Peace United Church of Christ
November 29, 2026
First Sunday of Advent
10:30am



Bread of Tears, Hannah Garrity

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Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Ringing of the Bells

Choral Call to Worship

I will wait for your hope to come to me (x2)
And I'll sing in the darkness, and I'll wait without fear (x2)

*Call to Worship & Advent Candlelighting — The Pickup Family

When the nights are long and the roads are hard,
we turn our eyes to the stars.
When the work is demanding and injustice unending,
we stand together, arm in arm.
When fear looms large and grief weighs heavy,
we cry out to God without holding back.
And when the dawn of tomorrow feels far away,
we gather together to light the candle of hope.

Like the stars above, may this light shine bright.
May it guide our path. May it inspire deeper hope.
Until God's promised day, may it be so.
Amen.

*Song — *Comfort, Comfort O My People* — #101, *New Century Hymnal*

"Comfort, comfort O my people, tell of peace," thus says our God;
Comfort those whose hearts are shrouded, mourning under sorrow's load.
Speak unto Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.

For the herald's voice is calling in the desert far and near,
Bidding us to make repentance since the realm of God is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain!
Let your hearts be true and humble, for Messiah's holy reign.
For God's glory evermore shall be known o'er all the world;
And all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

*Prayer of Confession

Holy God,
we have been known—
to bite our tongues,
to work through a broken heart,
to don our favorite rose-colored glasses.
We have been known—
to look for the bright side,
to sweep the pain under the rug,

to choose ignorance for the benefit of bliss.
We have been known to keep the hurt in our hearts to ourselves.
Forgive us for filtering our honesty. Forgive us for ignoring the power of lament. Forgive us for not turning to you first. Remind us that you are a God who listens and you are a God who restores. With open hearts, we pray. Amen.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Beloved, God loves you. God sees you. God longs to be in relationship with you.
Hear and believe the good news of the gospel:
There is nothing we could do or say that will keep God's love at bay. We are seen, forgiven, and invited–into deeper honesty and deeper relationship. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*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!

Psalm — Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 — Matthew Berry, reader

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
Stir up your might,
and come to save us!

Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
You have fed them with the bread of tears
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
You make us the scorn of our neighbors;
our enemies laugh among themselves.

Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.
Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Choir Anthem

Gospel Reading Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for God.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O Lord, you are our Parent;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

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

Sermon Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

Song *Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old* #108, *New Century Hymnal*

Isaiah the prophet has written of old
how God's new creation shall come.
Instead of the thorn tree, the fir tree shall grow;
the wolf shall lie down with the lamb, the lamb,
the wolf shall lie down with the lamb.

The mountains and hills shall break forth into song,
the peoples be led forth in peace;

The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of God
as the waters cover the sea, the sea,
as the waters cover the sea.

Yet nations still prey on the meek of the world,
and conflict turns parent from child.
Your people despoil all the sweetness of earth;
the brier and the thorn tree grow wild, grow wild,
the brier and the thorn tree grow wild.

God, bring to fruition your will for the earth,
that no one shall hurt or destroy,
That wisdom and justice shall reign in the land
and your people shall go forth in joy, in joy,
your people shall go forth in joy.

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

Sharing Our Gifts

Invitation

Offertory

*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 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* see page 6

*Benediction

*Postlude

Assisting in Today's Service:
Pam Kramer and Phyllis Cook, Ushers
Aryn & Darin Bergsven, Louise Hawley, Emily Pickup, Loni Cran-Hovis, and Janell Kohls, Coffee Hour Volunteers
Heidi Olson and Koren Sjelin, Nursery Attendants

Peace United Church of Christ Staff

Alex Nelson – Livestream Technician
Amanda McElray Hunter – Children & Youth Minister
Bri Dornbush - Office Coordinator
Carrie Kelsey – Kitchen Manager
Jim Pospisil - Music Director
Mali Lorenz - Bookkeeper
Sophia Farell – Soundboard Technician
Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis - Pastor
Dan Shepard - Maintenance
Rev. Laurie Crelly - Pastoral Care Chaplain
Rachel Burnett - Business Manager

