

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING WORDS

Terence Elwyn Johnson

**For the living of these days
 let us heed promptings of possibilities,
 let us evoke creativities of compassion,
 let us be posed for flight on soaring wings
 of faith and love.
 O come, let us worship!**

*OPENING HYMN

“Love Divine All Loves Excelling”

Tune:Beecher



Love Di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven to
 Breathe, O breathe a lov - ing_ spir - it, in - to ev - 'ry
 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, Let us all your



earth come_ down; Fix in us a hum - ble_ dwel - ling;
 trou - bled_ breast! Let us all in you in - her - it:
 life re - ceive; Gra - cious - ly re - turn and_ nev - er,



All your faith - ful mer - cies_ crown! Je - sus, life of all com - pas - sion,
 Let us find a pro - mised rest. Give to us your love of_ lov - ing,
 nev - er more your tem - ples_ leave. He - rald - ing a new cre - a - tion;



Pure un - bound - ed love all_ taught; Let that love be
 Al - pha and O - me - ga_ be; End of faith, as
 heaven and earth take now their_ place; Let us see that



our sal - va - tion, En - ter - ing each trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning; Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 great sal - va - tion; Lost in won - der, love, and_ praise.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Ruth C. Duck

Dear God, we thank you that you never forsake us, that you never stop loving us. Trusting in your unfailing love, we have gathered to worship and praise you. Through your Holy Spirit, touch us, renew us, comfort us, challenge us; for we pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

This Sunday

Poverty in the U.S. and Jesus' Instructions for Caring for the Poor

The United States is a land of stark contrasts. It is one of the world's wealthiest countries, with unsurpassed technological innovation, and a higher education system that leads the world. On the other hand, 40 million in the U.S. live in poverty, 18.5 million live in extreme poverty and 5.3 million live in Third World conditions of absolute poverty (based on 2016 census data). How can this be in one of the world's wealthiest societies? Join us to learn more about poverty and human rights in the U.S. and to discuss how this information informs how we will do God's work in the world.

Sunday, October 7

The school-to-prison pipeline is an American trend where especially children of color are funneled out of the public schools to the juvenile and criminal justice system. Learn about how the pipeline works. Learn about the winners and the losers. Learn about factors in the Webster Groves School District. And learn how our work with MCU is advocating for change.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Following the story, young children are encouraged to remain in worship or they may go to the nursery (birth-3). Attendance pads will be passed out at this time; please sign in so that we may celebrate that you were here.

SPECIAL MUSIC

8:30

"Precious Lord"
Michael Lageman, Soloist
Chancel Choir

Thomas Dorsey
arr. Jack Shrader

11:00

"Precious Lord"
Michael Lageman

Thomas Dorsey

A READING FROM THE HEBREW TRADITION

Ruth 1:1-18

Long ago, when judges governed Israel, a famine swept over the land. So a family from the town of Bethlehem in Judah, a woman and man and their two children, emigrated to the region of Moab. The man was named Elimelech, the woman's name was Naomi, and their sons were named Mahlon and Chilon. They were Ephrathites, that is, from Bethlehem of Judah. They arrived in the land of Moab and settled there.

Soon afterward Elimelech died, leaving Naomi and the two sons to fend for themselves. The two sons eventually married two Moabite women, whose names were Orpah and Ruth. They had lived in the land of Moab for about ten years when both Mahlon and Chilon died.

Now that Naomi had lost both of her children as well as her husband, she prepared to take her daughters-in-law and leave the land of Moab and return to her homeland, for she had heard that Yahweh had visited the people by providing an abundance of food.

So she and her two daughters-in-law left the house where they had been living, and she set out on the road to Judah. But Naomi told each of her daughters-in-law, "Return to your mother's house. May the Most High care for you with the same kindness that you have cared for your dead and for me. May the Most High give you security and true fulfillment, and lead you to new spouses." Then she kissed them both.

But they wept loudly and said to her, "No, we want to go back with you to the land of your people!"

But Naomi said to them, "Go back, my daughters. Why do you want to come with me? I have no more sons inside me that you can take as spouses. No, you must go back, my daughters. I am too old to marry again. Even if I told you that there was still hope for me, if I were to find a spouse and have children tonight, would you be willing to wait until they are grown to marry them? No, if you did that, it would tear me apart, for the hand of the Most High has been raised against me."

And once more they wept loudly. Then Orpah kissed Naomi and returned to her people. But Ruth stayed by her side.

Naomi said to Ruth, "Look, your sister-in-law has returned to her people and to the god of her ancestors. You too must go. Follow your sister-in-law."

But Ruth said to her, "Please don't ask me to leave you and turn away from your company. I swear to you:

Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge.
Your people will be my people,
and your God, my God.
Where you die, I'll die there too
and I will be buried there beside you.
I swear—may Yahweh be my witness and judge—
that not even death will keep us apart."

Seeing that Ruth was determined to accompany her, Naomi said no more.

One: For the marvelous blend of fact, myth, poetry, and story that is in scripture, we give thanks.

Many: **May the Spirit open us to the wisdom we most need to hear.**

SERMON

Rev. Wendy Bruner

*HYMN NCH #425

"For the Fruit of All Creation"

Tune: Ar Hyd y Nos



For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
For the har-vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For the gift's to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



Fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
In the har-vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

To families of young children at Peace UCC

When God made children, they were made with a little giggle, a little squirm, and a whole lot of love. When you worship with us your children are invited to sit at the front of the sanctuary. That way they can see what is going on in church and interact better with what Peace UCC has to offer. When your children are here, our building is filled with a joyful noise. This is something for which we rejoice and praise God. If your children start to get restless please don't leave. Stay and continue worship because when you do you show them that worship is something important and that their presence is important to us. At times we know this can be a struggle, but thank you for making the effort.

1. There are activity bags for the young children. They are available near the sanctuary doors.
2. There is a rocking chair at the back of the sanctuary that you can use. We also have a nursery just outside of the sanctuary. Ask someone and they will give you directions.
3. We have changing tables in the nursery and downstairs in the bathroom by the fellowship hall.

We understand the difficulty of worshipping with a little one. We hope that you feel we are a Child-Loving church. Please know that when your child gets fussy that we are honored to have you with us today. Thank you for joining us in worship today and I hope that you will join us again.

Peace to you,
Pastor Wendy

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

Help us live out our extravagant welcome and hospitality for all by signing up to bring refreshments for our Sunday Morning Coffee Hour. Please see the sign-up board in the church narthex.

Fireside Art Gallery

We need artwork or items that members collect to be displayed in the Fireside Room monthly. If you are interested in displaying your talent or collection please contact Brenda Detrick

Totenfest

On Sunday, October 21, Peace UCC will observe Totenfest, the liturgical remembrance of those who have died in the preceding year. We will also celebrate those born in our community during the preceding year, thus celebrating the full cycle of birth and death. Members and friends of Peace UCC may submit the names of parents, siblings, children, and partners who have died this year, as well as the names of children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews born this year. Please submit names to the church office at churchoffice@peaceuccstl.org or (314) 968-1727 by October 16.

Pastor Wendy will be taking vacation October 1 – October 15. If pastoral emergencies arise, please contact Rev. Al Schon at aschon1@yahoo.com or (314) 363-8908.

Dee Ban will be singing her 1960s Civil Rights and Peace Movements program. Come participate in the music and history of that decade of upheaval and change.
Place: Pavilion at Lemay, 305 Gregg Road, 63125.
Time: Wednesday October 3, 10-11a.m.
Note: OASIS fee \$10

In This House We Believe Signs
If you did not get an "In This House We Believe" yard sign, we now have more available. The cost is \$12.00. Please call the church to arrange a time to pick one up.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Believing that each joy and/or concern expressed is indeed a prayer, after each expression, the worship leader will say: *Loving God*. And the people may respond: **Hear our prayer.**

PRAYER *This is a time for quiet reflection.*

LORD'S PRAYER

Creator, hallowed be your name.

