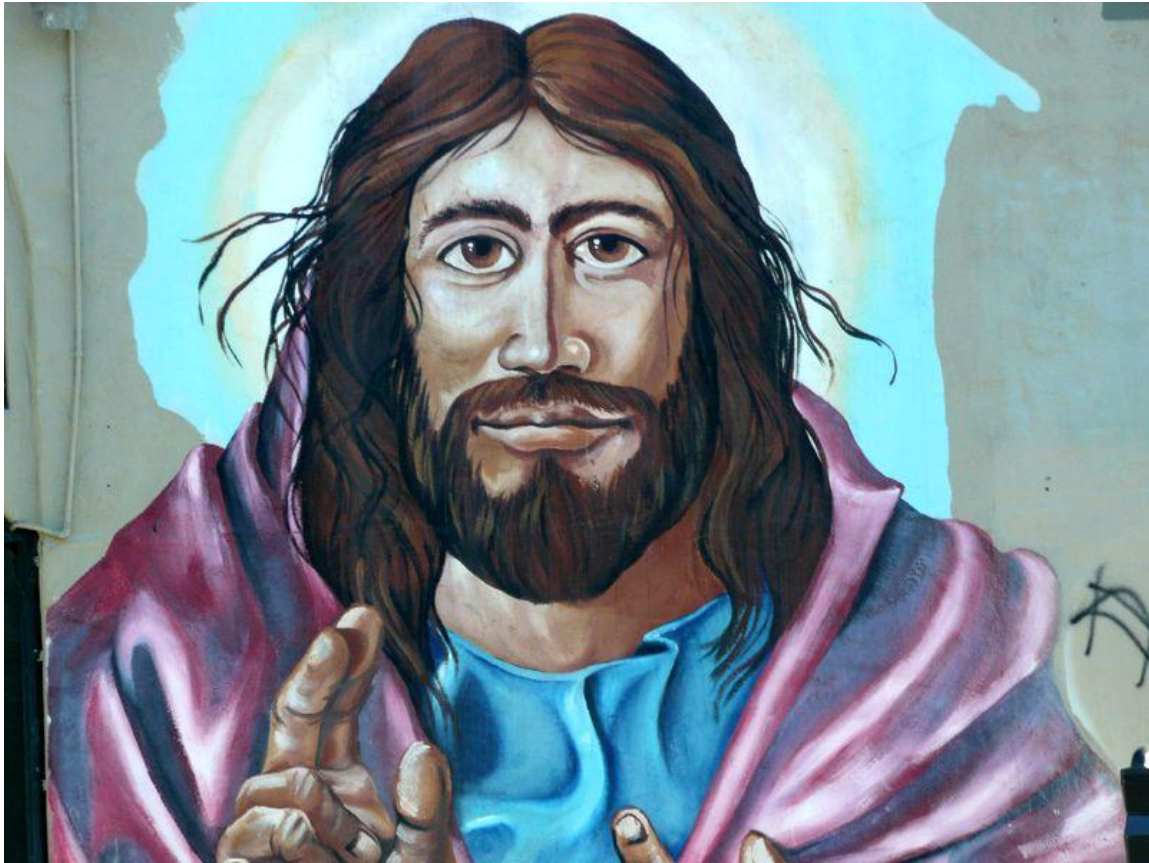


Peace United Church of Christ
August 9, 2026
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
9:30am



Anonymous. *Smiling Jesus*, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

1111 North 11th Avenue East, Duluth, MN 55805

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Prelude

The Musical Priest, Traditional

Tent Show Band

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Bells

*Call to Worship

Embodied Presence,

Remind us of the sacred value of our bodies.

In a world that demands we produce, consume, and repeat,

We choose to pause. To breathe. To listen.

We choose to remember that we were not made for exhaustion,

We were made for embodiment, wonder, and rest.

We reclaim God's sacred gift: to just be.

Let us worship God!

*Song

How Firm a Foundation

#407, New Century Hymnal

How firm a foundation for you has been laid,

by God in the Word, in the sacrifice paid!

What more can God say than to you has been said,

to you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,

for I am your God, I will still give you aid;

I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand

upheld by my gracious, omnipotent hand."

"When through the deep waters I call you to go,

the rivers of woe shall not over you flow;

For I will be with you, your troubles to bless,

delivering you from your deepest distress."

"When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,

my grace all sufficient shall be your supply;

the flame shall not hurt you; for I have designed

your soul to make pure just as gold is refined."

"The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,

I will not, I will not desert to its foes;

That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,

I'll never, no never, no never forsake!"

