

**Peace United Church of Christ  
January 19th, 2025  
Second Sunday after Epiphany  
MLK Sunday  
10:30am**



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Welcome and Announcements

Ringing of the Bells

\*Call to Worship

Our Mother-Father God has made us to be One Body with many members.

**United and uniting. This is our calling.**

God calls us to share our diverse gifts, activated by the one and same Spirit.

**United and uniting. This is our redemption.**

God longs for us to be united in love and to manifest the Spirit in our different ways.

**United and uniting. This is our worship.**

Let us gather in this hour to offer praise and worship to our Holy God, who challenges us and calls us to *create the Beloved Community*.

\*Song

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

#472 NCH

***Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,***

***I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;***

***Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:***

***Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.***

***When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,***

***when my life is almost gone,***

***Hear me cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall:***

***Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.***

***When the shadows appear and the night draws near,***

***and the day is past and gone,***

***At the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:***

***Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.***

\*Prayer of Confession

O God, we long to co-create with you the Beloved Community, which looks to the common good, privileges all equally, and creates systems which celebrate the humanity and the gifts of all. And yet we focus on our differences, envy each other's gifts, devalue manifestations of you, O God, that are not like our own. Perhaps our sin is a slow wait for justice: we have told others, we have been told ourselves, to wait for freedom, justice and equality.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Or perhaps we have kept silence ourselves in the face of their struggle for full human life. *For it is not solely hateful words and actions, but also appalling silence that follows the path of oppression.*

**Christ, have mercy.**

Perhaps our sin is to give in to weariness, discouragement, bitterness. You have called us to be *drum majors for justice, peace and righteousness, yet the work of peace and justice overwhelms us at times, to build with God the Beloved Community seems impossible, and we grow weary.*

*We cry, "Peace, peace," but there is no peace within us or around us. We find ourselves on the path of hatred and oppression, violence and war.*

**Lord, have mercy.**

\*Assurance of Forgiveness

Siblings in Christ, God is at work in us and with us!

God has promised:

"I will not keep silent and I will not rest until the vindication of my beloved people shines out like the dawn and their salvation like a burning torch. My people shall no more be called 'forsaken' and their land shall no more be called 'desolate.'"

We remember that you have given your Beloved people a new name:

"My delight is in them."

**Thank you, God for delighting in us even now,  
for forgiving us our slow action, our silence and our weariness,  
for empowering our work  
and inviting us once again  
to create with you the Beloved Community you long for.**

\*Passing of the Peace

Story for All Ages

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!***

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Holly Bowen-Bailey, reader

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were gentiles, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

Anthem

MLK, U2

Scripture Reading

John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bride-groom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

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

Sermon

Rev. Laurie Crelly

Song

*We Are Dancing Sarah's Circle*

#501 NCH

***We are dancing Sarah's circle, (X3)...sisters, brothers, all.***

***Here we seek and find our story, (X3)...sisters, brothers, all.***

***We will all do our own naming, (X3)...sisters, brothers, all.***

***Every round a generation, (X3)...sisters, brothers, all.***

***On and on the circle's moving, (X3)...sisters, brothers, all.***

Community Prayers and Pastoral Prayer

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

\*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!**

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Closing Song

*Guide My Feet*

#497 NCH

***Guide my feet while I run the race, (X3)  
For I don't want to run this race in vain.***

***Hold my hand while I run this race, (X3)  
For I don't want to run this race in vain.***

***I'm your child while I run this race, (X3)  
For I don't want to run this race in vain.***

***Stand by me while I run this race, (X3)  
For I don't want to run this race in vain.***

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

*May the Blessing of Light Be On You, Jim Pospisil*

***Our liturgy today is adapted from: **Creating the Beloved Community: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday after Epiphany, Martin Luther King, Jr., Weekend**, by the Rev. Dr. Cari Jackson, Founder and Director of the Center for Spiritual Light, New York City.***

***Phrases from the speeches of Martin Luther King, Jr. have been woven into the prayer texts. They are identified by italics. Texts of King's work are available in **A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings of Martin Luther King, Jr.**, edited by James M. Washington; © 1986 Coretta Scott King. A brief essay on King's understanding of the term "Beloved Community" is available at***

***<http://www.wilpf.org/mlksbelovedcommunity>.***

Assisting in Today's Service:

Amy Galarowicz, Susan Kehtel, Cindy Macaulay, and Pam Kramer, Ushers

Cathy Wood and Gwen Plumb, Coffee Hour Volunteers

Sophia Farrell, Matt Prois, Emily Ramsey, Ian Connell, and Mike Swanoski, Tent Show Band