



Peace United Church of Christ
Rev. Tom Williams
January 7, 2018



WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - Meet & Greet

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Leader – Congregation)

Leader: With songs of praise, readings filled with wonder and minds open to new ideas, we gather in worship as a community listening and willing to respond to God's presence...

Congregation: **Unbowed by fear, unmoored by hope, we gather to celebrate a God active, alive and speaking to us.**

Leader: In a new calendar year with resolutions already broken and forgotten, we are a people seeking to renew and rebirth our faith and our commitment...

Congregation: **We gather to listen with courage and with joy for God's word and God's call.**

ALL: Let us worship God.

***OPENING HYMN** #298 (Notebook) "Tell Me the Old, Old Story"

WE WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (unison)

Gracious and Most Merciful God, separated by political belief, race, sexual orientation, and even religion, we live in a world filled with fear and distrust. Enable us to tear down the walls and rebuild community even as we listen and learn from others with whom we disagree, with whom we may find fault. Offer us a courageous faith which dares to enter the conversation that builds community, engenders hope, creates

peace. And, as we continue on this journey, we pray that You continue to call us to be makers of that peace, doers of justice, practitioners of kindness. Hear now our silent prayers of things we have done and things we have failed to do.

***DECLARATION OF PARDON**

Leader: Amen. Let us say what we truly believe.

All: **Our confessions are witness to our belief that as we forgive others, God forgives us and that forgiveness is assured by our faith in God's continuing presence as promised by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus whom we believe to be the Christ. Therefore, we declare and accept God's forgiveness. AMEN.**

***THE GLORIA PATRI** "Glory Be to the Father"

WE SHARE IN GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 1:1-2:4

Mark 1:4-11

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON "Creation, Baptism and the Big Bang!!"

WE JOIN OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER

PRAYER HYMN #225 (Notebook) "Fairest Lord Jesus"

TIME OF PRAYER Pastoral Prayer - Silent Prayer

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*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, for ever and ever. Amen.*

IN THANKFULNESS WE PRESENT OUR OFFERING

PRESENT OUR GIFTS: *We are on the way with you, gracious God. We put our faith in you. Bless our giving and our gifts.*

OFFERTORY

***Offering Response**

Doxology - "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** (unison)

Gracious and Loving God, as stewards of wealth, which has been shared with us, we are grateful for the opportunity to share with this congregation and its ministries. Enable us to use this offering in ways that continue to be responsive to Your call to feed the hungry, lift up the broken hearted, welcome the stranger. And we give thanks that as stewards of these gifts, that call continues to be heard and welcomed in our midst. Amen.

WE CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN #247 (Notebook) "Kum ba Yah"

(Please see the bulletin insert for the Communion Litany)

EVERYONE is welcome to share in this sacrament of love. There are no restrictions on the Lord's Table.

Please hold each element until all are served.

WE ARE SENT FORTH

***CLOSING HYMN** #258 (Notebook)

"Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace"

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

** When you see an * in the bulletin, you are invited to stand in body or in spirit.*