

**Peace United Church of Christ
August 4th, 2024
9:30am**



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Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Bells

*Call to Worship

We gather in community, united by God's love.

We share a sacred story.

We gather with a mosaic of beliefs, experiences, and identities.

We share a sacred story.

We gather at different places on our journey

We share a sacred story.

Through story, song, and sharing, let us worship God!

*Song

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

#12 NCH

I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,

That spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.

I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;

The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of our God that filled the earth with food;

God formed the creatures with a word, and then pronounced them good.

Oh, how your wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye:

If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!

On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glory known.

The clouds arise and spread their showers by order from your throne.

All life is but a gift from you and ever in your care;

Wherever people gather, you, O God, are present there.

*Prayer of Confession

God of all creation, you weave our stories together in a complex tapestry of beauty and pain, despair and hope, one human family seeking love and light together. But too often, we seek easy answers. We deny perspectives we cannot understand, and we seek validation for our own worldview. Grant us the strength to abide with discomfort, the courage to open our hearts to new possibilities, and the generosity to give and receive the practices of Beloved Community. Amen.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, God loves us and there is nothing we can do about it.

God does not love us because of what we have done or left undone.

God loves us simply because we are.

And God's love endures forever. Amen.

*Passing of the Peace

Story for All Ages

Amanda McElray Hunter

Scripture Reading

Acts 16:11-16, 40

Laurie Berner, Reader

We therefore set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the Sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

After leaving the prison they went to Lydia's home, and when they had seen and encouraged the brothers and sisters there, they departed.

May these words be to us our light and our life. **Thanks be to God.**

Special Music

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go
music by Albert Peace, arr by Vince Gill

Maryn Hakes

Sermon

Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis &
Rev. Anthony Galloway

Song

Lead Us from Death to Life

#581 NCH

Refrain:

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood 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.

Community Prayers and 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.

Offertory

Psalm 23, Eric Whitacre

*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

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 right to give God thanks and praise.

Prayer 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.)

Prayer

*Closing Song

In the Midst of New Dimensions

#391 NCH

***In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?***

Refrain:

***God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.***

***Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair,
Who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care?***

Refrain:

***As we stand a world divided by our own self-seeking schemes,
Grant that we, your global village, might envision wider dreams.***

Refrain:

***We are man and we are woman, all persuasions, old and young,
Each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung.***

Refrain:

***Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,
May your blazing phoenix spirit resurrect the church again.***

Refrain:

*Benediction

*Postlude

Assisting in Today's Service:

Cindy Macaulay, Cyndi Brown, Pam Kramer and Ellen Shelton, Ushers

*Please note there will be no coffee hour in the fellowship Hall following this service.
Coffee Hour will be at St. Mark AME, 530 N 5th Ave E.*

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

Mali Lorenz - Bookkeeper

Rachel Obed - Business Manager

Sophia Farell – Soundboard Technician