

COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE
First Congregational United Church of Christ – Algona, Iowa
4:00pm – September 21, 2025

WELCOME& INTRODUCTION

CALL TO WORSHIP

(by Rev. Amber Neuroth, United Church of Christ Just Peace Ministry)

The barriers feel tall—between people, communities and nations.

Christ tears down the barriers between us.

The barriers feel wide—between heaven and earth.

Christ tears down the barriers between us.

The barriers feel large—on the long path to peace.

Christ tears down the barriers between us.

Let us worship the God of peace and justice. Amen.

*** OPENING HYMN: “Let There Be Peace on Earth”**

Let there be peace on earth,
And let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth,
The peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father,
Family are we;
Let us walk with each other
In perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me;
Let this be the moment now;
With every step I take
Let this be my solemn vow
To take each moment
And live each moment
In peace eternally;
Let there be peace on earth,
And let it begin with me.

OPENING PRAYER

(by Rev. Thom Schumann in *Prayers for Today*, United Church of Canada)

Holy One, Creator and Spirit of Life, we thank you for the gift of this day and this gathering of your people. We have come with our joys and our brokenness. We have come with our certainties and our confusion. We have come with our insignificance and our power. Teach us. Reach us. Nourish us. Then set us forth to walk, to talk, to write, to live your message of peace—in our corner and through all the lands. Amen.

BIBLE READINGS

- **1 Timothy 2:1 – 6. 8**
- **John 14:a,27**

MESSAGE: “The More Things Change ...”

HYMN & OFFERING: “Peace Is Flowing Like a River”

(Proceeds from our offering go to support the work of the Carter Center.)

Peace is flowing like a river,
Flowing out from you and me;
Flowing out into the desert—
Setting all the captives free.

Joy is flowing ...
Love is flowing ...
Alleluia ...

PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS AND PEACE

(by Marist Sisters Center for Concern)

O God of Peace, forgive us for standing back as we witness the chaos in our world. Forgive us for our attitudes of indifference, as we watch the garden of humanity being consumed by weeds of violence, war, hunger, greed and corruption.

Show us, God, how to be better artisans of peace: to resolve conflict through dialogue, to replace weapons of war with acts of kindness and compassion, to respect the human rights of all peoples, to transform fear of our neighbors with trust, to abolish the deepening
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divisions between rich and poor.

O God of Peace, we hold our world in the palm of our hands, Forgive our past failures, and guide us as we promise to work for a world of peace. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
(by the World Council of Churches)

Respond: **Hear our prayer.**

*** CLOSING HYMN: “I’ve Got Peace Like a River”**

I’ve got peace like a river, I’ve got peace like a river
I’ve got peace lie a river in my soul.
I’ve got peace like a river, I’ve got peace like a river
I’ve got peace lie a river in my soul.

I’ve got joy overflowing ...
I’ve got life everlasting ...

*** GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST**



International Day of Peace

