

Peace United Church of Christ
February 22, 2026
First Sunday in Lent
10:30am



Entry into the City, John August Swanson

1111 North 11th Avenue East, Duluth, MN 55805

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Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Ringin' of the Bells

*Call to Worship

Gracious One, you who humbly rule from the back of a borrowed donkey, in solidarity with the humble: guide us away from stories of scarcity and toward a shared story of hope.

Turn our eyes toward your ways of abundance, O God.

Where fables of wealth and greed lead us to endless destruction - of human lives and your good creation:

Turn our hands towards your networks of healing, O God.

Where rumors of differences and trumped up 'wrongs' lead us to fear and division:

Turn our hearts towards your inroads of compassion, O God.

When histories of entitlement and right to comfort ensnare us in apathy and compliance:

Turn our feet toward your paths of justice, O God.

*Song

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

#403, *New Century Hymnal*

***My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' love and righteousness;
I dare not trust this earthly frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.***

Refrain:

***On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.***

***When shadows veil my Savior's face, I rest upon unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.***

Refrain:

***Christ's oath and covenant and blood support me in the rising flood;
When all around my soul gives way, Christ then is all my hope and stay.***

Refrain:

***When Christ shall come with trumpet sound, oh, may I then in Love be found,
Dressed in God's righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.***

Refrain:

*A Prayer for Love that Learns Strategy, Rev. Cameron Trimble

**Holy Weaver of the world,
teach us to love as you love—
not from a distance but in the details.
Show us how to organize mercy
as fiercely as others organize fear.
When we tire of the work,
remind us that compassion is cosmic law,
that love is the gravity holding galaxies together.
Bind our hearts until courage becomes contagious.
And let our love be strong enough
to take on systems, not just sentiments.**

*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

Isaiah 58:1-12

Laurie Berner, reader

Shout out; do not hold back!
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.
Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced

righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their
God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they want God on their side.
"Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not

notice?"

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day

and oppress all your workers

You fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your
house;
when you see the naked, to cover them
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;

your vindicator shall go before you;
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear
guard.

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I
am."

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of
evil,

if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

The Lord will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many
generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

Choir Anthem

Their Leaves Will Be for Healing, Wendy Durrwachter

Commissioned by Jim Pospisil and Peace Church UCC, Duluth, MN

Text from Isaiah 58:11 and Ezekiel 47, inspired by Rev. Jim Mitulski

Gospel Reading

Luke 19:29-40

When Jesus had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus, and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. Now as he was approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

"Blessed is the king
who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven,
and glory in the highest heaven!"

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

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

Sermon

Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

Song

We Would Be Building

#607, *New Century Hymnal*

***We would be building; temples still undone
o'er crumbling walls their crosses scarcely lift,
waiting till love can raise the broken stone,
and hearts creative bridge the human rift.
We would be building, Architect Divine,
reveal the shape of life in your design.***

***Teach us to build; upon the solid rock
we set the dream that hardens into deed,***

*ribbed with fine steel, both time and change to mock,
the unfailing purpose of our noblest creed.
Teach us to build; O Maker, lend us sight
to see the towers gleaming in the light.*

*O keep us building, Savior; may our hands
ne'er falter when the dream is in our hearts,
when to our ears there come divine commands
and all the pride of sinful will departs.
We build with you; O grant enduring worth
until your promised realm shall come on earth.*

Prayer of Confession

Most holy and merciful God,
**we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have
sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and
deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors
as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of
Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit. Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy
that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you. Our
negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to
you. Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and
contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we
confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God. Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us. Hear us, O God,
for your mercy is great.**

Imposition of Ashes

Invitation

Song During Ashes

These Footsteps

#15, Praise & Worship

***Follow in these footsteps
cast your burden down
Breathe like it's your last breath
pray without a sound
offer up your best gift
pass it all around.***

***Follow in these footsteps
walk on holy ground.***

***Jump into the river
feel the current's pull
Let it overtake you
Let it make you full
When you reach the Ocean
Big and wild and Blue
listen to the waves speak
Love is calling you***

***You are called my daughter
You are called my son
Come up through the water
know that we are one
Offer up your best gift
Pass it all around
Follow in these footsteps
Walk on holy ground***

Assurance of God's Grace

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation, that we may show forth your glory in the world. By the cross and passion of Jesus Christ bring us with all your saints to the joy of the resurrection. We are forgiven and freed for new life. Thanks be to God.

Sung Amen

Offertory

Exiles and Gyres for Solo Piano, Wendy Durrwachter

*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 & 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.

*Song

Somewhere to Begin, Sara Thomsen

**People say to me, "Oh, you gotta be crazy!
How can you sing in times like these?
Don't you read the news? Don't you know the score?
How can you sing when so many others grieve?"
People say to me, "What kind of fool believes
That a song will make a difference in the end?"**

**By way of a reply, I say a fool such as I
Who sees a song as somewhere to begin
A song is somewhere to begin
The search for something worth believing in
If changes are to come there are things that must be done
And a song is somewhere to begin**

Verse 2) Dream...

Verse 3) Love...

*Benediction

*Postlude

Assisting in Today's Service:

Guy & Nadine Hubert, Ushers

Pat & Lynn Devlin, Veronica & Nathan Langer, Matt & Allison Dingler, and Melissa Boyle & Jen Stenersen,
Coffee Hour Volunteers