

Free
to
Grieve



Trinity United Church of Christ

Deerfield, Illinois

World Communion Sunday

October 5, 2025

A wholeheartedly inclusive Christian community
called by a challenging and progressive faith
to live lives of love and justice

Virtual Worship

To Dial In by Phone Only 1 (312) 626-6799 - MTG ID 874 9506 6741

Zoom Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87495066741?pwd=NjdvYnNycy80SWpldVJQZmQ4UDd0QT09>

Participant ID (Not required. None provided) **“Otherwise just press #”**
Meeting Password: **760760**

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

FALL WORSHIP SERIES

With Music

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

With Meditation

I DREAM OF A WORLD

Jamaican Folk Tune
Adapted by Doreen Potter
Arr Joel Raney

“We have lived by the assumption that what was good for us would be good for the world.... We have been wrong. We must change our lives, so that it will be possible to live by the contrary assumption that what is good for the world will be good for us. And that requires that we make the effort to know the world and to learn what is good for it. We must learn to cooperate in its processes, and to yield to its limits...”

Wendell Berry

*Please stand in body or spirit

**INVOKING THE SPIRIT
CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Dale Susan Edmonds

A Prayer of Wonder

(adapted) Cameron Trimble

Holy Mystery,

**You who shaped the cliffs and whispered life into lavender,
remind us that we, too, are your handiwork—
not separate from creation, but made of the same sacred dust.**

**Soften our hearts.
Slow our pace.**

**Teach us to bow before beauty and to live in harmony
with the song the earth has been singing all along.**

**May swords be molded into plowshares.
May wonder be our teacher and gratitude our way of life.**

Amen.

***HYMN** *We Pray for Peace* FINLANDIA (see insert)

***SHARING GOD’S PEACE**
The Peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYER REQUESTS
We share “happenings” in the community and lift up concerns for prayer.

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

PROCLAIMING THE WORD FOR OUR LIVES

Reading from the Psalms

Psalms 66:1-12

Reading from the Letters

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Sermon

A Place Where Peace Reigns Among Us

Rev. Edmonds

Hymn of Response

I Dream of a World

(see insert)

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

(adapted) Maren Tirabassi

Ten Commandments for World Communion Sunday

October 4, 2015

So if God is speaking a wild and holy 'Do Not Harm' to the whole world rather than a naughty list for personal morality it might sound like this ...

I am God of a World Communion – don't put any of your little particular religions between you and God.

Don't make idols of race or money or power or national identity and bow down and worship them.

Don't make a wrong use of God's name to justify your own ideas or your politics or even your interpretations of the Bible.

Remember that Sabbath means that you should rest your body, mind, and spirit and that you should create a society in which affordable rest care is a primary agenda for all people.

Honor all the elderly, listen to their wisdom and care for their wellbeing, for this is the only way to receive a heritage.

You shall not kill with your death penalty. You shall not kill by letting guns be unconscionably accessible to those ill of mind and spirit. You shall not kill migrant children for lack of a welcome. You shall not kill by starvation unnecessary in a world of abundance. You shall not extinct the critically endangered species. You shall not kill by war.

You shall not commit abuse in loving relationships, permit human trafficking, forbid love.

You shall not steal – land or cultural identity. You shall not steal a child’s childhood – not by incest or unjust labor practices. You shall not steal hope.

You shall not lie about the earth and that which damages it. You shall not lie in negotiations between nations, in the emissions of corporate greed, in the paying of the taxes that sustain a common life. You shall no longer lie about the past, for our indigenous, aboriginal, native brothers and sisters are weeping. You shall not swallow lies about the present, neither in congress or in court. You shall not invent lies about the future that steal our children’s world.

And hardest of all in an era so divided between rich and poor that the rich always serve a gold-calf brunch to their friends with someone else’s ewe lamb, you shall not covet what your neighbor has, because wanting what someone else has tears the world’s communion to pieces, and breaking bread is meant to be a blessing to share.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND CONSECRATION

MUSICAL REFLECTION AS WE PARTAKE

One Bread, One Body

Words and Music by John B. Foley
Arr Joel Raney and Mark Hayes

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord's Prayer (using "debts" and "debtors")

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy 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 thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*HYMN

Let There Be Peace on Earth

(see insert)

*BENEDICTION

Words

Steve Garnaas-Holmes

**What if all my words were seeds,
each one giving birth to a world?**

**What if I were a spring
and people drank from me?**

**God, guard my mouth
that I may speak only truth,
say only life-giving things,
utter only what is good.**

**Even in times of conflict,
times of outrage,
may all that flows from me
be a clear stream of beauty and life
rising from your deep grace.
Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands

Irish Melody
Arr Joel Raney

WELCOME!

We're glad you've chosen to worship with Trinity today. If you're new, please introduce yourself, we'd love to get acquainted. We hope you find this a welcoming community for people of all ages and stages of life.

If you have any questions about the church, feel free to ask Pastor Dale!

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor

Rev. Dale Susan Edmonds, M.Div.

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PastorDale@trinitydeerfield.org

Acting Minister of Music

Rev. Dr. Pamela J. Keckler

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October 5, 2025

Psalm 137

Free to Grieve

A seminary professor once told his class of future pastors that there should always be a box of tissues in the pews of the churches they will serve.

"If a person can't cry in the sanctuary, then where?" he asked.

I took this advice to heart. Every church I shepherded I made the case to the frugal finance committee for why we needed to order boxes of tissues for the pews.

It was an added cost worth every penny because there was always one person who came through the church doors as a stranger seeking solace who stayed as a sibling who had found healing. And the comment from these solace seekers was always the same: "Pastor, I was grateful for those tissues. I never felt like I could cry like that in church." To which I replied, "If not here, then where?"

