

**Peace United Church of Christ  
January 26th, 2025  
Third Sunday after Epiphany  
Budget Meeting Sunday  
10:30am**



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Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Bells

\*Call to Worship from *Psalm 19*

The heavens are telling the glory of God,  
**And the firmament proclaims God's handiwork!**  
There is no speech, nor are there words,  
**Yet their voice goes out through all the earth and their words to the end of the sun.**  
God's law revives us, making wise the simple,  
**God's boundaries are true and righteous, sweeter than honey.**  
Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts glorify you,  
**For you, O God are our rock and our redeemer. Let us worship God!**

\*Song *Let Us Build a House (All Are Welcome)* see insert

\*Prayer of Confession

**God of vision, we dream of a world governed by the laws of love, inspired by your promise of Beloved Community. But too often, we are discouraged by laws that are unjust, or we believe we are created to serve the law, rather than creating laws which serve the common good. Make us your people: always seeking the freedom that comes from life in and with you.**

\*Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the good news: God's law is joy, love, and resilience.  
**Through our shared faith, we are forgiven, beloved, and liberated. 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!**

Contemporary Reading excerpt from *The Serviceberry*, Robin Wall Kimmerer Betty Greene

To name the world as gift is to feel your membership in the web of reciprocity. It makes you happy—and it makes you accountable. Conceiving of something as a gift changes your relationship to it in a profound way, even though the physical makeup of the “thing” has not changed. A woolly knit hat that you purchase at the store will keep you warm regardless of its origin, but if it was hand-knit by your favorite auntie, then you are in relationship to that “thing” in a very different way: you are responsible for it, and your gratitude has motive force in the world. You're likely to take much better care of the gift hat than of the commodity hat, because the gift hat is knit of relationships. This is the power of gift thinking. I imagine if we acknowledged that everything we consume is the gift of Mother Earth, we would take better care of what we are given.

Anthem *To God Be Joyful*, Mozart

Scripture Reading *Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10*

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand, and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people, and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord, and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

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

Reflection

Annual Budget Meeting

Recognition of Staff & Leadership

Determination of a Quorum

Call the Meeting to Order

Presentation of the 2025 Budget

Vote

\*Song

*Arise, Shine*

The image shows a musical score for the song "Arise, Shine" in 8/8 time. It consists of three systems of two staves each. The lyrics are: "A - rise, shine, for your light has come, and the glo - ry of the Lord has dawned up - on you. A". The melody is simple and repetitive, with a key signature of one flat (F major/D minor).

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.**

Choral Amen

Offertory

*Count Your Blessings*, 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!**

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Closing Song

*The Church's One Foundation*

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***The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord;  
we are Christ's new creation by water and the word;  
From heaven Christ came and sought us in love to set us free;  
with precious blood Christ bought us for all eternity.***

***Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,  
one charter of salvation, one God, one faith, one birth,  
One name together blessing, one holy food we share,  
to one hope we are pressing, at one in work and prayer.***

***'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of our war,  
we wait the consummation of peace forevermore;  
Till with the vision glorious, our longing eyes are blessed,  
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.***

***Yet we on earth have union with God, the Three-in-One,  
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.  
O happy ones and holy! God, give us grace that we,  
like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.***

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

Assisting in Today's Service:

Cindy Macaulay and Laurie Berner, Ushers

April Knight, Greeter

Cathy and Kirby Wood, Judy Seliga-Punyko, and Ann VanStraaten, Coffee Hour Volunteers

**Peace United Church of Christ Staff**

**Alex Nelson** – Livestream Technician

**Amanda 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 Obed** - Business Manager

**Sophia Farell** – Soundboard Technician