



Pilgrim United Church of Christ

Third Sunday after the Epiphany
Prayers for Peace on Earth and Within
January 21, 2024

*For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one
and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility. - Ephesians 2:14*

**Please rise - whether in body or spirit - at points marked by an asterisk *
and join in the congregational responses that are printed in **boldface**.*

PRELUDE “Sleepers Awake” by J. S. Bach (Instrumental, piano)

*GATHERING HYMN: “Come and Find the Quiet Center” #575

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE SHARE a “safe” sign of God’s welcome and peace with those around you.

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Even now, the Peaceful One is drawing near.

All: Even now, the day of our salvation is at hand.

One: The God who comforts us speaks tenderly to her people.

All: The Shepherd who feeds us longs to take us into his arms.

One: While we watch and wait for steadfast love and faithfulness to meet,

All: While we wonder if justice and peace will ever kiss,

One: We can prepare the way of the Lord.

All: We can clear a path for him in our hearts and in our world.

One: In these days of setback and struggle, we choose to prepare and not despair.

All: In a world drunk on wealth and power, we choose to walk the path of peace.

One: For such a time as this, the Holy One comes speaking peace.

All: For such a time as this, we are called to make peace.

One: For such a time as this, our savior comes.

All: The peace of Christ is given for one and for all.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION / INVITATION TO CHANGE

ALL: We are bound together in our humanness — our challenges, our failures, our missteps, our brokenness. Together we confess those ways in which we’ve failed to live up to Gospel values. We ask for forgiveness. We want to learn from our mistakes in order to become the people God has created us to be. We take a moment of silence to confess those things that in our humanness we have done that have not shown love of God, neighbor or ourselves.

Moment of Silence

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND PARDON **All: Thanks be to God!**

PRAYER, A COLLECT **All: Amen.**

PRAYERS FOR PEACE ON EARTH AND WITHIN

INTRODUCTION AND INVITATION: Pastor MiMi

First Reading: Proverbs 3:13-18

***First Hymn:** "Come Now, O Wisdom" (Tune: Be Thou My Vision)

Come now, O Wisdom, we need your clear voice;
speak and awaken our hearts to rejoice.
Gracious Creator of more than we know,
in your own image may we ever grow.

Come now, O Wisdom, abide in our souls;
stir in us visions of life free and whole.
Wisdom, our pathway to justice and peace,
with you our dreams find their fullest release.

Wisdom, more precious than rubies or gold,
with you our graces forever unfold.
No fame or fortune with you can compare;
pour out your blessings so rich and so rare.

Wisdom, your grace joins all heaven and earth,
with you we labor, new life to give birth.
Come now, O Wisdom, our Midwife and Friend,
open our hearts to your world without end.

A Buddhist Prayer for Peace

May I be safe, May I be happy, May I be healthy. May I live in peace, no matter what I am given. May my heart be filled with love and kindness.

May you be safe, May you be happy, May you be healthy. May you live in peace, no matter what you are given. May your heart be filled with love and kindness.

May we be safe, May we be happy, May we be healthy. May we live in peace, no matter what we are given. May our hearts be filled with love and kindness.

Second Reading: from the Prophet Isaiah 11:1-10

***Second Hymn:** “O Day of Peace” (Tune: Jerusalem)

Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr.; Original Tune: C. H. H. Parry

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,
Till 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.

A Hindu Prayer for Peace

Oh God, lead us from the unreal to the Real.

Oh God, lead us from darkness to light.

Oh God, lead us from death to immortality. Shanti (Peace);

Shanti, Shanti, Shanti unto all.

Oh Lord God almighty, may there be peace in celestial regions.
May there be peace on earth. May the waters be appeasing.
May herbs be wholesome, and may trees and plants bring peace to all.
May all beneficent beings bring peace to us.
May thy peace itself bestow peace on all,
and may that peace come to me also.

Third Reading: from the Prophet Micah 4:2-4

Third Hymn: “Study War No More / Down by the Riverside” #673

A Muslim Prayer for Peace

O God! O our Master! You are eternal life and everlasting peace
by your essence and attributes.
The everlasting peace is from You and it returns to You.
O our Sustainer! Grant us the life of true peace
and usher us into the abode of peace.
O Glorious and Bounteous One! You are blessed and sublime.

Fourth Reading: from The Gospel of Matthew 5:1-12

***Fourth Hymn:** “This Is My Song” (Tune: Finlandia) #722

A Jewish Prayer for Peace

Cause us, O Father, to lie down in peace, and rise again to enjoy life.
Spread over us the covering of your peace, guide us with your good counsel
and save us for the sake of your name. Be a shield about us, turning away
every enemy, disease, violence, hunger and sorrow.
Shelter us in the shadow of your wings,
for you are a God who guards and protects us,
a ruler of mercy and compassion...
Blessed are you, Lord, who spreads the shelter of peace over us,
over His people Israel, and over all the world.

LET US PRAY

JOYS AND CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: We cry out **ALL: My soul is longing for your peace, O God.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (UNISON)

INVITATION TO GIVING / GENEROSITY WITNESS

PLEASE SEE YELLOW CARD - Thank you!

[We collect offerings in box in the Narthex and online—before and after our service.]

*DOXOLOGY (please sing together in expansive language as we present our gifts - new words, same tune as “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”)

O God of love, O God of peace, Make wars throughout the world to cease;

The wrath of sinful ones restrain; Give peace, O God, give peace again!

Whom shall we trust but You, O Lord? Where rest but on Your faithful word?

None ever called on You in vain: Give peace, O God, give peace again!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)

ALL: O Holy One who dwells in our midst. You abide in each heart and root yourself in our communities. We offer these gifts to you as an act of love. Take and multiply them. Show us how to create a world where peace is flowing like a river. Amen.

COMMUNION: (see insert)

COMMUNION HYMN: One Bread, One Body #393, V. 2

COMMUNION REFLECTION: “A Gaelic Blessing” (Deep Peace) by John Rutter (recording of The Cambridge Singers)

*SONG OF PARTING: “Let There Be Peace on Earth” #677

*BENEDICTION: **ALL: AMEN.**

*SONG OF BLESSING Blest Be the Tie That Binds #433, V. 1

*Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.*

POSTLUDE: "Beatitudes" by Sweet Honey in the Rock (recording)

END OF WORSHIP ♥ BEGINNING OF SERVICE



Leading Our Worship Today

Minister: MiMi Chamberlin
Usher: Terry Parsons

Music Minister: Patrick Nugent
Greeter: Eileen Garrabrant

*As a faith community created in God's image, we are called to love our neighbors as Jesus loves us. We seek to unite persons of all ages, family makeups, races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, mental and physical abilities, economic statuses, and theological backgrounds. Everyone is welcome into all aspects of church life as we celebrate the image of God in every person. At Pilgrim United Church of Christ, **No Matter Who You Are Or Where You Are On Life's Journey, You're Welcome Here!***

A Beacon of Light and Love

ALL ARE WELCOME!

- + To the Communion Table
- + To the marriage altar
- + To ordained ministry



Worship Texts taken from UCC Worship Ways

Interfaith Prayers for Peace: texts are from Sacred Space: www.sacredspace.ie

CCLI License # A 21326472 Streaming License A 21326465



4418 Bridgetown Road, Cincinnati, OH 45211
513-574-4208 + office@pilgrim-ucc.org + www.pilgrim-ucc.org

