# 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 22, 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.*

**Celebrating Peace Community of Faith**

Words of Welcome and Instruction – Gary Walpole

Music: *Gather Us In –* Words and Music: Marty Haugen

Inviting the Bell

Tyler Talk

**Opening to Grace and Justice**

Music: *All Are Welcome –* Words and Music: Marty Haugen

Luke 6:20 “You’re blessed when you’ve lost it all. God’s kingdom is there for the finding.”

Reflection: Losing it All to find Grace and Justice

The Blessing of Being Open

Peace seeks to be open as a progressive, multi-generational community of faith called to engage our world through the power of God’s love.

**We affirm that all people are a gift of God’s love.**

We nurture ourselves and invite all into God’s love and peace through eclectic worship, exploring questions of faith, and addressing challenging issues of our day.

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

**Grace and Justice are Inclusive**

Music: *A Dazzling Bouquet* – Words and Music: Bret Hesla

Luke 6:21a “You’re blessed when you’re ravenously hungry now. Then you’re invited to be filled by God’s meal.”

Reflection: Hungering to be Inclusive

The Blessing of Being Inclusive

Peace Community of Faith seeks to be inclusive

**by using inclusive language and celebrating many different faith traditions from around the world;**

Peace Community of Faith seeks to be inclusive

**by celebrating a faith that includes as many people of faith as possible rather than proclaiming a faith that excludes people who believe differently.**

**Exploring Grace and Justice**

Music: *This is a Day of New Beginnings* – Words: Brian Wren/Music: Carlton R. Young

Luke 6:21b “You’re blessed when the tears flow freely. Joy comes with the morning.”

Reflection: An Exploring Faith is not Easy

The Blessing of an Exploring Faith

The explorers Lewis and Clark needed a new way to explore. We, too, as Christians in the United States, need a new way to explore.

**Instead of correct doctrine, we need a living faith.**

We need a way to explore love and hope, a way to nurture truth and confront lies, a way to nurture commitment to life and confront that which destroys life.

**We, too, as Christians in the United States, need a new way to explore. As people who place our faith in God through Jesus Christ, we are invited to explorations that broaden and deepen our faith rather than certainties that confine and stifle our growth.**

By faith in God through Jesus Christ, we are invited into loving relationships rather than correct thinking.

**The life of faith has become a life of exploration.**

**When Grace and Justice are Transformative**

Music: *Hold On* – Words: Alice Wine and David Tidball/Music: Traditional African American

Luke 6:22 “Count yourself blessed every time people hate you, when they want nothing to do with you and say dishonest things about you, and when they treat you as if you are evil. They do it to discredit me.”

Reflection: Commitment to Transforming Love

The Blessing of Loving Justice

 Worship is an invitation to be held in a loving embrace by the Spirit of Life

 **so you and I can be transformed by the power of God’s love.**

What does the Spirit of Life, the power of God’s love, require of us “but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God?” (Micah 6:8)

**so you and I can transform the world by the power of God’s love.**

Christ Prayer

Guider, Truth Seeker, Friend; your holy breath continues to sustain us and our universe.

**You are love. Give us daily a collective heart to care for creation. Heal us so we may be instruments of your peace in a violent world.**

Lead us from a self-centered economy to one where all profit. Deliver us into compassion so we may understand that loving our neighbor allows us to love our Selves more deeply.

**May your governing grace guide us. May your desire for the common good inspire us.**

And may the power of your love infuse us, always and everywhere.

**Amen.**

Adapted from *The Lord’s Prayer*

for modern and inclusive language by Gary Walpole

with many thanks to the wonderful

2015 Storm Mountain Service Team!

Communion Prayer

In the beginning there was One Vast Moment that contained all things. And then in one breath, you God, Creative Spirit of All Things, set in motion an unhurried sequence of astounding, life-inducing, grace-infusing moments that led us to this “now,” this people, made in Your image.

**Along the way You, Spirit of Life, remained steadfast and sure, unhurried, and patient with us. You rescued us time and again from the rush of our own making and promised we would never be alone.**

Blessed is your Beloved, Jesus Christ. He took time, calling folks by name to follow him, to be healed, to be renewed, to be transformed, to experience a new sense of life.

**By his life, ministry, suffering, death, and resurrection we can know this communion together for he promised a new covenant by water and the Spirit.**

We open ourselves to your Spirit poured upon us now, and on these gifts of bread of the field and fruit of the vine.

**As these things make Jesus present once again at this table, may we set a table for the world, offering moments of solace, peace and grace. We do this now, making heaven on earth until that final banquet when heaven and earth are truly one.**

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.

(participants at home may follow the lead of the worship leaders online)

Communion Music: *Life-Giving Bread* - Words and Music: Ricky Manalo

Benediction 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 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

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