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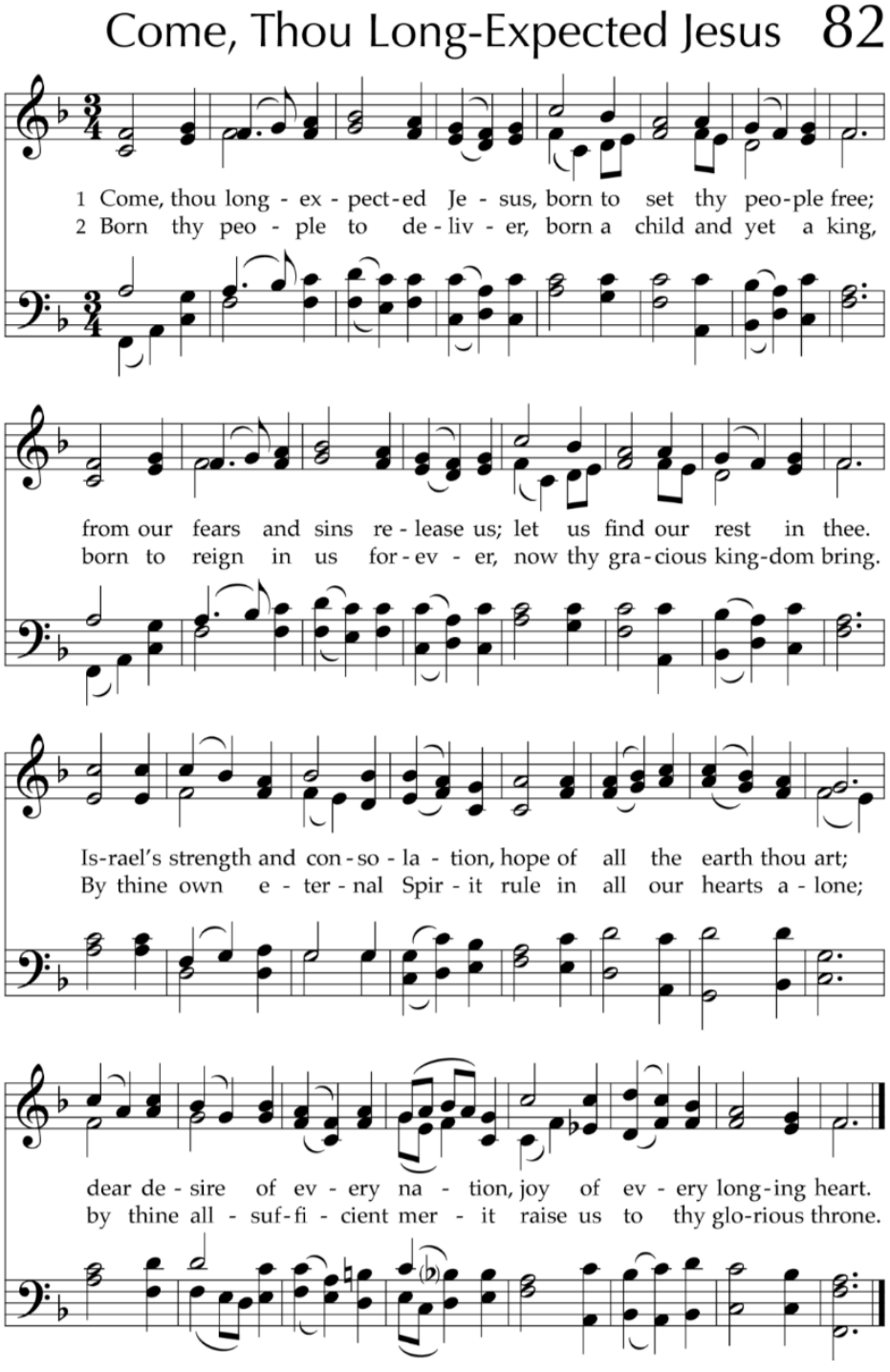

Today's Forum: Advent Workshop, 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall

Join us in the Fellowship Hall to make Advent wreaths, Christmas cards, tree ornaments, and other seasonal crafts. Pick up devotional booklets and Advent calendars. For all ages.