*Prayer of Confession

Divine Rest, we are weary and bent, our bodies burdened by the weight of empire's demands. Forgive us, for some of us have worshiped the hustle, and others of us have fallen for the lie that our value is measured in labor. We confess that in our striving we've silenced the unique song of our bodies, treating rest as weakness. Forgive us and free us for sacred being and belonging. Amen.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear us now, in stillness, as we reclaim our worth: **We breathe in mercy, and with every exhale we return to the sacredness of rest. Through Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

*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!***

Scripture

Matthew 14:22-33

Darlene Leafgren, reader

Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink,

he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

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

Special Music *Get in the Boat*, Katy Lou Clark Kirby Wood

Sermon Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

Song	<i>Blue Boat Home</i>	#1064 UU Hymnal
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Though below me I feel no motion
Standing on these mountains and plains
Far away from the rolling ocean
Still my dry land heart can say
I've been sailing all my life now
Never harbor nor port have I known
The wide universe is the ocean I travel
And the Earth is my blue boat home
Sun, my sail and moon, my rudder
As I ply the starry sea
Leaning over the edge in wonder
Casting questions into the deep
Drifting here with my ship's companions
All we kindred pilgrim souls
Making our way by the lights of the heavens
In our beautiful blue boat home
I give thanks to the waves upholding me
Hail the great winds urging me on
Greet the infinite sea before me
Sing the sky my sailor's song
I was born upon the fathoms
Never harbor or port have I known
The wide universe is the ocean I travel
And the Earth is my blue boat home

Offertory *My Lord, What a Morning*, Harry T. Burleigh

***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** *When Peace Like a River* #438, New Century Hymnal
(*It is Well With My Soul*)

***When peace, like a river, upholds me each day,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
Whatever my lot, you have taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."***

Refrain:

***It is well, It is well, with my soul, with my soul.
It is well, it is well with my soul.***

***Though evil should tempt me, though trials should come,
when this blessed assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has paid life and blood for my soul:***

Refrain:

***My sin oh, the bliss of this glorious thought
my sin not in park, but the whole
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!***

Refrain:

***O God, speed the day that is filled with your light,
when clouds are rolled back as a scroll;
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall appear,
"even so" it is well with my soul.***

Refrain:

***Benediction**

May we remember that our bodies are sacred vessels—carrying life, love, spirit. We were crafted not for profit but for purpose, woven with intention. We are not commodities; we are beloved, whole, and free. Let us rest in the truth that we are sacred, and we are enough. Amen.

***Postlude**

Assisting in Today's Service:

Pam Kramer, and Warren Post, Ushers

Musicians: Sophia Farell, Carrie Kelsey, Andrew Cragun, Cyndi Brown, Mike Swanoski, Bud Trnka, Dan O'Neill, Ron Deters, John Bankson, Matt Prois, and Cathy Ameal

Our liturgy in this season is adapted from
Liturgies for Resisting Empire by Kat Armas.

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 Burnett – Business Manager

Sophia Farell – Soundboard Technician



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Summer Worship Series: *Liturgies for Resisting Empire* by Kat Armas

In *Liturgies for Resisting Empire*, Cuban American theologian and writer Kat Armas provides a roadmap for Christians seeking a countercultural way of living that prioritizes community and humanity over dominance and power.

Pastor Corinne, Pastor Laurie, and Amanda selected this book to guide our summer worship and after-worship discussions. It speaks to themes we've been hearing from many folks at Peace Church: they are hungry for a deep Christian faith that speaks to the hard stuff going on in our world, or they are deconstructing from faith traditions that harmed them and seeking a path toward reconstruction. Join us Sundays through August 30 for worship and table conversation at coffee hour, and buy a copy of the book at bookshop.org or one of our local bookstores!

Peace Church Directory App



Have you joined the Church Center app yet? This is a great way to stay connected, engaged, and involved at Peace Church! This has replaced our Instant Church online directory. Use the QR code to download the app from the app store.

Once logged in, you can update your directory profile photo and manage what information other members are able to see. You can give online and connect with your church groups too!

Please note that you can create an account at any time but will need to have been invited to join and share in Peace United Church of Christ's private directory. Email office@peaceucc.org if you do not have access to the directory yet.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki Commemoration, Today, August 9, 2:00pm, Enger Tower

Grandmothers for Peace and Vets for Peace will hold a short ceremony in memory of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki this afternoon at 2:00pm in Enger Park at the Peace Bell. There will be a potluck social time following the commemoration. All are welcome. Please come!

Queer Connections Game Night, Monday, August 17, 6:30–8:00pm, Fireside Room

Looking to meet different people, play a new game, or just get out of the house for an evening? Join us for Queer Connections in a safe and family friendly environment at Peace Church. All are welcome. Bring a board game to share and bring a friend.

Chum's Wish List

Chum has put together a list of most requested items. You can drop the items off in the office in the blue storage bin labeled *Items for Chum*. Underwear and socks, towels of any size, reusable bags (backpacks, totes, duffel bags), bars of soap, chairs (lightweight + moveable), folding tables, art supplies, including watercolor + acrylic paints and canvases, and potting soil. In addition to this list, Chum is asking that Mac & Cheese be our designated food item.

This Week's Schedule

Tuesday, August 11

6:00pm Property Team Meeting in the Staff Lounge and Zoom

Wednesday, August 12

1:00pm History Team Meeting in the History Room

4:00pm Finance Committee Meeting in the Staff Lounge and Zoom

5:00pm Bible Study in the Fireside Room and Zoom

Thursday, August 13

12:00pm Belonging and Community Team Meeting in the Staff Lounge

3:00pm Dismantling Racism on Zoom

5:30pm Worship & Arts Team Meeting in the Fireside Room

7:00pm Capital Campaign Team Meeting on Zoom

Sunday, August 16

9:30am Worship with Communion. Sermon by Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis. Children's Church with Amanda McElray Hunter

10:30am Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall

10:30am *Liturgies for Resisting Empire* Book Discussion in the Music Room