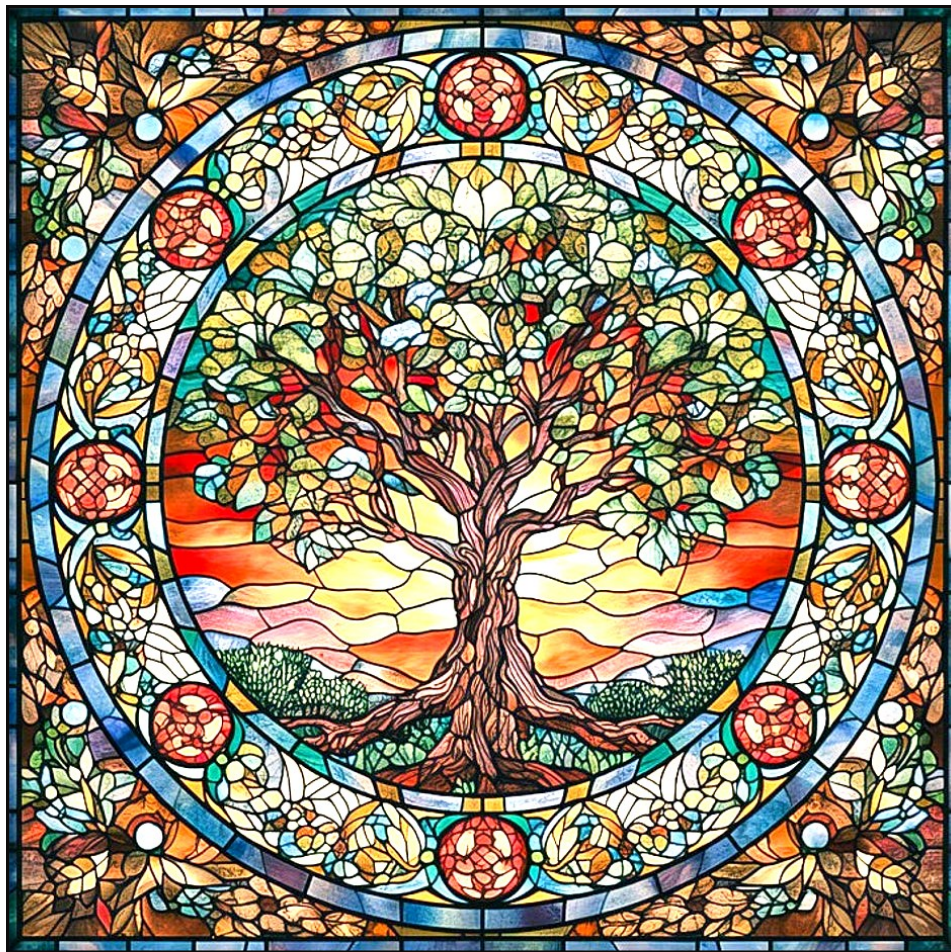


**Peace United Church of Church
25th Sunday after Pentecost
Thanksgiving Sunday**

1111 North 11th Avenue East, Duluth, MN 55805
November 19th, 2023 10:30 am



Prelude *Planxty Fanny Power, Turlough O'Carolan*

Welcome and Announcements

Ringing of the Bells

*Call to Worship (from Celtic tradition)

In the fading of the summer sun, the shortening of days, cooling breeze, swallows' flight and moonlight rays

We see the Creator's hand.

In the browning of leaves once green, morning mists, autumn chill, fruit that falls, frost's first kiss

We see the Creator's hand.

Bring light to the darkest corner

Bring sight to the blinded eye

Set loose the wounded spirit

Bring truth to the eternal 'Why?'

*Prayer (from Celtic tradition)

In peace, let us pray:

Creator God, forgive our moments of ingratitude, the spiritual blindness that prevents us from appreciating the wonder that is this world, the endless cycle of nature, of life and death and rebirth. Forgive us for taking without giving and reaping without sowing. Open our eyes to see. Open our lips to praise. Open our hands to share and may our feet tread lightly on the road.

*Song *For the Beauty of the Earth* #28 NCH

*For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For the good that love inspires, for a world where none exclude,
For a faith that never tires, and for every heart renewed,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

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.*

Gratitude and Generosity *The Hamel Family* Video by Stewardship Team

From the New Testament Letters *2 Corinthians 9:6-12* Phyllis Cook

Remember that the person who plants few seeds will have a small crop; the one who plants many seeds will have a large crop. You should each give, then, as you have decided, not with regret or out of a sense of duty; for God loves the one who gives gladly. And God is able to give you more than you need, so that you will always have all you need for yourselves and more than enough for every good cause. As the scripture says, "God gives generously to the needy; God's kindness lasts forever."

And God, who supplies seed for the sower and bread to eat, will also supply you with all the seed you need and will make it grow and produce a rich harvest from your generosity. God will always make you rich enough to be generous at all times, so that many will thank God for your gifts which they receive from us. For this service you perform not only meets the needs of God's people, but also produces an outpouring of gratitude to God. (Good News Translation)

Choir Anthem *Hands are Knockin*, Kyle Pederson

We open our minds, thanks to God (Alleluia)
We open our hearts, thanks to God (Alleluia)
We reach out our hands, thanks to God (Alleluia)

Hands are knockin'
Brother, will you let them in?
Sister, will you let them in?

Gospel Reading *Matthew 25:14-30* Phyllis Cook

"Again, it's like a wealthy landowner who was going on a journey and called in three workers, entrusting some funds to them. The first was given five thousand dollars, the second two thousand, and the third one thousand, according to each one's ability. Then the landowner went away. Immediately the worker who received the five thousand went and invested it and made another five. In the same way, the worker who received the two thousand doubled that figure. But the worker who received the one thousand instead went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried the money.

"After a long absence, the traveler returned home and settled accounts with them. The one who had received the five thousand came forward bringing the additional five, saying, 'You entrusted me with five thousand; here are five thousand more.'

"The landowner said, 'Well done! You are a good and faithful worker. Since you were dependable in a small matter, I will put you in charge of larger affairs. Come, share my joy!'

"The one who had received the two thousand then stepped forward with the additional two, saying, 'You entrusted me with two thousand; here are two thousand more.'

"The landowner said to this one, 'Cleverly done! You too are a good and faithful worker. Since you were dependable in a small matter, I will put you in charge of larger affairs. Come, share my joy!'

"Finally the one who had received the one thousand stepped forward and said to the landowner, 'Knowing your ruthlessness—you who reap where you did not sow and gather where you did not scatter and fearing your wrath, I went off and buried your thousand dollars in the ground. Here is your money back.'

"The landowner exclaimed, 'You worthless, lazy lout! So you know that I reap where I don't sow and gather where I don't scatter, do you? All the more reason to deposit my money with the bankers, so that on my return I could have had it back with interest! You, there! Take the thousand away from this bum and give it to the one with the ten thousand.'

"Those who have will get more until they grow rich, while those who have not will lose even the little they have. Throw this worthless one outside into the darkness, where there is wailing and grinding of teeth."

Musical Interlude *Rhymes and Reasons*, John Denver Jo Johnson, soloist

Sermon Rev. Charlotte Frantz

*God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
Gifted by you, we turn to you offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.*

*Skills and time are ours for serving, that your will on earth be done:
All at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the Church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone;
born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.*

*Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred;
Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel Word.
Open wide our hands in sharing as we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, honoring you by loving all.*

*Lend your joy to all our giving, let it light our pilgrim way;
From the night of anxious keeping, loose us into generous day.
Then when years on earth are over, and we've lived our human span,
God, fulfill beyond our dreaming, all our stewardship began.*

Community Prayers and the Prayer of Jesus

Offertory

Si Beag Si Mor, Tulough O'Carolan

Invitation to the Day

*Closing Song

For the Fruit of All Creation

#425 NCH

*For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For God's gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.*

*In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
In the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.*

*For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.*

*Responsive Benediction

(from Celtic tradition)

May God's power guide us,
God's might, uphold us,
God's eyes, watch over us;
God's ear, hear us,
God's hand, guard us,
God's way lie before us,
God's shield, shelter us.
Let us go in peace.

*Postlude

Rakes of Mallow, traditional Irish

Assisting in Today's Service:

Carrie Kelsey, violin, Cyndi Brown, flute, Musicians
Cindy Macaulay, Marsha Hystead, Tom and Christine Day, Ushers