



**The Eighteenth Sunday
after Pentecost
Sunday, September 22, 2024
at 10:30am**

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

Prelude "Elegy" G. Thalben-Ball
(see bulletin note)

Welcome

The Lord be with you!
And also with you.

*** Call to Worship**

One: I tell you this: It is a wonderful thing when members of God's family live together in peace.

All: We will be replanted today like trees beside flowing waters.

One: May the church be one, just as Christ and God, our parent, are one, that Christ may be glorified in us, and peace may be known.

All: We will yield good fruit in its season, and our leaves shall never wither.

One: The grace, mercy, and peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you on this international day of peace.

All: And also with you.

*** Hymn of Praise**

O Word of God Incarnate No. 598

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

Scripture Reading Psalm 1 (CEB)

The word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem O Day of Peace That Dimly Shines arr. Jantz Black
(Violin - Anthony Scheuereman)

Sermon "The Prayers of the People - Week 3"
Anna Layman Knox

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

*** Affirmation of Faith** The World Methodist Social Affirmation Pg. 886

*** Hymn** O God of Every Nation No. 435

Prayers of the People

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer Pg. 895

Sharing our Tithes & Offerings

At Grace, we practice giving our tithes and offerings by sharing through plates distributed by ushers and also through giving online. We pray that you experience God's joy during this tangible act of giving today.

Offertory "The Peace May be Exchanged" Dan Locklair

*** Doxology** No. 95

*** Offertory Prayer**

In December of 2023, our church wrote prayers of Gratitude from Grace. These prayers are shared weekly during our worship time of giving.

WE DEPART TO SERVE

*** Hymn of Sending** This is My Song No. 437

*** Benediction**

*** Processional** "Toccata on "Great Day" Adolphus Hailstork

We invite you to process out through the front doors of the church and the handicapped accessible exit during the postlude today, turning right on State Street and joining together in a gathering around the newly installed Peace Pole.

Introduction

Explanation & History of the Peace Pole
Ann Marie Judson, Pax Christi Harrisburg

Unveiling of the Peace Pole

Community Affirmation *adapted from excerpts by Diann L. Neu, WATERwheel 2001*

We, who live in the shadows of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, we, who remember the mushroom cloud of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we, whose daily lives are shadowed by terrorist attacks and gun violence, today, declare our hope in the future - and commit our lives to peacemaking.

From the diversity of our heritages, we renew our belief in the sacredness of the earth and our reverence for all of life.

We affirm that our earth's security rests not in retaliation, but rather: in the justice of adequate housing and food, in the justice of meaningful education and work, in the justice of an economic order that gives all access to the earth's abundance, in the justice of human relationships, nourished by cooperation.

We, who worship in the shadow of the Capitol - a place of power and potential, unite ourselves with all made in the image of God the world over, who yearn, pray, and work for peace. May it be so.

Laying on of Hands & Dedication

Flowering of the Peace Pole

Sharing The Peace

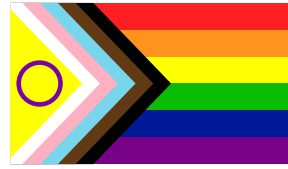
Let us offer one another covid-conscious signs of reconciliation, love, and peace.

Go in Peace

We invite all to share together in a time of refreshment and connection, following the dedication of the Peace Pole.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

- Sound Board & Video** - Hilary Holmes, Becky & Scout Reynolds
- Worship Leader** - Nate Nick
- Director of Music** - Shelly Moorman-Stahlman
- Violinist** - Anthony Scheuereman
- Sunday Facility Steward** - Jim Whetstone
- Children's Chapel Team** - Mel Eyer & AJ Keeney
- Welcome Team** - Jim & Barb Whetstone
- Pastor** - Anna Layman Knox



Notes from the Director of Music: The hymns and organ music for today were selected in honor of International Day of Peace. Thalben-Ball's Elegy for organ, originated as an improvisation for the end of a live BBC daily religious service during World War II. This Elegy has since been played for numerous funeral services and evokes a feeling of peace.

The text for the anthem, "O Day of Peace," was composed by Carl P. Daw. Dr. Daw describes his thinking about the hymn: "This hymn deals with two aspects of peace: pax, an understanding of peace based on the cessation of conflict, and shalom, the condition of living abundantly in harmony and mutual goodwill. Although this hymn affirms that peace is always God's gift, it also recognizes the importance of human responsibility in preparing an environment in which peace can flourish." The text can be found in our hymnal on page 729. The choral setting by Jantz Black creates a beautiful arrangement of the tune by Charles Parry.

Lloyd Stone (1912-1993), an American public school teacher who lived in Hawaii, wrote the first two stanzas of "This Is My Song" in 1934. During the brief time of peace between two world wars, it was a song of hope for all nations—"for lands afar and mine." The poet acknowledges love for his own country, but balances that with the love that others feel around the world for their nations. Georgia Harkness (1881-1974), one of the first women ordained in the Methodist Church and a leading ecumenical theologian of her day, added two additional stanzas, the second of which appears in our hymnal as the final stanza of the hymn. It is a prayer to the "Lord of all earth's kingdoms." Harkness skillfully ties the reference to "earth's kingdoms" to a petition found in the Lord's Prayer, "Thy kingdom come; on earth thy will be done." Christ becomes the central figure in Harkness' stanza, as one who will unite us in service to each other and help us to "learn to live as one." Her stanza ends with a personal dedication: "Myself I give thee; let thy will be done." (umcdiscipleship.org)

OUR MISSION: We celebrate human diversity and affirm God's gifts of love and grace for ALL persons. Each of us is created in the image of God and is a child of God. We invite you, no matter your age, race, ethnicity, family structure, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental or physical ability, or economic situation, to be in ministry with us. We support the full participation of all persons in every phase of church life. We believe that at Grace Church you will experience a God who already knows you by name, loves you, and yearns to have an even closer relationship with you. As a Reconciling Congregation, our hearts, minds and doors are open, and we are blessed by your presence.

STAFF

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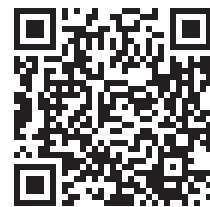
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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