Your kin-dom come, your 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,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For yours is the kin-dom, and the power,
and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION 8:30AM

INVITATION AND COMMUNION PRAYER

based on our Theological Assumptions

Minister: Come, Holy Spirit, and move among these elements assembled at this Table.

Many: **Through this sacrament, transform our hurt into healing, our fear into faith, and death into life.**

Minister: As the grain, sown in hills and valleys, is harvested, and now becomes one in the loaf,

Many: **so we, scattered, diverse, separated and isolated from one another, hear your invitation to become one body around this Table, the center of our life together.**

Liturgist: As this juice, grown in vineyards under the sun, fills the cup, may we be filled and refreshed by this meal,

Many: **and strengthened to respond to your call to reach out in compassion to all living things.**

Minister: In sharing this meal we remember.

Many: **We remember meals Jesus shared with friends and enemies, outcasts and marginalized, fearful and earnest.**

Minister: He took the bread and, giving thanks, blessed it and broke it and shared it.

Many: **As we share the bread today, we eat it as those who seek to follow Jesus.**

Liturgist: After the meal, Jesus took the cup. Giving thanks, he shared it, symbolizing a new relationship with God, a relationship of partnership founded on grace.

Many: **As we share the cup, we seek to experience that grace in which Jesus lived fully.**

All: **Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

Bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine.

Bless all of us in our eating and drinking

that our eyes might be opened,

that we might recognize the risen Christ

in our midst, indeed, in one another.

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

The Congregation is invited to come forward by the center aisle, partake of the gluten-free bread and juice, and light a candle in prayer. Catch the eye of a table host if you would prefer to be served at your seat.

8:30 RESPONSE**"Peace Be With You"**

Christopher Grundy



Peace be with_ you, peace be with_ you, peace be
with you now, God's peace to you. Peace be- hind_ you,
peace be- fore_ you, peace be all a - round_ in
Je - sus Christ.

8:30 PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Worship Ways

Gracious God, we thank you for this meal and for all of the ways you nourish us. Grow in us that we may nourish others. Sustain us as we press toward the goal of your call in Christ Jesus. Amen.

HOW WILL WE DO GOD'S WORK IN THE WORLD?

We will open our 'How Shall We Do God's Work In The World' time with an opportunity to give. The ushers will pass an offering plate to you as you remain in your seats. We invite you to sing along to "Over My Head" NCH #514.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Worship Ways, adapted

**We lift up these offerings
as a sign of our gratitude for your love and care, O God.
We pledge ourselves, time, talent, and treasure.
We dedicate our lives to you
and seek to grow in our faithfulness to your Word.**

Peace Talks

Are you considering membership or just want to learn more about Peace UCC? Contact Pastor Wendy at wendybruner@peaceuccstl.org or (314) 968-1727.

Crib room helpers wanted!

For more information please contact Alicia. You can also stop by the crib room on Sunday morning and talk to Alicia.

Peace Chancel Choir at Eden!

On Sunday, October 7th, Eden Theological Seminary will host its annual **"Festival of Psalms"** concert at 7 p.m. All are welcome.

This year, our own Chancel Choir is presenting a song! The theme this year is "Singing Outrage and Hope," centering on music from the Biblical psalms in a variety of styles.

Other featured musicians this year include not only our Chancel Choir but also Eden Seminary Choir, James Stone Goodman, Christopher Grundy, Zipporah Lee, Eliza Lynn, Jacob Nault, Camille Pruvost, Wendy Reynolds, Will Soll, Paul Vasile and Webster United Methodist choir.

