Peace United Church of Christ
November 15, 2026
Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
10:30am



Prepare the Way, Lauren Wright Pittman

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Prelude *Westphalia Waltz,* Cotton Collins

Welcome and Announcements

Ringing of the Bells

Choral Call to Worship

Come and remember who you are here
Do this to remember who I am
Come and remember you belong here
All belong here

*Call to Worship from Psalm 112

Let us praise our God!
Happy are we who delight in God's commandments.
Make our hearts steady and our souls unafraid,
We fear nothing; we are secure in the Lord.
Let us share freely, let us give to those in need,
For God's generosity endures forever.
Let us worship God!

*Song *Blessed Assurance* #473, *New Century Hymnal*

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's blood.
Refrain:
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight!
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.
Refrain:

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blessed;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love.
Refrain:

*Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, your goodness fills us and Christ's love envelops us each day. Yet we live in a broken world, where suffering and separation threaten to have the last word. Remind us of your abundance. Guide us in your ways of repair. Write us into your story of grace, forgiveness, and resurrection. Amen.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Beloved, there is nothing that can separate us from the love of God.
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!

Hebrew Bible Reading — Exodus 3-14 — René Montgomery, reader

paraphrase from *The Book of Belonging*, Mariko Clark

Moses ambled along, following his flock and listening to the mountain wind yawn. Wandering left him plenty of time alone with his thoughts: *Who am I? Am I Egyptian? Am I Hebrew? Am I enslaved? Am I an enslaver? Does it even matter?*

Born to a Hebrew mother, raised in the Egyptian palace, hiding out in the country after getting into trouble with both groups, Moses found himself in a lonely and deserted place. As he glanced to his left, Moses noticed something strange in the distance: a lone bush, completely aflame. As he approached, a voice came from the bush, as warm and commanding as the purr of a great lion. "Moses, Moses." "Here I am," replied Moses, awestruck. "I am the God your ancestors knew," the voice continued. "It's time we met as well. I've heard the groans of my people in Egypt. I see how they suffer. I've come to rescue them and lead them back to the Promised Land. And I'm sending you to Pharaoh to bring them there from Egypt."

Moses sputtered, wide-eyed, "Me? Why would you choose me—of all people—for such a task?" And the mysterious voice seemed to smile as it responded, "I am with you." *That's not what I asked*, Moses thought. He narrowed his eyes and whispered, "Who are you?" "I am who I am," came the puzzling reply. "You'll see what and who I am by how I act." God's voice resembled a warm wind, soothing yet adventuresome. "I love you because I

am love. I save you because I am safe. I comfort you because I am comfort. I am with you because I am here."

"You're asking me to speak to the people of Israel, but haven't you noticed that I stutter?" Moses protested. Sometimes his mouth had trouble forming words. Sometimes they felt stuck behind his tongue and all he could do was make noise. "Who do you think made your mouth, Moses? It was me. Whether or not you think it works well, I'll be with you. I'll be with your mouth." Moses begged God to send someone else. And even though God believed in Moses more than Moses did, God offered to send his brother, Aaron, with him to help him speak. God said, "I'll be with you, and I'll be with Aaron. Pharaoh has terrorized my people for far too long. And though he is treated as a god among the many gods of Egypt, he is just a man. A cruel man. A bully. But I am bigger than any bully, and soon everyone will see that. I will show them through many wonders."

Choir Anthem *The Peace of Wild Things*, Jake Runestad,
poem by Wendell Berry

New Testament Reading 2 Corinthians 9:6-12

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written,

"God scatters abroad; God gives to the poor;
God's righteousness endures forever."

The One who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us, for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.

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

Sermon Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

Song *Take My Life, God, Let It Be* #448, *New Century Hymnal*

Take my life, God, let it be consecrated faithfully.
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my spirit, let it move at the impulse of your love.
Take my intellect and use all its powers as you choose.

Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.
Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwelling place.

Take my love and help it grow; let my loving overflow.
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's community.

