

**Peace United Church of Christ
May 4th, 2025
Third Sunday of Easter
Confirmation Sunday
10:30am**



The Great Catch, John August Swanson

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Welcome and Announcements

Ringing of the Bells

*Call to Worship

Prayer Song

#27 P&W

***Merciful God soften our hearts
Open us up to your Will
Wash us in Your Love, show us the Way
Humbly to serve You still.***

***Mother, Daughter, Sister God
Please help us follow Your Way
Give us direction, vision to see
In Your Holy Name we pray.***

*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!***

Refrain:

***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!***

Refrain:

***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!***

Refrain:

***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!***

Refrain:

*Prayer of Confession

God who appears to us in the unlikeliest of places, we thank you that your faith in us never wavers. When we struggle to trust in your promises, remind us that you are with us always. When we fail to love one another as you love us, remind us that your forgiveness renews us to try again. When we can't see a way forward, remind us that your transformation is slow, but ever-present. Forgive us and make us whole. Amen.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, in all our broken places, God meets us. In all our struggles, God uplifts us. There is nothing we can do or leave undone that can separate us from the love of God.

Through Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Passing of the Peace

Story for All Ages

Amanda McElray Hunter

Sending the Children

#236 NCH

***Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja!
Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja!
Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja!
Halleluja, halleluja.***

Reading our Ancient Tradition

The Apostle's Creed

Darlene Leafgren, reader

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.**

On the third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Anthem

Abide With Me, arr. Moses Hogan

Gospel Reading

John 21:1-19

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he had taken it off, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them, and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

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

Sermon

Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis, Rev. Tom Liddle, Kate Dean,
Anya Holmstrom, Ryan Mittlefehldt,
and Lorelie Schwensohn

Song

These Footsteps

#15 P&W

***Follow in these footsteps
Cast your burden down
Breathe like it's your last
breath
Pray without a sound
Offer up your best gift
Pass it all around.
Follow in these footsteps
Walk on holy ground***

***Jump into the river
Feel the current's pull
Let it overtake you
Let it make you full
When you reach the ocean
Big and wild and blue
Listen to the waves speak
Love is calling you***

***You are called my daughter
You are called my son
Come up through the water
Know that we are one
Offer up your best gift
Pass it all around
Follow in these footsteps
Walk on holy ground***

Rite of Confirmation

Words of Introduction

Blessing from Parents & Leaders

Confirmation Questions

Congregational Welcome and Prayer

Let us, as members and friends of Peace United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our shared calling:

We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers 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 as pilgrims, walking in the way of Jesus.

People of God, let us pray for these young people:

Gracious God, we give you thanks for each young person here today. Increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant each of them love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, and self-control in all things. Strengthen them for the ways you call them to serve others. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Community Prayers and Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Laurie Crelly

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

Ron Deters

*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

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

Be Now My Vision

#451 NCH

***Be now my vision, O God of my heart;
nothing surpasses the love you impart-
You my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, your presence my light.***

***Be now my wisdom, and be my true word;
ever within me, my soul is assured;
Mother and Father, you are both to me,
now and forever your child I will be.***

***Riches I need not, nor life's empty praise,
you, my inheritance, now and always;
You and you only are first in my heart,
great God, my treasure, may we never part.***

***Sovereign of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's
Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.***

*Benediction

*Postlude