The Festival of Psalms will take place in the Wehrli Chapel in the Press Building at Eden, 475 E. Lockwood Ave., Webster Groves, MO 63119.

The concert is free and open to the public. If it sounds interesting, please join us!

Scan and Give

Supporting the work of this church has never been easier. Just scan the QR code with your smartphone and you can make a donation to Peace UCC.



Directory and Database
Update Circle

(A.K.A. A month of fun with Amy
O'Brien while we do a wonderful
piece of ministry together!)

October Commitment
(1 month commitment)

Have you ever turned to the Peace directory in search of a photo so that you could put a name and face together and there wasn't a picture to help you?

Have you ever wanted to contact someone in our Peace community by email or cell phone and you can't put your finger on their contact information?

If so, join Amy O'Brien in the month of October to assist in updating the database and directory.

The best directories help build connections and care. We want a new member to be able to learn names and faces of others. We want teams and circles to be able to turn to the directory when planning events and reaching out. We want the less connected or disconnected to be reached. Would you join Amy in this endeavor?

Timeline & Commitment

October 1st (Monday) Kick-off Dessert (6 p.m.). You are invited to Amy O'Brien's home for dessert and a meeting. Each circle member will receive a copy of the directory and a list of 25-30 households. The ASK is that each week for the next 4 weeks, you would contact 7 households/week, and update the data that we have for the family. This gathering is optional. You are still welcome to be in the circle if you are unable to attend this gathering.

October 8, 15, & 22 By each Monday, be in communication with Amy about how your list is coming. She will be entering all the information you are receiving. If you want to be doing your work at the same time as others, you are welcome to meet Amy in the day at church or come by her home in the evening.

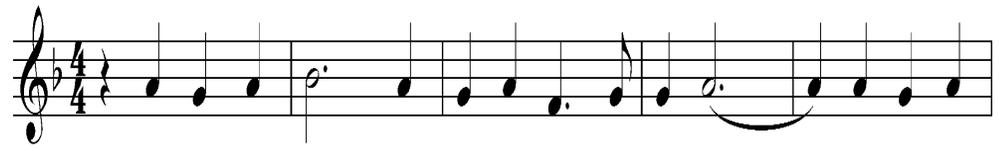
October 29th (Monday) Concluding Dinner Celebration at Amy's home when this gift of ministry is complete!

Please let Amy O'Brien know if you are willing to have fun with her this month as we work on an important project for the church.

*HYMN NCH #591

"This Is My Song"

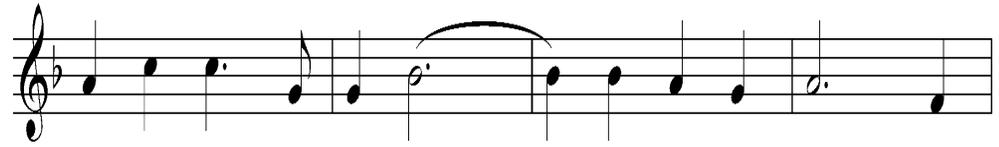
Tune: Finlandia



This is my song, O God of all the na tions, a song of
My coun-try's skies are blu-er than the o- cean, and sun-light



peace for lands a - far and mine. This is my home, the
beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine; But oth - er lands have



coun - try where my heart is; here are my hopes, my
sun - light, too, and clo - ver, and skies are ev - ery -



dreams, my ho - ly shrine; But oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are
where as blue as mine. O hear my song, O God of all the



beat - ing with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
na - tions, a song of peace for their land and for mine.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Opportunities to do God's work

5th - 7th Grade Youth will meet Sunday, Oct. 7th at 3:30 PM in Room 21. We will be placing our Kindness Rocks out in the community and participating in the CROP Walk at Eden Theological Seminary. Parents should plan to pick youth up at Eden following the CROP Walk. You can support the Peace UCC CROP Walk Team by donating online at www.crophungerwalk.org/saintlouismo

“No More Sitting Out: Reclaiming Our Democracy”

MCU congregations are taking back the decision making in our schools. We have challenged the overuse of out-of-school suspension of our children of color, the overuse of police for discipline, lack of trauma-care trained teachers, and more. We are getting results, but do you know how Webster Groves stands up? Join us on Sunday, October 7, from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Peace UCC to hear from Webster Groves School District administrators and the Webster Groves Police Department on how our children are being treated. We will also launch a final push toward the November mid-terms and getting a win on our issues: Amendment 1 (CLEAN) and Prop B (RUM). For more information, contact Kevin Prange.

