

**Peace United Church of Christ
June 9th, 2024**

**Third Sunday after Pentecost
Annual Meeting Sunday
10:30am**



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Welcome and Announcements

Ringing of the Bells

*Call to Worship

We come from chaos and calm, from sorrow and joy,

We are called to be the church!

We are part of one human family, siblings in Christ.

We are called to be the church!

We are guided by the powerful love of God.

We are called to be the church!

Let us worship God.

*Song

The Church's One Foundation

#386 NCH

***The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord;
we are Christ's new creation by water and the word;
From heaven Christ came and sought us in love to set us free;
with precious blood Christ bought us for all eternity.***

***Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
one charter of salvation, one God, one faith, one birth,
One name together blessing, one holy food we share,
to one hope we are pressing, at one in work and prayer.***

***'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of our war,
we wait the consummation of peace forevermore;
Till with the vision glorious, our longing eyes are blessed,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.***

***Yet we on earth have union with God, the Three-in-One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy! God, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.***

*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 loves us not because of our completed to-do lists or the flawless plans we've created or our ability to stay positive through trauma and despair.

God loves us simply because we are.

And God's love endures. Amen.

*Passing of the Peace

Baptism of Iggy Hamel

Invitation

Questions of the Parents and Godparents

Congregational Response

Jesus calls us to welcome children into the full life of our community, opening our table and hearts to those most vulnerable. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to Iggy as he lives and grows in this community?

We promise our love, support, and care.

Affirmation of Faith: *A New Creed* #887 NCH

Baptism

Congregational Greeting & Blessing

Special music

One More Step Along the World

Contemporary Reading

I Worried, Mary Oliver

Mike Swanoski, reader

I worried a lot. Will the garden grow, will the rivers
flow in the right direction, will the earth turn
as it was taught, and if not how shall
I correct it?

Was I right, was I wrong, will I be forgiven,
can I do better?

Will I ever be able to sing, even the sparrows
can do it and I am, well,
hopeless.

Is my eyesight fading or am I just imagining it,
am I going to get rheumatism,
lockjaw, dementia?

Finally, I saw that worrying had come to nothing.
And gave it up. And took my old body
and went out into the morning,
and sang.

Scripture Reading

Mark 3:20-35

Mike Swanoski, reader

Then Jesus went home, and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

"Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"- for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you." And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

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

Sermon

Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

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:

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

Offertory

When You're My Age, Lori McKenna

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

You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

#181 NCH

***You are salt for the earth, O people: salt for the reign of God!
Share the flavor of life, O people: life in the City of God!***

Refrain:

***Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;
Bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God!***

***You are a light on the hill, O people: light for the City of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people: shine for the City of God!***

Refrain:

***You are a seed of the Word, O people: bring forth the reign of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice, grow in the City of God!***

Refrain:

***We are a blessed and a pilgrim people: bound for the reign of God!
Love our journey and love our homeland: love is the City of God!***

Refrain:

*Benediction

*Postlude

Assisting in Today's Service:

Laurie Berner, Ellen Shelton and Phyllis Cook, Ushers
Cindy Macaulay, Leanne Ventrella,
Martha and Craig Marciniak, Coffee Hour Volunteers

Please stay after the service for the Annual Meeting.