Forgive us and set us free to live in faith and power. Amen.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Beloved, God continues to do a new thing in you and us. **Through Christ, we are forgiven, strengthened, and encouraged. 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!***

Hebrew Bible Reading

Genesis 16; 21

Phyllis Cook, reader

paraphrase from *The Book of Belonging*, Mariko Clark

The young woman gripped her son's hand and staggered across the sand. With every sinking step, her heavy heart sank too. *I just want to go home. I miss my family. I just want to belong again.* She squinted against the setting sun and imagined the welcome they'd receive when they got back to Egypt. *They took away my name, she'd sob into her mother's shoulder. They just call me Hagar. The alien. The stranger.*

She had been gone for many years, enslaved in Sarah's tent. Even though God chose Sarah and Abraham to start God's great family of belonging, they forgot God's promises. Instead of waiting, they tried to grab what God was giving. They forced Hagar to start a family with Abraham. Abraham named their son Ishmael and loved him dearly. But then God's promise to Sarah was at last fulfilled. Sarah had a baby of her own and named him Isaac. Two sons, one promise. When Isaac and Ishmael were old enough to argue, Sarah saw what the future would be. So once again, she grabbed for God's gifts by sending Hagar and Ishmael away.

They trudged for days through the wilderness toward Egypt. The food and water ran out. The young woman's strength and hope wore thin. Finally, she laid Ishmael in the shade of a small bush. She felt despair pull her to the ground. *We just want to go home.*

"Don't be afraid," came a voice from heaven, cool and refreshing on her wind-worn skin. "I hear Ishmael crying," the voice continued. "I see you have been crushed by cruelty and injustice. But I'm with you. Go, lift up your son and hold him close. I have big plans for him." God spoke true and beautiful names over the woman and her son, promising them hope and

She turned to God and spoke true and beautiful words back: "And your name is El Roi: the God Who Sees Me." And God did see her. God was with her and Ishmael as the boy grew up. They settled in the wilderness and created their own family of belonging.

Gospel Reading Matthew 22:15-22

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

Sermon

Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

What shall I give to you? (repeat)
Oh, that we could give like the rain
Pouring out on rich and poor the same
Oh, that we could give like the sun
Shining light on everyone
Teach us how to give we pray
Offering our work and play
Oh, that we could learn how to care
Every breath we breathe a prayer
Oh, that like the bread we become
Scattered grains all gathered in one
With this cup of blessing you give
Fill us and teach us how to live

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

For Tim, 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!**

*Prayer of Dedication

*Closing Song

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

see page 6

*Benediction

*Postlude

Billie's Bounce, Charlie Parker

Assisting in Today's Service:

Phyllis Cook and Paul O'Brien, Ushers

Ian Connell and Tim Churchill, Musicians

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

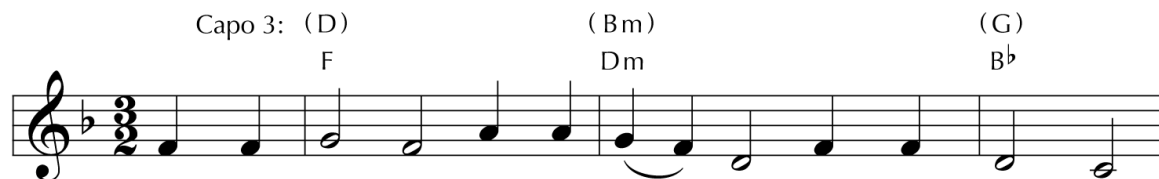
Rachel Burnett – Business Manager

Sophia Farell – Soundboard Technician



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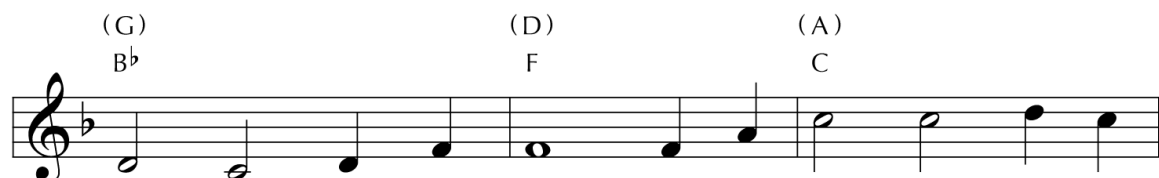
God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending 716



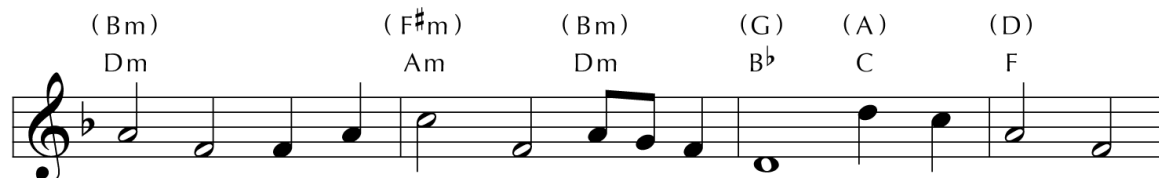
1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and
 2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of
 3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your



end - less store, na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly
 Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es
 grace con - ferred: ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to



cross, grave's shat - tered door: gift - ed by you, we turn
 joined, the church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly
 spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our hands in



to you, of - fer - ing up our - selves in praise; thank - ful song shall
 la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone. Born with tal - ents,
 shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing, teach - ing,



rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
 make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
 and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This text on stewardship was one of about 450 submissions in a search for such hymns conducted by the Hymn Society of America in 1961. These words are well grounded by their musical setting, an early American shape note tune named for a Baptist church in Harris County, Georgia.

Special Offering: Neighbors in Need

The Neighbors in Need offering supports ministries of justice and compassion, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries. In 2025 the Neighbors in Need Offering supported 26 grant recipients across the UCC who were engaged in projects of direct service and advocacy including the Another Door shelter here at Peace! Thank you for your support and generosity!

Today's Forum: Human Rights in Guatemala

Peace Church members JT Haines and Maria Corradi Haines traveled to Guatemala with a group from Creekside UCC in Minneapolis this past spring. They will share about their experience around the following question: Guatemala has been brutalized by US-led Western corporate capitalism for decades (and centuries): Why is it important for us to know and think about this? Photos, storytelling, and a robust question and answer time will feature in this conversation.

Capital and Stewardship Campaign Materials

Have questions about the Capital and Stewardship Campaigns? We have the answers! Folders with information about both campaigns are available for pick-up in the Narthex, beginning today!

New Member Orientation Today at 11:45am in the Fireside Room

We welcome all who are interested in learning more about Peace, what we believe, how we engage the community, and how we're structured to join us. Looking forward to meeting with you! New members will be received into the church on November 1. Save the date if you are interested in joining Peace.

Fall Fest Capital Campaign Kick-Off Extravaganza & 4th Annual Chili Cook-Off Sunday, October 25 from 11:30am-1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall

Join us for this family friendly event celebrating all things Capital Campaign and all things autumnal, with carnival games, a cakewalk, arts and crafts, good things to eat, and our 4th Annual Chili Cook Off! Last year our first-place winners were Lisa, Ross, and Sabine Feikema. Who will it be this year? The winner receives a ribbon! Look for a link to register for the Cook-Off in Peace's weekly email. Wear your Halloween Costume (non-violent imagery only please)! This year we are collecting gently used costumes to contribute to the Damiano Center's Kids Costume Drive, so bring all those costumes that your kiddos have outgrown!

Volunteer Opportunity: English As a Second Language Tutor

Be an ESL tutor and help someone learn English. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:00-6:30 pm. Classes will be held at the Building for Women, 32 E. 1st Street, Duluth. Classes begin October 27 and will use curriculum provided by ISD 709. To volunteer, follow these two steps: 1) Fill out a volunteer form online. Go to <https://dae.isd709.org/about-us/volunteers>. Check the box on the form that says English Language at the YWCA. 2) Send an email to Caroline Roth at the following address: programintern@ywcaduluth.org. Give her your name and contact

information and tell her you filled out the Duluth Adult Education Form. Please follow both steps to insure that your form gets proper attention!

Women's Retreat: October 23-25

All female-identifying folk at Peace Church are invited to a retreat at Eagle Lodge at Clearwater Forest Presbyterian Camp in Deerwood, MN. Programs are still being planned but are sure to include time in the outdoors, reflection, and relaxation. Accommodations are disability-accessible and you are welcome to stay for one or two nights. Interested? Please email Bri at office@peaceucc.org for the registration form.

Sunday, November 1, All Saints Day Photo Slideshow

Every year we honor our loved ones who died over the past year. If you would like to submit your loved one to be honored during the service please email Bri at office@peaceucc.org by Sunday, October 25. Please submit a photo, their name, their birthdate and date of death, and how they are connected to you.

This Week's Schedule

Monday, October 19

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

Tuesday, October 20

6:30pm Coordinating Council in the Fireside Room and Zoom

Wednesday, October 21

5:00pm Soup Supper in the Fellowship Hall

5:30pm Childcare Available in the Nursery

5:30pm Sanctuary Now Team Meeting in the East Timor Room

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, October 22

7:00pm Capital Campaign Team Meeting on Zoom

Friday, October 23

Women's Retreat at Clearwater Forest

Sunday, October 25: Preparing the Way

Stewardship & Capital Campaign Kick-Off

8:30am Worship with Holy Communion. Sermon by Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

9:30am Self-Serve Coffee in the Narthex

9:30am Forum: A Bible Study on Generosity 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 Fall Fest in the Fellowship Hall