

# PEACE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



**January 9, 2021**  
**Let the Light In**  
**Awake**

**Prelude** Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" Jason Payne  
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## Welcome

### Opening Words

We enter this time of worship together ever mindful that we have this moment and only this moment. We recognize we are not perfect and will never be. We do not have to be. We are enough as we are right now. Together – each bringing with us who we are – we pause in our busyness to recognize the light of love in our midst, indeed in one another. And we give thanks.

### Opening Response "Siyahamba" South African Freedom Song

(Phonetic Text) 1. See yah hahm buh koo kahn  
(English) 2. We are march - - ing in the

yen kwen kohs, see yah hahm buh koo kahn yen kwen kohs.  
light of God, we are march-ing in the light of God.

See yah hahm buh Oo, see yah  
We are march-ing Oo, we are

hahm buh koo kahn yen kwen kohs.  
march - ing in the light of God. (Repeat v.1)

**Prayer of Invocation** by Emily Swan (in part)

Spirit of Jesus –  
Come with fire that refines,  
Water that refreshes,  
Breath that fills...

Show us what you're doing, so we can work  
together. Move where you will, when you will,  
in whatever way you will. Come,  
Holy Spirit, and restore your Church.

**Reading:**

**Psalm 29**

Interpretation by Nan Merrill

Give praise to the Beloved, O heavenly hosts,  
Sing of Love's glory and strength.  
Exalt the glory of Love's Name;  
Adore the Beloved in holy splendor.  
The voice of the Beloved is upon the waters;  
Loves' voice echoes over the oceans and seas.  
The voice of Love is powerful, majestic is the voice of Love.  
The voice of the Beloved breaks the bonds of oppression, shatters the chains of injustice.  
Love invites all to the dance of freedom, to sing the Beloved's song of truth.  
The voice of Love strikes with fire upon hearts of stones.  
The voice of Love uproots the thorns of fear,  
Love uproots fear in every open heart.  
The voice of Love is heard in every storm, and strips the ego bare;  
And in their hearts all cry, "Glory!"  
The Beloved lives in our hearts;  
Love dwells with us forever.  
May love give strength to all people!  
May Love bless all nations with peace!

**The Witness of Music**

Sue Clauss

"Green Sleeves to a Ground" Anon.

**Reading:**

**Luke 3:15-16, 21-22**

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals.

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

**Anthem**  
(Jim, Wendy and Darcy)

Song by Leonard Cohen

The birds they sang  
At the break of day  
Start again  
I heard them say  
Don't dwell on what has passed away  
Or what is yet to be

Ah, the wars they will be fought again  
The holy dove, she will be caught again  
Bought and sold, and bought again  
The dove is never free

**Ring the bells that still can ring**  
**Forget your perfect offering**  
**There is a crack, a crack in everything**  
**That's how the light gets in**

We asked for signs  
The signs were sent  
The birth betrayed  
The marriage spent  
Yeah, and the widowhood  
Of every government  
Signs for all to see

I can't run no more  
With that lawless crowd  
While the killers in high places  
Say their prayers out loud  
But they've summoned, they've summoned up  
A thundercloud  
They're going to hear from me

**Ring the bells that still can ring**  
**Forget your perfect offering**  
**There is a crack, a crack in everything**  
**That's how the light gets in**

You can add up the parts  
But you won't have the sum  
You can strike up the march  
There is no drum  
Every heart, every heart  
To love will come  
But like a refugee

Ring the bells that still can ring  
Forget your perfect offering  
There is a crack, a crack in everything  
That's how the light gets in

**Ring the bells that still can ring**  
**Forget your perfect offering**  
**There is a crack, a crack in everything**  
**That's how the light gets in**  
**That's how the light gets in**  
**That's how the light gets in**

**Sermon Rev. Wendy Bruner**

**Hymn "Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"**



Child of bless- ing, child of pro- mise, bap- tized with the Spir - it's sign;  
Child of love, our love's ex - pres- sion, love's cre - a - tion, loved in - deed!  
Child of joy, our dear - est tres- sure, God's you are, from God you came.  
Child of God your lov - ing Par - ent, learn to know whose child you are.



With this wa - ter God has sealed you un - to love and grace di - vine.  
Fresh from God, re - fresh our spir - its, in - to joy and laugh - ter lead.  
Back to God we hum- bly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.  
Grow and laugh and sing and wor- ship, trust and love God more than all.

## **Joys and Concerns**

### **Prayer**

Creator, who art in heaven,  
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.

## **How shall we join God's work in the world?**

Gracious God, we give thanks and ask your blessings on the many and diverse gifts we bring to join you in your work in the world.

## **Benediction**

**Postlude** "Laudation" Gilbert Martin  
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