

**Peace United Church of Christ
August 16, 2026
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
9:30am**



Woman of Canaan, Sadao Watanabe

1111 North 11th Avenue East, Duluth, MN 55805
www.peaceucc.org
office@peaceucc.org

Prelude

All Along the Watchtower, Bob Dylan

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Bells

*Call to Worship

Divine Diversity,

Root us in remembrance.

Help us resist the forces that erase our sacred particularity,

Help us remember where we come from,

Delight with us in the beauty of what makes us unique.

We reject all that seeks to divide and diminish us.

We unite to worship God!

*Song

This Is the Day

#84, New Century Hymnal

***This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made, that our God has made;***

***We will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.***

***This is the day that our God has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it;***

***This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made.***

***This is the day, this is the day
Jesus rose again, Jesus rose again;***

***We will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.***

***This is the day Jesus rose again,
we will rejoice and be glad in it;***

***This is the day, this is the day
Jesus rose again.***

***This is the day, this is the day
when the Spirit came, when the Spirit came;***

***We will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.***

***This is the day when the Spirit came,
we will rejoice and be glad in it;***

***This is the day, this is the day
when the Spirit came.***

*Prayer of Confession

Sacred Multitude, we hear you in every language, every dialect, every sound that stirs the heart and shakes the earth. At Babel, you shattered the walls of a singular tongue, and in that shattering we found our freedom. We confess the times we've sought comfort in sameness, when we've turned away from the beauty of difference. We embrace your mercy so that we may walk in wholeness. Open our ears to the voices we have ignored. Open our hearts to the beauty we have feared. Amen.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Beloved, God is always opening our ears and hearts. We receive God's forgiveness, promised through Christ, and we move forward in hope and freedom. 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 15:21-28

Kate Nicoletti, reader

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. Thanks be to God.

Special Music

All My Tears, Julie Miller

Sermon

Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

Song

Amazing Grace

#547, *New Century Hymnal*

***Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind but now I see.***

***'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!***

***Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.***

***My God has promised good to me,
whose word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.***

***When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.***

Community Prayers and Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer of Jesus

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom 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 kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Offertory

Summer's End, John Prine

*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!**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

God be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to God.**
Let us give thanks to God. **It is a joy to give God thanks and praise.**

Prayer of Consecration

Music During Communion *Blowin in the Wind, Bob Dylan*

Sharing the Bread and Cup

(In the United Church of Christ all are welcome to participate in Communion. Gluten free crackers are on the tray and we use non-alcoholic grape juice.)

Prayer after Communion

Bountiful God, we give thanks for all we have received at this table through the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world with courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Closing Song *Help Us Accept Each Other #388, New Century Hymnal*

***Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, God, among us, and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.***

***Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.***

***Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
To practice your acceptance, until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.***

***God, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
Bring us new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit; God! Free us, make us one!***

***Benediction**

May our traditions breathe in the spaces we inhabit, a living testament to all that our ancestors dreamed and endured. May we walk with courage, embracing the richness of every voice and the radiance of difference. May we know we are held in a love that has no borders, a love that calls us to the fullness of who we are meant to be. Amen.

***Postlude**

Shine, Collective Soul

Assisting in Today's Service:

Cyndi Brown, Guy and Nadine Hubert, Ushers
Annette Strom, Cindy Macaulay, and Loni Cran-Hovis,
Coffee Hour Volunteers

Musicians: John Bankson, banjo, Neil Engebret, accordion, Daniel Pospisil,
guitar, and Bud Trnka, guitar

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



Scan this QR Code to donate

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.

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.

New Member Picnic, Tuesday, August 25, 5:00pm, Grant Park (901 E 11th St)

We are inviting new members who joined the church from 2024–2026 for chance to connect with one another and check in with the Belonging & Community Team about life at Peace! Please bring a dish to share. RSVP by August 20 to Bri at office@peaceucc.org.

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*. **Socks are needed the most.** They also need underwear, 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

Monday, August 17

6:30pm Queer Connections Game Night in the Fireside Room

Tuesday, August 18

9:00am Raised Garden Bed Building in the lower lot

4:30pm Sanctuary Now Team Meeting in the Fireside Room

6:30pm Coordinating Council Meeting off-site

Wednesday, August 19

8:30am Chum Breakfast Making in the Kitchen

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

Thursday, August 20

8:00am Men's Breakfast at Perkins on London Road

6:00pm Sanctuary Schools Team Meeting in the Fireside Room

Sunday, August 23

9:30am Worship with Communion. Sermon by Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

10:30am Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall

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