

Peace United Church of Christ
September 22nd, 2024
Just Peace Sunday
10:30am



JUST PEACE
SUNDAY 9.15.2024

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Things That Make For Peace

“As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, ‘If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.’”
Luke 19:41

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Prelude

Emily Ramsey

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Bells

*Call to Worship

Monica Liddle

Today, we are grateful to gather and worship God in peaceful conditions.

While some congregations are rocked with bombshells, our service can exist in calm.

While some communities are rife with discord, our neighborhoods are primed for dialogue.

We are provoked to bring God's peace and praise wherever we go.

We hold fast to the vision of Shalom throughout all of God's creation.

We believe that peace is possible.

*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!

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!

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 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!

Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;

Bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God!

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!

Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;

Bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God!

*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Bob Stevens

Christ, forgive us for harboring discord in our own hearts. At times, we hold unresolved anger in our bodies, in our families, and in our institutions. We forego confessions that would release us from silent stalemates. We are often quiet during the proliferation of warfare and buy into cultures of violence as if there is no peaceful alternative. We need your model and Spirit to lead us ever into fearless dwelling and loving communion. Amen.

*Words of Assurance

Friends and peacemakers, "Just Peace is not a destination, but a path...may God grant us the required awareness and constant vigilance to resolve existing and developing conflict in ourselves and our communities." **May we be inspired by the serenity of creation, the reconciliation of Christ, and the breath of the Holy Spirit to dwell in and share Shalom. Help us recognize the 'things that make for peace' in our world.**

*Passing of the Peace

Story for All Ages

Amanda McElray Hunter

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.

God is the upholder of my life.

Save me, O God, by your name, and vindicate me by your might.

Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth.

For the insolent have risen against me, the ruthless seek my life; they do not set God before them.

But surely, God is my helper; God is the upholder of my life.

God is the upholder of my life.

God will repay my enemies for their evil. In your faithfulness, put an end to them.

"With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you; I will give thanks to your name, O God, for it is good.

For God has delivered me from every trouble, and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.

God is the upholder of my life.

Scripture Reading

Mark 9:30-37

Betty Greene, reader

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

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

Choir Anthem

God shall wipe away all tears, Karl Jenkins

Sermon

Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

Song

Pues si vivimos (In All Our Living)

#499 NCH

***Pues si vivimos, para Dios vivimos
y si morimos, para Dios morimos.
Sea que vivamos o que muramos,
somos del buen Dios, somos del buen Dios.***

***In all our living, we belong to God;
and in our dying, we are still with God;
So, whether living, or whether dying,
we belong to God; we belong to God.***

***God sent Christ Jesus to be our shalom,
to show us mercy and healing love;
So in our living, and in our dying,
Christ is our shalom; Christ is our shalom.***

Community Prayers and 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.

Choral Amen

Offertory

Cortege, Lili Boulanger

*If I had a hammer, I'd hammer in the morning,
I'd hammer in the evening, all over this land,
I'd hammer out danger,
I'd hammer out a warning,
I'd hammer out love between,
My brothers and my sisters,
All over this land.*

*If I had a bell, I'd ring it in the morning,
I'd ring it in the evening, all over this land,
I'd ring out danger,
I'd ring out a warning,
I'd ring out love between,
My brothers and my sisters,
All over this land.*

*If I had a song, I'd sing it in the morning
I'd sing it in the evening, all over this land
I'd sing out danger
I'd sing out a warning
I'd sing out love between
my brothers and my sisters
all over this land*

*Well, I've got a hammer, and I've got a bell
and I've got a song to sing, all over this land
It's a hammer of justice
It's a bell of freedom
It's a song about love between my
brothers and my sisters
all over this land*

*It's a hammer of justice
It's a bell of freedom
It's a song about love between
my brothers and my sisters
All over this land*

*Benediction

*Postlude

Our prayers and litanies today come from the United Church of Christ's Just Peace Sunday toolkit, including words from Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey, Rev. Amber Henry Neuroth, Rev. Denise Andersen, and Rev. Alice Harper Jones

Assisting in Today's Service:
Emily Ramsey, violin
Elsie Cook, Greeter
Marci Tuggle and Warren Post, Ushers