

Sunday, October 26' 2025 – Peace Sunday

Lighting of the Christ Candle We come to this place with gratitude in our hearts. We come seeking the tranquility that God provides. We come seeking the light. The candle is lit.

Welcome We are one in this space, in this building, in this community, in this world. We are one through the generations, through song and word, through worship. We are one just as we are. All are welcome here.

Announcements

Hymn of Peace*When Will People Cease Their Fighting?* VU # 687

When will people cease their fighting?	Floods and earthquakes, drought and	As we strive for peace with vigour,
When will armies wage no war,	famine	Hoping to be shown the way,
Nations conquer not their neighbour,	Plague the world with awesome ill,	We are strengthened in the knowledge
Weapons idle, used no more?	But far greater is war's horror	Of a future, perfect day;
When will guns and bombs be silent?	Caused by human, stubborn will.	For we know that deeper, richer
When will captives be set free?	Blest are those who, working, praying,	Peace is ours when Christ shall reign;
All creation groans in longing	Purpose in their heart to be	Then will all our swords be plowshares
For the world's true liberty.	Instruments of peace, committed	And God's children free from pain.
	To the nations' harmony.	

Prayer of Peace *Affirmation of Peace*, VU # 693 (responsive)

L: O God of many names,

P: Lover of all nations, we pray for peace in our hearts, in our homes, in our nations, in our world.

L: For the peace you willed, we pray.

P: Amen

Call to Worship -inspired by the Dec. 10, 2007, *Human Rights Liturgy*, by the World Student Christian Federation of Asia-Pacific.

L: With today's theme of peace in mind, we offer you this Call to Worship.

Sisters and brothers, enter this space together to worship the Holy One. Let us rejoice, for God offers us freedom through our Lord Jesus Christ. He gives us the Spirit to be children of God and to live free from being fearful and insignificant. We come to remember,

P: the simple act of walking as defiance against oppression, and the simple act of writing as calling attention to injustice.

L: Each creates the peace and love that Jesus teaches us. God, we come!

Gathering Prayer -from *One Step*

L: Holy One, Creator, and Spirit of Life we thank you for the gift of this day and this gathering of your people.

P: We have come with our joys and our brokenness. We have come with our certainties and our confusion. We have come with our insignificance and our power.

(Singing Bowl then Silence)

L: We ask that you:

P: Teach us. Reach us. Nourish us.

(Singing Bowl then Silence)

L: Then set us forth

P: to walk, to talk, to write, to live your message of peace in our corner of the world and through all the lands.

(Singing Bowl then Silence)

L: Amen

Gathering Hymn *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*, VU # 684

Make me a channel of your	Refrain	Make me a channel of your	Make me a channel of your
peace:	O Spirit, grant that I may never	peace:	peace.
Where there is hatred, let me	week	Where there's despair in life,	It is in pardoning that we are
bring love	So much to be consoled as to	let me bring hope;	pardoned,
Where there is injury, your	console,	Where there is darkness, only	In giving to all that we receive,
healing power,	To be understood as to	light;	And in dying that we're born to
And where there's doubt, true	understand,	And where there's sadness,	eternal life.
faith in you:	To be loved as to love with all	ever joy.	
	my soul.	Refrain	

Poem O For a World, VU # 697 (V 1, 2, 3, & 5)

O for a world where everyone Respects each other's ways; Where love is lived and all is done With justice and with praise.	O for a world where goods are shared And misery relieved, Where truth is spoken, children spared, Equality achieved.	We welcome one world family And struggle with each choice That opens us to unity and give our vision voice.	I for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace, Where time and tears will be no more, And all but love will cease.
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Ministry of Music Put Your Hand in the Hand

Prayer to a Call to Action *A Call to Action from one step. Excerpted with permission from International Day of Prayer for Peace 2005 (Philippines). World Council of Churches—Ecumenical Service in Palestine and Israel, 4–10 June 2008, a joint advocacy initiative convened by the World Council of Churches.*

L: Grant us peace that will

P: Break our silence amid the violence so that prophetic voices shall resonate.

L: Grant us peace that will

P: Pull us down from the steeple of our pride then we'll learn to wash each other's feet.

L: Grant us peace that will

P: Empty us of hate and intolerance then we'll turn guns into guitars and sing.

L: Grant us peace that will

P: Disturb us in our apathy then we'll dance together under the sun.

Prayer of Confession -from One Step

L: This prayer is called "Listening with Hope". Eternal God, save us from weak resignation to violence and jar us from the persistent underestimation of our abilities to help others. Help us to remember that the faceless ones AND our enemies eat food

P: the same as us

L: are hurt by weapons

P: the same as us

L: are lonely behind walls

P: the same as us and

L: have children with dreams

P: the same as ours.

L: Forgive our excuses. Forgive our indifference. We invite you to share a moment of silent reflection

Words of Assurance -from One Step Hear the good news: Christ is our peace. Christ has united those who were separated. Christ has broken down the walls of hostility. Christ has given wings to our steps on the path of justice. Rejoice in the Lord, the kin(g)dom is at hand! Amen

Offertory Prayer Peace is generosity, not silence. The risk is ours to take. We choose to act and share our time, talents, and treasures. We choose to step with God into the obstacles so that peace becomes the path to walk.

Hymn O Day of Peace, VU # 682

O day of peace that dimly shines
Through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
Guide us to justice, truth and love,
Delivered from our selfish schemes.
May swords of hate fall from our hands,
Our hearts from envy find release,
'til by God's grace our warring world
Shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.

Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,
Nor shall the fierce devour the small;
As beasts and cattle calmly graze,
A little child shall lead them all.
Then enemies shall learn to love,
All creatures find their true accord;
The hope of peace shall be fulfilled,
For all the earth shall know the Lord.

Children's Time and Prayer

Video: <https://youtu.be/bOGSnG297x4>

"The Talk":

In the video, how was the little girl treated when she spilt the grape juice? People can be cruel, so when you are treated unfairly, is it best to get mad? Get even? Sulk? Let the person know why you are upset?

After you let the person know why you are upset, should you: Listen to them explain? Walk away? Ignore them? Tell them you don't believe them and stay mad?

Is peace in the world just a lack of fighting, no more wars? Or is it something more, like being kind to others and making sure things are fair? Peace is being kind and helpful to yourself, others, and your community. When you are kind to someone, how do they feel? If we are kind, helpful, respectful, and listen to people, if we work together, share, and clear up misunderstandings, will that help spread peace around our school, community, and eventually the world?

If we act peacefully in our lives, we can help create peace in our world. Every little act of kindness is a step toward peace in our lives and the world.

Children's Prayer Dear God: We just need your calm, loving presence. We want to be reassured that all will be well. We long to feel anything but helpless. We depend upon you listening to our hearts, yet we know we need time to listen to you too. We thank you for our families and Jesus. Both teach us how to be kind and spread kindness and peace all around us. Please be patient with us as we learn the lessons that Jesus taught us. Amen.

Lord's Prayer (spoken)
Children Leave for Sunday School

Scripture *Sirach 18:9-14 Good News Translation*

Human Beings Are Nothing: What are human beings? Of what use are we? The good that we do—the evil that we do—what does it all mean? If we live a hundred years, we have lived an unusually long time, but compared with all eternity, those years are like a drop of water in the ocean, like a single grain of sand. That is why the Lord is so patient with us, why he is so free with his mercy. He looks at us and knows that we are doomed to die; that is why he is so willing to forgive us. We can show compassion to someone we know, but the Lord shows compassion for all humanity. He corrects us; he disciplines us; he teaches us. Like a shepherd tending sheep, he brings us back to himself. He will have compassion on us if we accept his guidance and are eager for him to show us where we are wrong.

Reflection Peace

PEACE IS ROOTED IN RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD - slide

The plan of God as Creator is that all shall live in harmonious relationship with God. Peace exists where there is justice and there are right relationships between God, humanity, and all of creation. Peace-building and justice-making are at the heart of the Good News proclaimed by Jesus.

PEACE IS THE MISSION OF GOD'S PEOPLE - slide

Doing justice, loving one another as Christ loves us, and working for peace are central to the mission of God's people in the world: The message in **Micah 6:8** is simple yet clear. It says, "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

When we work toward peace it is in response to God's call. But what do we say when God wants us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with Him?

Christ calls his followers to seek peace in the world. In Matthew 5:9, it says "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God". Christ wants us to be a witness to the world - not only through what we say but how we act and live. It is both a way of putting our words and beliefs into action.

PEACEMAKING AS POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT - slide

Peace must be founded on truth and built on justice. As Christians, we engage in political work, even when fear and despair threaten to paralyze us into non-action. Creating a just peace involves freeing people from fear and want and overcoming discrimination and oppression. It requires establishing conditions that respect the experience of the most vulnerable and value the integrity of creation.

Because we are created in the Image of God, human dignity and freedom forms the basis of human rights.

Principles of establishing justice include:

- **sharing fairly all created things,**
- **recognizing full participation in society as a right,**
- **advocating for the poor,**
- **working in solidarity with other people who are advocating for human rights, and**
- **fostering mutual respect and understanding between peoples of all races, ethnic origins, socioeconomic backgrounds, religions, and cultures.**

HOLISTIC VISION OF PEACE: SHALOM - slide

Peace is a dynamic state of well-being and harmony—right relationships among people and nature where there is no fear. God excludes nothing and no one from His vision of peace; it includes all nations, cultures, and peoples, the whole inhabited Earth, indeed the whole cosmos. The quest for peace is at the heart of our faith. A peaceful, just, and flourishing society is one where people, communities, and organizations are free to fulfill their calling and exercise their human rights to the fullest.

**"When the power of love
overcomes the love of power,
the world will know peace."**

(Unknown)

Let's say that again.

**"When the power of love
overcomes the love of power,
the world will know peace."**

With love then, let us work toward justice and peace – this is God's plan. Amen.

Prayers of the People -a Prayer for Times of Violence from The United Church

Creator God, be with us in these times of trouble we are surrounded by images of violence from Ukraine, Gaza and Israel, and many other places that are suffering in wars. We are called to wrestle with how to respond to the devastation, death, fear, and hatred around us with compassionate and prophetic love. We grieve for a cycle of violence that seems never-ending, and for a world that values some lives more than others. We grieve for the dead and accompany in prayer and love all those who mourn the loss of life and security. We confess that we who profess to follow Jesus have been unable or unwilling to obey the command to love one another. We acknowledge we have failed to break down systems that oppress and marginalize because of race, sexual orientation, and gender identity. We lift up the voices of all who experience oppression, discrimination, and hatred. We listen carefully to hear the changes we need to make in our own lives and institutions so that we include rather than exclude. We give thanks for and offer support to the peacemakers and bridge-builders and those who fight hatred and fear with love and understanding. We give thanks for those faithful witnesses who speak truth to power and call for conversion to Jesus' way of love. We are called to imagine what new hope might look like in a world not filled with such violence and fear. Creator God, be with us in these times of trouble. Amen

Parting Hymn *I Am Walking a Path of Peace*, MVU # 221

I am walking a path of hope,
I am walking a path of hope,
I am walking a path of hope,
Lead me home, lead me home.

I am walking a path of peace,
I am walking a path of peace,
I am walking a path of peace,
Lead me home, lead me home.

Commissioning & Benediction -from one step, adapted from a service by the Rev. T. Cote for the United for Peace Campaign
As we leave this space, we know that the Prince of Peace is present in our lives. We will carry the light of the Christ Candle in our hearts to help us reflect on the words and actions just witnessed. May we now take that one step into the world and embrace it as you have embraced us. Amen.

Choral Amen

Extinguishing of the Christ Candle We ask that the eternal flame of peace - may it silence the excuses we may make for not acting for just peace. We know that the blessing of God - The Creator, Christ, and The Spirit - is with us this day and always. Amen