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 *Wayfaring Stranger*, American Traditional Gudrun Witrak

Blessing Our Commitments

*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 *What a Covenant* #471, *New Century Hymnal*

What a covenant, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.
Refrain:
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms.
Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms.
Refrain:

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Savior near,
leaning on the everlasting arms.
Refrain:

*Benediction

*Postlude

Assisting in Today's Service:
Warren Post, Pam Kramer, Darlene Leafgren, and Paul O'Brien, Ushers
Lu Filkins and Andrew Holmstrom, Nursery Attendants
Barb Hanka, Janell Kohls, and Loni Cran-Hovis, Coffee Hour Volunteers

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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Preparing the Way: Capital & Stewardship Campaign Commitment Sunday

On Sunday, November 15, our worship will include a blessing of our commitments to our 3-year Capital Campaign and our annual Stewardship Campaign. We will celebrate the many ways we are Preparing the Way for future generations to praise God, live the way of Jesus, and build the Beloved Community, both within and beyond our walls. Plan to bring both commitment cards if you haven't submitted them already. If you've already submitted yours (thank you!) or plan to do so online (thank you!), there will be other ways for you to signify your commitment prayerfully in worship.

Today's Forum: Spiritual Practices for Hope and Resilience

If you're feeling spiritually adrift, anxious, or unsure how to strengthen your relationship with God, come to hear from Peace Church members about their own spiritual practice and try some yourself. Prayer, meditation, reading scripture, fasting from technology, and other practices increase our resilience and enable us to embody hope even in challenging times.

Land of Neighbors Listening Session, Sunday, November 15, 4:00-5:30pm, Harrison Community Center 3002 W 3rd St

Land of Neighbors aims to move beyond outrage and division. This session is a time to create space for neighbors to speak honestly about what matters to them, listen to others, and explore what action might look like together. Join us at the Harrison Community Center from 4:00-5:30pm for dinner, honest conversations, to connect with your neighbors, and help us see what we share. Childcare is available; please let us know if you'll be bringing any children. After this session we will begin choosing actions for all of us in the area to work on together. I don't know what those actions will be because we will use your input to determine what they are! For more information and registration, visit https://minnesotalandofneighbors.org/events/duluth-111526

Peace Bell Articles Are Due Wednesday, November 18

Peace submit your articles for the December Peace Bell to Bri at office@peaceucc.org.

Baked Potato Night, **Wednesday, November 18, 5:00pm in the Fellowship Hall**

We are making dinner for you! Baked potatoes, sweet potatoes, toppings, and Greek salad with a surprise dessert. Join us!

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, Tuesday, November 24, 6:30pm

Join our wider community in the Fellowship Hall at Peace UCC from 4:00-6:00pm for a community Thanksgiving meal hosted by Neighborhood Youth Services. Then head upstairs for our community interfaith Thanksgiving service at 6:30pm, featuring a mass choir, readings shared by local clergy, and an offering received for Neighborhood Youth Services and Chum.

Advent is just around the corner!

The Advent Workshop (in which we make wreaths and other seasonal crafts) is on Sunday November 29 at 9:30am! This workshop is a lot of fun every year. Last year we began switching to reusable metal advent wreath bases to be more

environmentally friendly. If you have a base from last year, please bring it back to add to the supplies. Also we will need greenery for the wreaths! If you are able to harvest some greenery from your backyard, neighborhood, the Christmas tree farm you visit, etc., please begin bringing that on November 22 - there will be a clearly labeled collection bin/area outside the office.

This Week's Schedule

Monday, November 16
9:00am Yoga with Robin in the Fireside Room and Zoom
6:30pm Queer Connections Game Night in the Fireside Room

Tuesday, November 17
6:30pm Coordinating Council in the Fireside Room and Zoom

Wednesday, November 18
Peace Bell Articles are Due
5:00pm Soup Supper in the Fellowship Hall
5:30pm Childcare Available in the Nursery
5:45pm Bible Study in the Fireside Room and Zoom
5:45pm Kids' Club in the Wildwoods Room
6:15pm Choir in the Sanctuary
6:30pm Middle School Youth Group in the Youth Room
6:30pm High School Youth Group in the Wildwoods Room
7:15pm Confirmation 2 in the Chapel
7:30pm Confirmation 1 in the Fireside Room

Thursday, November 19
3:00pm Dismantling Racism Team Meeting on Zoom
6:00pm Sanctuary Schools Meeting in the Fireside Room

Saturday, November 21
Ken Wergeland's Memorial Service
1:00pm Visitation
2:00pm Memorial Service
3:00pm Reception

Sunday, November 22
8:30am Worship with **Holy Communion. Thanksgiving Lessons & Carols.**
9:30am Self-Serve Coffee in the Narthex
9:30am Forum: A Bible Study on Gratitude in the Fireside Room
10:00am Childcare Available in the Nursey
10:30am Worship with **Thanksgiving Lessons & Carols. Children's Church** with **Amanda McElray Hunter**
11:30am Coffee Hour in the Fireside Room
2:00pm Victory Chorus Celebration of Song in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall