

A blue-tinted photograph of a woman's silhouette on a wet, reflective floor. The woman is standing with her back to the camera, looking slightly to the right. Her reflection is clearly visible in the wet surface. The floor is made of large, light-colored tiles. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

A Wise Reign

WELCOME TO
PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
November 21, 2021

***Please stand in body and/or spirit as you are able.**

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***GATHERING MUSIC** #421 We Gather Together

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: *To the rivers and streams, which supply us with water.*

Many: **We return thanks.**

One: *To the corn, and to her sisters, the beans and squash, which give us life.*

Many: **We return thanks.**

One: *To the moon and the stars, which have given us their light when the sun was gone.*

Many: **We return thanks.**

One: *To the Great Spirit, who made all things and who directs all things for good*

Many: **We return our thanks and praise.**

(adapted from An Iroquois Prayer for Thanksgiving)

***OPENING PRAYER** (in unison)

God of life, we gather today to remember what life can be: recklessly loving, abundantly forgiving, and limitlessly free. Thank you for removing the barriers that would keep us from this life, and for making us new again. Thank you for the way that Jesus lived – closing doors of pain and guilt, and releasing captives. Thank you for the ways in which you still come to us now – stirring love in our hearts and passion in our lives. Amen.

(adapted from a prayer by John van de Laar)

***HYMN** #422 Come, O Thankful People, Come

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PSALTER READING: Psalm 95,
SUNG PSALTER RESPONSE

Page 683-684 New Century Hymnal
#12 I Sing the Mighty Power of God

JOYS AND CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYERS, INTERCESSORY PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

BIBLICAL TESTIMONY: Deuteronomy 26:1-5

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us." When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous."

CONTEMPORARY TESTIMONY: "American Gratitude" by Garrison Keillor
Truly we should be thankful. And we do try to be. But the English language is so rich in terms of complaint and insult and groaning and rather sparse in the Exaltation Dept., so the Lord doesn't get praised as He should. Instead, we bellyache, we kvetch, we get our undies in a bunch. After all, we're descended from people who considered rejoicing to be bad luck: It tempts fate. So they grumbled about the weather, politicians, children, popular music, new cars, anything modern, and complained about their health year after year until they died and went to heaven, where no doubt they are a little edgy even now — nice place, paradise — a little surprised at who else is here, harrumph, harrumph, but never mind — plenty of bliss, no tears and so forth — not sure how long it can last, but we shall see.

SERMON

Gratitude and Grumbling

OFFERING - OFFERTORY / *DOXOLOGY & DEDICATION OF GIFTS

God of Abundance, remind us of your call to use our gifts wisely, to share them openly, to give them generously. We pledge ourselves, time, talent, and treasure. We lift up these offerings as a sign of our gratitude for your love and care. Amen.

*HYMN

#425 For the Fruit of All Creation

BENEDICTION

NURSING CENTER/HOMEBOUND PRAYER LIST:

Deloris Ashburn Clara Ritter

CONCERNS

**Graham Sayers, infant son of Lisa (Henseleit) and Jay Sayers
Family and Friends of Pam Ashburn
Family and Friends of Gerald McNally
Kelli Koepke and Family**

Diann Larson	Ciera Nygren	Bill Rittscher
Clara Ritter	Gene Fields	Jesse Johnson
Dustin Meyer	Eric Heithoff	McCoy Backer
Laura Rutjens	Fr. Pat Niels	Deloris Mozer
Michelle Dittmer	Kandi Hart	Deloris Ashburn
Dave Carstens	Carter Brown	John Johnson
Holli Perez	Theresa Sullivan Meyer	

JOYS

**Birth of Henry David Dahl, son of Eric and Melisa
born on September 19, 2021**

**Birth of Rivers Judy Johnson, daughter of Richard and Cassie
born on August 20, 2021**

////////////////////////////////////
NOTICE:
PEACE CHURCH'S PHONE NUMBER IS NOW 402-500-3412.
 //////////////////////////////////////

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP TIME BEFORE CHURCH. Beginning at
9:30.**

CONFIRMATION will meet following worship today.

**Tilden's New2U has opened a Christmas Store in the the Tilden
Hospital building. (use the south door) It will be open Thursdays &
Fridays from 10:00am to 5:00pm and Saturdays from 10:00 to 1:00.**

DONATIONS FOR GRAHAM SAYERS AND HIS PARENTS, Jay and Lisa (Henseleit) Graham is only 5 months old and is being treated for neuroblastoma (cancer) in Omaha. Donations can be made at Cornerstone Bank, Tilden or via Venmo @lisa_sayers.

An ECUMENICAL COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE will be held tonight, November 21 at 7 PM at the Tilden Library.

Two projects for Christmas are being held during the next several weeks. One is the Angel Tree which can be found at the Tilden Library. The hours are: Monday-Friday (10 a.m.-6 p.m.) and Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. This project started November 16th. Gifts should be taken to the library by December 3rd. If you have questions call Miriam Taylor at 402-841-9669.

The second project is for our church members to donate food items or contribute money to be used for food. The donations will be picked up after Sunday, December 5th. The box in the entrance of the church will be the place to put the items that are given. Cash or checks made out to the church, but designated for the food drive, can be given to Gordy. Try to be generous as all food and paper products will be given to local families.

Pastor Melanie is willing to have an Advent study before church from 9:30-10:15 a.m. She considered three books and the Consistory thought the book, *Advent Conspiracy, Making Christmas Meaningful Again* by Chris Seay, Rick McKinley and Greg Holder, should be used. It also has a DVD. LET PASTOR MELANIE KNOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING SO BOOKS CAN BE ORDERED.

The Peace Church Sunday School Christmas Festival will be held on December 11th at 2:00pm. Afternoon of fellowship, food, refreshments, crafts, games and entertainment. They will be having a Warm Clothing Drive.

PASTOR MELANIE'S OFFICE HOURS are now Sundays 1:30-3:30. Call or text if you'd like to meet with her. She can be reached at (402)841-1450 or (402)500-3412 or revdocmel@gmail.com