

**Peace United Church of Christ  
November 16th, 2025  
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost  
10:30am**



*The Procession*, John August Swanson

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Prelude

*Sonata for Two Flutes, W.F. Bach*

Cyndi Brown  
Melanie Sever

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

Ringin' of the Bells

\*Call to Worship

Rev. Christine Wagner-Hecht

Sing to our God a new song,  
**Sing a song of hope!**  
God makes a way out of no way,  
**God is always creating anew.**  
Lift up your voices and sing,  
**Sing with the joy of God's mercy and love!**

\*Song *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* #23 NCH

***There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.  
There's no place where earthly sorrows are more felt than in God's heaven;  
there's no place where earthly failings have such kindly judgment given.  
For the love of God is broader than the measures of our minds;  
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.  
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's word;  
and our lives would show thanksgiving for the goodness of our God.***

\*Prayer of Confession

**Holy One, we long for your renewal and resurrection. But too often we are crushed by the weight of the world. We struggle to hope in the face of fear. We struggle to celebrate even when there is joy. Lighten our burdens, loving God, that we might place our trust in you. Amen.**

\*Assurance of Forgiveness

Beloved, even when God feels far away, God's mercy and love is here for us always.  
**Through Christ, we are forgiven, embraced, and claimed by God, now and forever. Amen.**

\*Community Affirmation of the UCC Statement of Faith #885 NCH

\*Passing of the Peace

Story for All Ages Amanda McElray Hunter

Sending the Children #760 NCH

***Amen, we praise your name, O God!  
(Sing amen) Amen, we praise your name, O God!  
(Sing amen) Amen amen, amen amen, amen, we praise your name, O God!***

Scripture Reading Psalm 98, Inclusive Bible Kelli Hallsten-Erickson, reader

Sing to the Lord a new song,  
for God has done marvelous things.  
With their right hand and holy arm  
have they won the victory.  
The Lord has made known their victory;  
their righteousness they have openly shown in the sight of the nations.  
God remembers their mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel,  
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.  
Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.  
Sing to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the Ruler, our God.  
Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it,  
the lands and those who dwell therein.  
Let the rivers clap their hands,  
and let the hills ring out with joy before God,  
when God comes to judge the earth.  
In righteousness shall God judge the world  
and the peoples with equity.

You will say on that day:  
"I will give thanks to you, O Lord,  
for though you were angry with me,  
your anger turned away,  
and you comforted me.  
Surely God is my salvation;  
I will trust and will not be afraid,  
for the Lord is my strength and my might;  
God has become my salvation."

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say on that day:

"Give thanks to the Lord;  
call on God's name;  
make known God's deeds among the nations;  
proclaim that God's name is exalted.  
Sing praises to the Lord, for God has done gloriously;  
let this be known in all the earth.  
Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

For I am about to create new heavens  
and a new earth;  
the former things shall not be remembered  
or come to mind.  
But be glad and rejoice forever  
in what I am creating,  
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy  
and its people as a delight.  
I will rejoice in Jerusalem  
and delight in my people;  
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it  
or the cry of distress.  
No more shall there be in it  
an infant who lives but a few days  
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime,  
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,  
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.  
They shall build houses and inhabit them;  
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.  
They shall not build and another inhabit;  
they shall not plant and another eat,  
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,  
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.  
They shall not labor in vain  
or bear children for calamity,  
for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—  
and their descendants as well.  
Before they call I will answer,  
while they are yet speaking I will hear.  
The wolf and the lamb shall feed together;  
the lion shall eat straw like the ox,  
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!  
They shall not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
says the Lord.

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

***To God compose a song of joy; to God make melody,  
Whose arm of strength does wondrous things, whose hand brings victory!***

***Before the nations God reveals a just and righteous will,  
Remembering in faithful love the house of Israel.***

***In every corner of the earth, God comes to save and free;  
Break forth with shouts of holy joy; all lands, make melody.***

***With trumpet, with the sound of horns, with strings, yes, with the lyre,  
With voices praise the sovereign God, a lusty, joyous choir.***

***Let seas in all their fullness roar; sing, people of all lands;  
Let mountains join and sing for joy; let rivers clap their hands.***

***The God of justice comes to save; let earth make melody;  
For God will judge with righteousness and rule with equity.***

#### Reception of New Members

Introduction of New Members

Covenantal Questions of the New Members

Covenantal Questions of the Congregation

We are grateful for this opportunity to welcome these new members of our congregation. Do you promise to welcome them, to be open to what they bring, and to care for them? Will you pray for and with them? Will you learn from them even as they learn from you? If so, please answer yes. **Yes.**

Congregational response:

**We welcome you with joy into the covenantal life of this church. We promise you our friendship and support as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's love.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

#### Community Prayers & 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

*Sonata for Flute and Piano, Francis Poulenc*

\*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!**

\*Closing Song

*Now Thank We All Our God*

#419 NCH

***Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices,  
Who, from our parents' arms, has blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.***

***O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,  
And keep us still in grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.***

***All praise and thanks to God our Maker now be given,  
To Christ, and Spirit, too, our help in highest heaven,  
The one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,  
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.***

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

*Inisheer, trad. Scottish*

Assisting in Today's Service:

Pam Kramer, Marsha Hystead, Ben Bittner, and Cindy Macaulay, Ushers  
Lu Filkins and Lyra Tennis-Luoma, Nursery Attendants  
Beth & Warren Post, Lynn Thier, and Janell Kohls, Coffee Hour Volunteers