

Service for Peace
September 17, 2023
First Congregational United Church of Christ
315 South Moore Street
Algona, Iowa
515-295-2845

Gathering Music

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: The God of light, calls us here in the midst of darkness and fear, to be a community of peace, love and hope.

Many: We come, aware of God's call to be agents of peace to the world.

One: We come, seeking to follow the One who shows us the ways of peace

Many: Today, we come as a community seeking peace and healing.

Community Song: "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" back of bulletin

Opening Prayer (prayed together)

Gracious God, we come this day seeking courage and hope for the future. Our world is in such peril. Heal these wounds and quiet the words of war. Help us to be those who bring peace in our families and communities. Banish the darkness of doubt and fear; anoint us with your light and love that we may spread the good news of your love and vision for peace to everyone. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Scripture Romans 12:9-21

Response to the Word

One: Now's the time.....

Many: Time to wake from sleep.

One: Time to set aside the hurts of the past.....

Many: Time to see God's shining hope.

One: Time to embrace God's glorious vision.....

Many: Time to put on love as the clothing of life.

One: Now's the time.....

Many: Time to live as God's people of peace!

Meditation: "Actions for Peace"

Prayer of Response (prayed together)

One: Unifying God, thank you for your vision to break through barriers to build peace. Break though again today, disrupting the status quo with a new message preached from your word. Stir in our hearts, so that there might be healing, wholeness and peace. Amen.

Special Offering "Pass It On" Vicki Merchlewitz
(Our offering today will be given to the Carter Center for Peace.)

Closing Prayer (prayed together)

We pray for the power to be gentle; the strength to be forgiving; the patience to be understanding; and the endurance to accept the consequences of holding on to what we believe to be right. May we put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil and the power of love to overcome hatred.

We pray for the vision to see and the faith to believe in a world emancipated from violence, a new world where fear shall no longer lead anyone to commit injustice, nor selfishness make them bring suffering to others.

Help us to devote our whole life and thought and energy to the task of making peace, praying always for the inspiration and the power to fulfill the destiny for which we and all people were created. Amen.

Closing Song: "Let There Be Peace on Earth" back of bulletin

Going Forth in/for Peace

One: Go from this time together prepared to walk away from the darkness into the light. Go into this world confident in Jesus' love and God's eternal presence.

Many: We go to be witnesses for good and a bearer of peace to all we meet. We go in peace! Amen.

The Call to Worship (adapted), Opening Prayer (adapted) and Benediction (adapted) are by Nancy C. Townley, an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church. The Response to the Word (adapted) is by Michael Beu from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023* edited by Mary Scifres & B.J. Beu. The Closing Prayer (adapted) is *A Prayer for World Peace*, 1978, author unknown.

Thank you to Vicki Merchlewitz for our special music today.

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

1. Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Refrain:

Oh Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood, as to understand,
To be loved, as to love with all my soul.

Refrain:

2. Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light,
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

Refrain:

3. Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving of ourselves that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

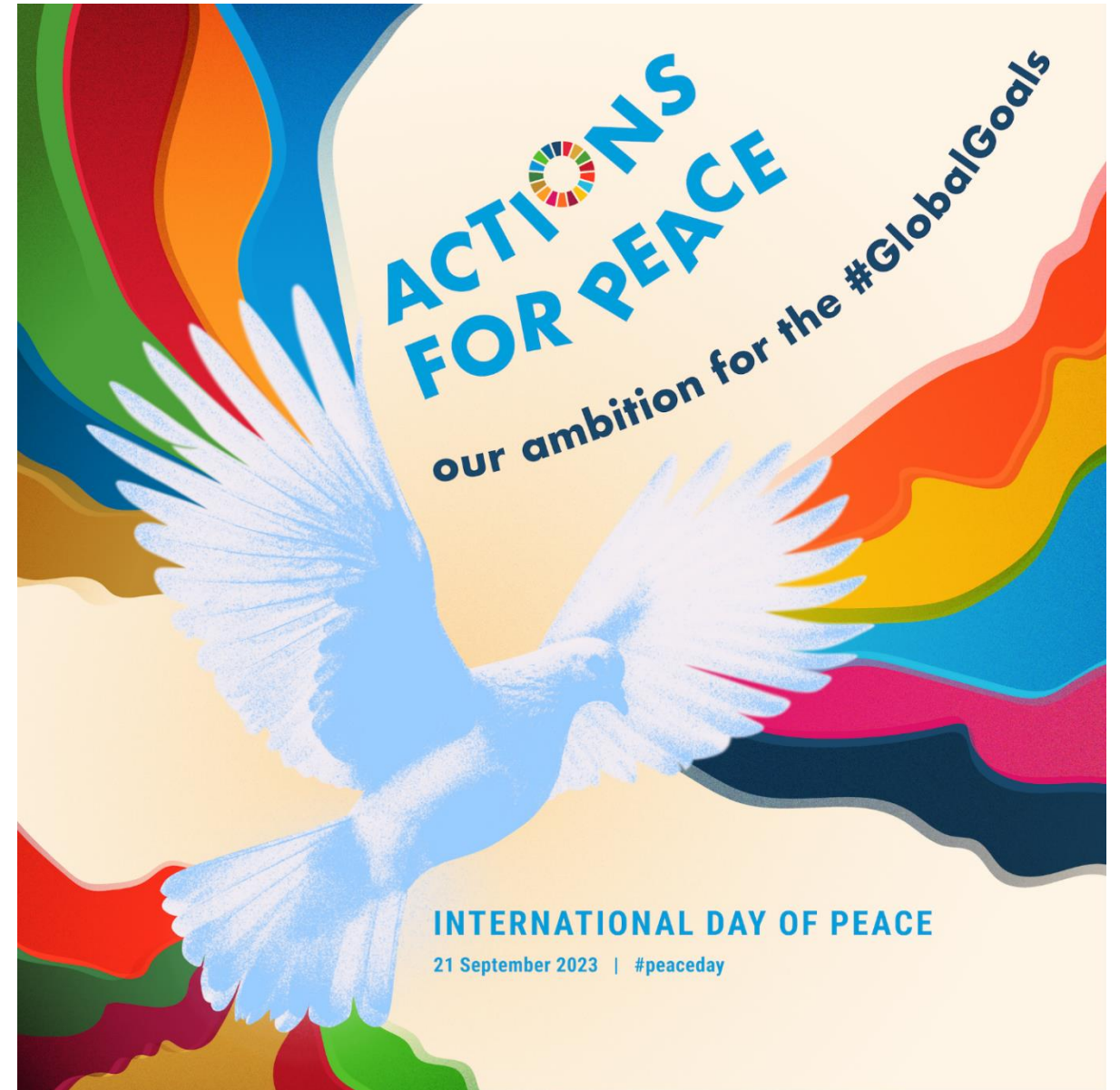
From hymnal: Worship and Rejoice

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 our creator, children all 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.

From hymnal: Worship and Rejoice



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