St. Louis CROP Hunger Walk

Are you wondering how to respond to the most recent wave of natural disasters, including Hurricane Florence and Typhoon Mangkhut? Are you concerned about hunger at home and abroad? Join the CROP Walk or sponsor the Peace UCC CROP Walk team! CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Hunger Walks take place across the country. Seventy-five per cent of the money raised goes to Church World Service (CWS), a relief and development agency sponsored by over 30 denominations, including the United Church of Christ. An important part of CWS's work is disaster response. Twenty-five per cent of the money funds local anti-hunger organizations, including the Webster Rock Hill Ministries. The Metro St. Louis CROP Walk will take place on Sunday, October 7. One- and three-mile routes will begin and end at Eden Theological Seminary, stepping off at 5 p.m. You can register to walk at www.crophungerwalk.org/saintlouismo and choose Peace UCC as your team. You can donate online at crophungerwalk.org/stlouismo/PeaceUCC – or donate via check (made out to CWS/CROP) or cash at the CROP Walk table in the narthex. The CROP Walk will be followed at 7:00 p.m. by the 2nd Annual CROP concert (which is also the 7th Annual Eden Festival of Psalms). It features musicians like Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, Paul Vasile, Christopher Grundy, Peace UCC Chancel Choir and others. The concert is free, but there will be an opportunity to donate to CWS.

The Moms' Group will meet on Tuesday October 9 at noon. We will brainstorm topics for future discussions. Please bring your lunch. Decadent dessert will be provided. If you need childcare call Dee Ban ahead of time.

The Peace UCC Quilters will meet next on Thursday, Oct. 11 from 9 - 11 a.m. in room 23 at church. We'll be finishing up some prayer quilts. Anyone who enjoys easy hand sewing and good fellowship is most welcome to join us!

The deadline for submissions to our weekly publications, the Sunday Bulletin and News & Notes, is Thursday morning at 10 a.m. If you are not receiving our weekly e-newsletter "News and Notes" and would like to, please contact the church office.

Notes: Sources for words, images, and music are noted where available. Permission to reprint music and words from sources other than The New Century Hymnal is granted under OneLicense.net, license no. A-704973, and/or LicenSing.org.

THIS WEEK AT PEACE UCC

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 TODAY

8:30 a.m. Worship Service
9:45 a.m. Adult Learning Hour
11:00 a.m. Worship Service

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3

4:30 p.m. Children's Choir
5:30 p.m. Handchimes

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6

11:00 a.m. Youth Choir

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7

8:30 a.m. Worship Service
9:45 a.m. Adult Learning Hour
9:45 a.m. Folk Choir
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
3:00 p.m. No More Sitting Out
3:30 p.m. 5-7 Grade Youth

For a complete calendar visit:

www.peaceuccstl.org

Mission, Vision & Values

Our Mission

Following the God made known in the life and teachings of Jesus, we at Peace United Church of Christ gather as an Open and Affirming community to worship, learn and serve.

Our Values

As a community, Peace United Church of Christ celebrates the values embodied in the ministry of Jesus:

Inclusiveness in our diversity,
Intentionality in our commitment to social justice,
Intimacy in our fellowship together,
Inspiration in our communal worship and
Inquisitiveness in our personal spiritual growth.

Our Vision

We desire to be a leader in helping the wider community affirm that God is still speaking.