For the exiled Israelites it was by the rivers of Babylon where we are told they hung their harps on the willows and proceeded to lament — sobbing a great and heavy collective sob over all that they had lost. They were captives of Babylon. They had lost not just their physical homes, but their spiritual havens as well. They were stripped of their identities and their freedoms.

There are many today in our world in need of a willow to hang their harp on. They need a safe place to crumble to the ground and sob over all that they have lost, be it an actual place of belonging or a sense of purpose.

Perhaps we, ourselves, are finding the Israelites' grief hitting too close to home. Losses are piling on top of losses without anytime to properly grieve or adjust to realities that are strange and unwelcomed.

We are living in a time where we all need to give ourselves — and others — the permission to freely grieve. We need to open wide those floodgates that have been holding back our tears. We need to cry to God in our distress. We need to wail and flail over all the injustices happening to and around us. We are in a place of exile from what we have treasured, and thought would never be taken away from us.

We all need a riverbank where we can sit and grieve. We need a place of refuge where we can let it all out. We need a pew with a box of tissues in it, lovingly placed by a pastor who is ready to shed a tear with us.

Compassionate God who not only hears our cries, but weeps with us, we bring you our tears, asking you to wipe them away and restore to us a sense of renewal and wholeness. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's Sunday Bulletin.)



Prayer Concerns

Prayers for wisdom and trust for father and son Manuel Lomeli and Alex Lomeli, each of whom is dealing with serious heart health issues

Prayers of celebration for Peter & Barbie Reynolds, friends of Lucy Dorenfeld who were released by the Taliban in Afghanistan and are now living in England

Barbara Struthers on the peaceful passing of her beloved dog, Sheba

Jim Litchfield in his extended recovery from back surgery

David Bunce and Steve Schoonmaker, two friends of Lucy Dorenfeld who are both struggling with cancer

Dorothy Collins

Carol Wells in her season of grief

The Family of Adrienne Mazura, friend of Lucy, who succumbed to breast cancer

Bill and Roseann Stenzel

Sarah Hughes as she recovers

Levi Chisholm, continuing slow & steady recovery from drowning accident

Don Inman

Mary Ferrante

Skip Hahn

Nancy Rose, Barbara Struthers' sister

Irene Santos and Family on the sudden passing of her brother

Carmen Ruiz & Fernando Rodriguez, Barbara Struthers' daughter-in-law's parents in Puerto Rico

The People of Ukraine and Leaders of all nations

For youth who feel alienated or without hope

For all whose lives are torn by disasters of human making

For those suffering devastation in the Middle East

***Please let Heather know when there should be changes to the prayer list. We don't want to remove anyone prematurely or omit anyone that should be held in all of our hearts.**

We Pray for Peace

FINLANDIA 11.10.11.10.11.10 ("Be Still, My Soul")

We pray for peace, O God of love and justice,
as once again, we face a time of war.
The meek and humble try — amid the crisis —
to love and build, to nurture and restore.
May leaders hear the truth the prophets teach us —
that gifts of peace are well worth struggling for.

We pray for peace, O Christ who calmed the waters —
who stilled the storm, who stilled disciples' fear.
You spoke with love and with amazing power;
be with us now when trouble is so near.
May leaders see the miracle you offer —
that words and deeds can calm the nations here.

We pray for peace, O Spirit here among us;
your love emboldens, judges and restrains.
Take any hate and acts of impulse from us;
make leaders wise, amid competing claims.
May we seek peace, O God of love and justice;
may love and mercy be our highest aims.

Biblical References: Psalm 34:14; Psalm 85:10; Proverbs 12:20; Isaiah 11:6-8;
Matthew 5:9; Luke 8:22-25; Luke 19:41; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Galatians 5:22-23
Tune: Jean Sibelius, 1899 ("Be Still, My Soul")

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I Dream of a World

Vocal Solo (Medium-High Voice)

Mark A. Miller

Mark A. Miller

With heart and conviction (♩ = 104)

Piano

The piano introduction is in 3/4 time, marked *mp*. It features a treble and bass staff with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody in the treble staff begins with a half note G#4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The bass staff provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines.

6

Measures 6-9 of the piano accompaniment. Measure 6 has a whole rest in the treble staff. Measures 7-9 continue the piano accompaniment with various chords and melodic lines in both staves.

10

Measures 10-13 of the piano accompaniment, corresponding to the first vocal line. The lyrics are: "dream of a world where ev - 'ry - one is wel - come, I love fill our hearts to reach - out in wel - come, and".

14

Measures 14-17 of the piano accompaniment, corresponding to the second vocal line. The lyrics are: "dream of a place we all can call home. I help us to see our neigh - bor once more. Let's".

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18

dream of a world where jus - tice is flow - ing with
 dream of a world where my hand joins your hand, _____

22

hope and peace grow - ing, _____ where love's work is done.
 work - ing to - geth - er, _____ we must make it so.

26

Make it so, make it so! _____ We

31

long for the day, make it so! _____ We

35

dream of a world where peace reigns a - mong us, and

39

love's work is done: may we make it

42

so!

mp

46

May

50

2.

rit.

so!

2.

rit.

431 Let There Be Peace on Earth

Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with

me; let there be peace on earth, the peace that was

meant to be. *With God our cre - a - tor,

chil - dren all are we. Let us

walk with each oth - er in per - fect har - mo - ny.

*Original words: With God as our Father, brothers all are we. Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony.

WORDS: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson

MUSIC: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson; harm. by Charles H. Webb, 1987

WORLD PEACE
Irr.

Let peace be - gin with me; let this be the mo - ment

now. With ev - ery step I take, let

this be my sol - emn vow: to take each mo - ment and

live each mo - ment in peace e - ter - nal - ly.

Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me.