Giving Tree

With Christmas coming, it is time for our annual Giving Tree. This year we are helping Life House and Grandmothers for Peace. Please stop by the Giving Tree in the Narthex and grab a slip of what items they are requesting. All donations need to be dropped off in the office by next Sunday, December 6.

Children & Youth in December

There is no Children's Church during the month of December because every Sunday is full of Intergenerational fun! A staffed Nursery is available each Sunday

Christmas Pageant Rehearsals

Wednesday, December 2, 5:45-7:30pm (costumes will be assigned this evening)
Wednesday, December 9, 5:45-6:30pm
Saturday, December 12, 10:00am-12:00pm
While attending rehearsals is very helpful and fun for our pageant actors, we realize there is always a lot going on in the month of December for families and scheduling. We want all kiddos who want to be involved, to be involved, so if you have a concern that your kiddo can't participate in all of the rehearsals, or any of the rehearsals, please reach out and let me know and we'll figure out how to make it work.

Christmas Pageant, **Sunday, December 13**, **10:30am Service**

Join us on Sunday, December 13 at the 10:30am service where our Peace Church Youth will put on the Annual Christmas Pageant.

Christmas Caroling, **Sunday, December 20**, **11:30am**

Please join us on Sunday, December 20 after the 10:30am service in the Staff Lounge for some pizza and then head out to our Homebound Members and Friends and sing them some Christmas Carols. Please let Bri at office@peaceucc.org know if you are interested in joining so we have a count for pizza.

In Darkness and In Light: Mental Health & Community in Advent

In the season of Advent, we look at images of dark and light, remembering that God walks with us through every season and is with us even in moments when we can't see or feel God's presence. When we see less of the sun, when we feel the stress of the holidays, and when we encounter family situations that bring up challenging dynamics and old trauma, our mental health can suffer. At Peace Church, we are blessed with a number of members who are mental health professionals willing to share their expertise with us. These workshops are designed to build our resilience and wellbeing during a challenging season.

Sundays at 9:30am in the Fireside Room

Sunday, December 6: Growing Our Emotional Intelligence: The Feelings Wheel, led by Veronica Gaidelis-Langer, MSW, LICSW, Counselor at UMD Health

Services and Sara Cedars, MSW, LICSW, Interim Counseling Director at UMD Health Services

Sunday, December 13: The Epidemic of Loneliness and the Power of Human Connection, led by Jeff Mortimore, Lead Connector at Community Connections

Sunday, December 20: The Power of Positive Thinking: An Introduction to Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, led by Carol Johnson, MA, LMFT, PMH-C, Therapist at Therapist Cooperative Practice

This Week's Schedule

Monday, November 30

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

Wednesday, December 2

3:30pm Listen, Reflect, and Connect Group in the Fireside Room
4:00pm Acting for Justice Hub Meeting in the Staff Lounge
5:00pm Soup Supper in the Fellowship Hall
5:30pm Childcare Available in the Nursery
5:45pm Kids' Club in the Wildwoods Room
5:45pm Bible Study in the Fireside Room and Zoom
6:15pm Choir in the Sanctuary
6:30pm Middle School & High School Youth Groups in the Fellowship Hall
7:15pm Confirmation 1 in the Fireside Room
7:30pm Confirmation 2 in the Chapel

Thursday, December 3

7:00pm Pastoral Relations Committee Meeting in the Fireside Room

Saturday, December 5

4:00pm Tuba Christmas in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 6

8:30am Taizé Service
9:30am Self-Serve Coffee in the Narthex
9:30am Forum: Growing Our Emotional Intelligence: The Feelings Wheel led by Carol Johnson in the Fireside Room
10:00am Childcare Available in the Nursery
10:30am Intergenerational Worship with **Holy Communion** and **ASL Interpretation. Sermon** by **Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis**
11:30am Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall