

*Closing Song

Lead Us From Death to Life

#581 NCH

Refrain:

*Lead us from death to life,
from false-hood to truth, from despair to hope, from fear to trust.*

*Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;
let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world, let peace fill our universe.*

*Still all the angry cries, still all the angry guns,
still now your people die, earth's sons and daughters.*

*Let justice roll, let mercy pour down,
come and teach us your way of compassion.*

Refrain:

*So many lonely hearts, so many broken lives,
longing for love to break into their anguish.*

*Come, teach us love, come, teach us peace,
come and teach us your way of compassion.*

Refrain:

*Let justice ever roll, let mercy fill the earth,
let us begin to grow into your people.*

*We can be love, we can bring peace,
we can still be your way of compassion.*

Refrain:

*Benediction

*Postlude

Assisting in Today's Service:

Cindy Macaulay, Greeter
Laurie Berner, Georgia Lane, and Warren Post, Ushers

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

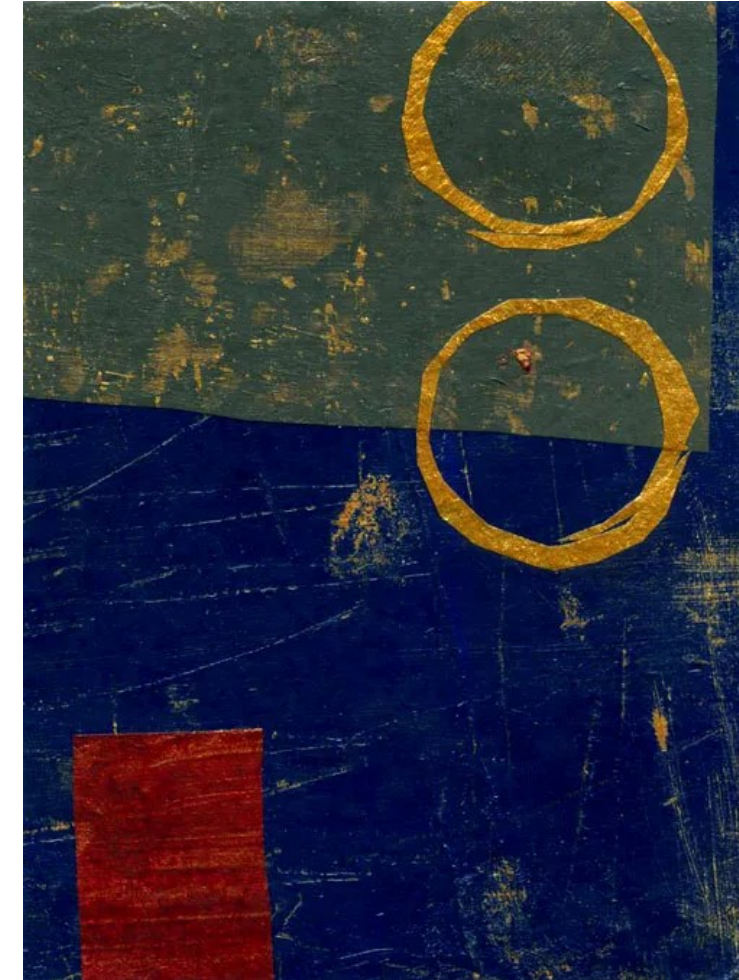
Rev. Laurie Crelly - Pastoral Care Chaplain

Mali Lorenz - Bookkeeper

Rachel Obed - Business Manager

Sophia Farell – Soundboard Technician

Peace United Church of Church
1st Sunday of Advent
December 1st, 2024
10:30am



Apocalypse, Again, Jan Richardson

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Prelude Ron Deters

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Bells

Call to Worship Inspired by *Psalm 25*

To you, O Holy One, we lift up our whole lives and give our trust.

For you, O God of our salvation, we wait all day long.

We have long been told of your goodness, your mercy and steadfast love.

For you, O God of our salvation, we wait all week long.

You have made yourself known in friendship and covenant, even as we wait.

For you, O God of our salvation, we wait all year long. Let us worship!

Lighting the First Advent Candle Cindy Macaulay, Bud & Emelia Trnka

Introit

*This joy I have, the world didn't give it to me,
This joy I have, the world didn't give it to me,
This joy I have, the world didn't give it to me,
No, the world didn't give it, the world can't take it away.*

Reader: This is the first Sunday of Advent and we light the candle of hope. Hope often seems elusive, and yet we dare not give it up. We light candles in the night. We plant seeds that will bloom in the spring. We pray for children as they grow. We pick up trash on the sidewalk. Small acts make a difference in our world. May we bring hope to an often wearied world.

*Song (sung by congregation)

***This hope I have, the world didn't give it to me,
This hope I have, the world didn't give it to me,
This hope I have, the world didn't give it to me,
No, the world didn't give it, the world can't take it away.***

*Song Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn #107 NCH

***Awake! awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning,
sing out your joy, for Jesus is born, behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,
to open wide the heavenly door, and lives now inside us forever.***

***To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a singing,
whose humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing.
Music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving kindness,
the thunder of the anthems roll to shatter all hate and injustice.***

***In deepest night Christ's coming shall be, when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.
One without voice breaks forth in song, a lame one leaps in wonder,
the weak are raised above the strong, and weapons are broken asunder.***

***Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though cold the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless;
Love be our song and love our prayer, and love, our endless story,
may God fill every day we share, and bring us at last into glory.***

Story for All Ages Sylvie Bowen-Bailey

Hebrew Bible Reading: *Jeremiah 33:14-18* Phyllis Cook, reader

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

For thus says the Lord: David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel, and the Levitical priests shall never lack a man in my presence to offer burnt offerings, to make grain offerings, and to make sacrifices for all time.

New Testament Reading: *1 Thessalonians 3:9-13* Phyllis Cook, reader

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Parent and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may God so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Parent at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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

Sermon Sylvie Bowen-Bailey

Song *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* #127 NCH

***Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem has sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as saints of old have sung.
It came a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.***

***Isaiah had foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior,
when half spent was the night.***

Community Prayers & Pastoral Prayer

Prayer of Jesus

Our Father and Mother, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Sung Amen

Offertory *Something's Coming* from *West Side Story*, Leonard Bernstein

*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.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is a joy to give God thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Prayer

Words 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. Please come forward to receive the bread and cup.)

Prayer after Communion