

**Peace United Church of Church
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

1111 North 11th Avenue East, Duluth, MN 55805
November 12th, 2023 10:30 am



Mosaic by Gail Blum

Rev. Charlotte Frantz, Bridge Minister
Amanda McElray Hunter, Interim Children and Youth Coordinator
Jim Pospisil, Music Director
Alex Nelson, Worship Technician
Gudrun Witrak, Pastoral Care Chaplain

Prelude

Hard Times, Gillian Welch

Welcome and Announcements

Ringing of the Bells

*Call to Worship

Revs. Kevin Brown and Charlotte Frantz

Why are you here?

Maybe because you recognize your own story as part of a greater story, an old story in which God calls the world into liberation and wholeness.

We are all welcome here.

Why are you here?

Maybe because you have glimpsed love that is beyond human reach, a love that transforms ugly into breathtaking and impossible into real.

We are all welcome here.

Why are you here?

Maybe not because of faith, but because of a conviction that life can be re-shaped by justice and compassion.

We are all welcome here.

Why are you here?

Maybe you are no longer sure whether you belong or whether any of this makes a difference, and you can scarcely remember what first inspired you to come.

We are all welcome here.

Why are you here?

Maybe because you are in search for something to re-invigorate your spirit and pour hope into your heart.

We are all welcome here.

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

*Song

All Are Welcome, Marty Haugen

*Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace,
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:*

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

*Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true
Where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace.
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:*

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

*Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine, and wheat;
A banquet hall of holy ground, where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space,
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us:*

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

*Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone,
To heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bears the image of God's face,
Let us bring an end to fear and danger:*

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

*Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:*

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Sending the Children

***Goodbye sweet children, it's time to leave this place,
May our love hold you all with grace.
Our hearts go with you 'til you come back to this place.
So we bid you goodbye, goodbye, goodbye.***

Gratitude and Generosity

Katie Kahtel

Video by the Stewardship Team

Scripture Readings

Luke 3:21-22

Laurie Berner, Reader

Now when all the people were baptized and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Child, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Musical Interlude

To the River, Sonja Martin

Contemporary Lesson

Beloved Is Where We Begin
Jan Richardson from *Circle of Grace*
www.janrichardson.com

Laurie Berner, Reader

If you would enter
into the wilderness,
do not begin
without a blessing.

Do not leave
without hearing
who you are:
Beloved,
named by the One
who has traveled this path
before you.

Do not go
without letting it echo
in your ears,
and if you find
it is hard
to let it into your heart,
do not despair.

That is what
this journey is for.
I cannot promise
this blessing will free you
from danger,
from fear,
from hunger
or thirst,
from the scorching
of sun
or the fall
of the night.

But I can tell you
that on this path
there will be help.

I can tell you
that on this way
there will be rest.

I can tell you
that you will know
the strange graces
that come to our aid
only on a road
such as this,
that fly to meet us
bearing comfort
and strength,
that come alongside us
for no other cause
than to lean themselves
toward our ear
and with their
curious insistence
whisper our name:

*Beloved.
Beloved.
Beloved.*

Choir Anthem

Antiphon for the Holy Spirit, Jim Pospisil
text by Hildegard of Bingen

Gudrun Witrak, soloist

The Spirit of God is a life that bestows life, root of world tree and wind in its boughs. Scrubbing out sin, she rubs oil into wounds. She is glistening life alluring all praise, all awakening, all resurrecting

Sermon

Belonging and Becoming
Associate Conference Minister, Minnesota Conference

Rev. Kevin Brown

Song

Give Yourself to Love
(please join in singing the refrain)

***You must give yourself to love if love is what you're after;
Open up your hearts to the tears and laughter
And give yourself to love, give yourself to love.***

Community Prayers and the Prayer of Jesus

Offertory

We Are One, Wade Morissette Imre

Invitation to the Day

*Closing Song

Lean On Me

#23 P&W

*Sometimes in our lives we all have pain
We all have sorrow
But if we are wise
We know that there's always tomorrow
Lean on me, when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
'Til I'm gonna need
Somebody to lean on
Please swallow your pride
If I have things you need to borrow
For no one can fill those of your needs
That you don't let show
Lean on me, when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
'Til I'm gonna need
Somebody to lean on*

*If there is a load you have to bear
That you can't carry
I'm right up the road
I'll share your load
If you just call me
So just call on me brother, when you
need a hand
We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a problem that you'd
understand
We all need somebody to lean on
Lean on me when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
Till I'm gonna need
Somebody to lean on
Lean on me...*

*Postlude

Assisting in Today's Service:

Ron Deters, Sonja Martin, Tres Commer, Ian Connell, Musicians
Warren Post, Phyllis Cook, Ellen Shelton and Louise Guggisberg, Ushers
Rev. Kevin Brown, Guest Preacher

Kevin Brown is our guest preacher. Kevin serves as Associate Conference Minister for Faith Formation with Children and Youth. In this role he supports all aspects of the Conference's program ministries with children, youth, and families, Kevin coordinated the Youth trip to Washington D.C. this past summer. He also oversees training and continuing education for adults engaged in faith formation ministries in local congregations. He received his Master of Divinity degree from Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis.