

Welcome to Peace Community of Faith

A Progressive Community . . . A Reconciling Congregation . . . A Place of Peace

A Congregation of the United Methodist Church

Communing with God's Presence

November 15, 2020 + + + + + 10:00 am

Peace is a progressive, multi-generational community of faith called to engage our world through the power of God's love.

We seek to accomplish this by respectfully:

Affirming that all people are a gift of God's love.

Nurturing ourselves and inviting all into God's love and peace through eclectic worship, exploring questions of faith and addressing challenging issues of our day.

Inspiring hope through community action, advocacy and service, taking our faith into the world together.

Gathering Together in Our Faith

Gathering Music: *A Simple Song* – Lyndy Zabel

Words of Welcome and Instruction – Gary Walpole

Breath Prayer

Invitation of the Bell for Noble Silence

For the Fruits of This Creation, stanza 1 – Words: Fred Pratt Greene
Tune: AR HYD Y NOS – traditional Welsh tune, arr. David Tidball

A Word of Grace

There is amazing grace,
because grace infuses the universe,
and grace infuses us because the universe dwells in us;
because grace infuses even the smallest part of creation,
and grace infuses us because we dwell in the smallest part of creation.

For the Fruits of This Creation, stanza 2

There is amazing grace
because grace infuses the vine,
And without the vine the branch is nothing;
because grace infuses the branch,
and without the branch the vine is nothing.

For the Fruits of This Creation, stanza 3

Opening Mindfulness Practice: Sitting with Christ, the True Vine
Music: *The Heart of Creation* – Michael Stillwater

The air I breathe is the air Moses and Mariam breathe.
The air I breathe is the air Ruth and King David breathe.
The air I breathe is the air the prophets Deborah and Isaiah breathe.
The air I breathe is the air the Buddha and Khema breathe.
The air I breathe is the air Jesus and Mary Magdalene breathe.
The air I breathe is the air Mahatma Gandhi and Indira Gandhi breathe.
The air I breathe is the air Teresa of Calcutta and Martin Luther King, Jr. breathe.
The air I breathe is the air my children breathe.
The air I breathe is the air my great grandchildren breathe.
The air I breathe is the air all my relatives breathe yesterday, today, and forever.

Music: *The Heart of Creation* – Michael Stillwater

Engaging Our Faith

Reflection I - Come Like a Child

Music: *I am the Vine* – Allen Pote

Sacred Story: John 15:1-17
See insert

Music: *I am the Vine* – Allen Pote

Reflection II - Growing in Christ
Deep Time – Pastor Gary Walpole

Musical Reflection: *Song of Mechtild* – Words: Mechtild of Magdeberg, adapted by Larry Dittberner
Music: Larry Dittberner

Grounding Our Faith

Hallowed – from *He Lived the Good Life* by Richard Wilson – arr. David Tidball

Held in God's Loving Embrace

Hold us in your loving Embrace, Power of all Life. As you move and dance in the universe and our planet, **dance our souls into life.**

We offer ourselves and all we have to bringing about your just peace. Give us vision to live with courage to do what is compassionate and good.

Most of all we ask for Love that we may see ourselves, all people, and the world as beautiful, fragile and worthy.

Loving God, we offer to you the prayers of our hearts and the stewardship of our lives that you may use them to transform us by your love and grace, your justice and peace.

We pray in the name of the One who is our companion toward wholeness, Jesus who is the Christ.

Hallowed

Christ Prayer

Sacred Spirit, Life Giver, Justice Maker; your holy breath continues to sustain us and our universe. **Your will is love.** Give us daily that which nourishes peace. **Heal us through forgiveness that reconciles.** Lead us from arrogance to humility. **Deliver us from participating in evil.** May your governing grace guide us. **May your desire for the common**

good inspire us. And may the power of your grace infuse us, always and everywhere. **Amen.**

Adapted from *The Lord's Prayer*
for modern and inclusive language by Gary Walpole

Hallowed

Engaging the Gifts of Life

Awakened to the suffering caused by our inability to see that all things are connected, we commit ourselves to seeing Life in a new way and to living within the Great I Am.

We place our faith in the Great I Am through Jesus Christ.

Aware that we live in the God who is the Eternal Now, we commit ourselves to seeing Life's connection to us and all that is as a gift of deep time and deep space.

We place our faith in the Great I Am through Jesus Christ.

Aware that we live in the God who is the Eternal Now, we commit ourselves to seeing all life as One.

We place our faith in the Great I Am through Jesus Christ.

Communion

Music: *in the Singing* - Words: Shirley Erena Murray – Music: Carlton R. Young – stanza 1

Communion Prayer

Spirit of Life, you have danced through the universe even before the beginning. You have spun and swirled our world into existence. In due time, the music of your dance gave birth to our ancestors and all other life on this interconnected planet. **We come to give ourselves wholeheartedly to Life, to become willing participants in its grace-filled unfolding. We come because we are Life's children and want to dance the way Life dances.**

Come, all who hunger and thirst for God's love. Come, you who are yearning for Christ's presence. **We come, finding joy and fulfilment, as we participate in God's mission and message of delivering community-restoring justice.**

God of Life, pour out your holy Spirit upon us, and upon these which symbolize for us the bread of the field and the fruit of the vine. Let them represent for us the body of Christ and the life of Christ that we may embody for the world the justice of Christ living our lives by the peace of Christ.

Sacred Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world.

Words of Institution

This piece of bread symbolizes for us the body of Christ so we may embody for the world the justice of Christ. This fruit of the vine symbolizes for us the life of Christ so we may embody for the world the peace of Christ.

Music: *in the Singing* - Words: Shirley Erena Murray – Music: Carlton R. Young – stanza 2

Taking Our Faith into the World

Closing Music: *As We Depart for the Towns and Cities* – Words: John Thornburg

Music: Jackson Henry – arr. David Tidball

Benediction: "What are We to Say"

What are we to say, except that it is not our wisdom alone which will make sense of all that is happening today, **but a wisdom which knows the hearts of us all.**

What are we to say, except that it is not our hearts alone that will give us strength and courage, **but the hearts of those with whom we share community and faith.**

What are we to say, except that it is not our will alone which will see us through the confusion and pain of these days, **but the will of the Risen One whose ways are compassion and comfort, reconciliation and peace, forgiveness and understanding.**

Spirit of Life, when we are bewildered and the world is all noise and confusion around us and we don't know which way to go and are frightened, **go with us.**

Spirit of the Risen Christ, take our hand and give us the strength of grace when we are tired and life seems to be dying all around us, **so that we may know the power of life in the midst of death.**

Spirit of Renewing Hope, step forward with us so that, through faith, **we may do today that which will bring life tomorrow.**

Spirit of Life, Spirit of the Risen Christ, and Spirit of Hope, send us forward to transform the world by the power of Love.

Adapted from *A Service of Prayer, Sanctuary, Support*
The Federated Church of Sandwich, Center Sandwich, NH

Closing Music:

As We Depart for the Towns and Cities – Words: John Thornburg

Music: Jackson Henry – arr. David Tidball

What a Friend We Have in Jesus – Music: Charles C. Converse, arr. Phillip Keveren

David Tidball, Music Ministries Coordinator and Worship Accompanist

Mindfulness Practice Prayer:

The air I breathe is the air Moses and Mariam breathe.

The air I breathe is the air Ruth and King David breathe.

The air I breathe is the air the prophets Deborah and Isaiah breathe.

The air I breathe is the air the Buddha and Khema breathe.

The air I breathe is the air Jesus and Mary Magdalene breathe.

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