

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 26th 2025

Portage Lake United Church



Lectionary Year C
Liturgical Colors: Green



Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Psalm 19:14

Welcome and Announcements

We gather in the name of the Holy Trinity, one God, source of all goodness and mercy. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

- The annual meeting of the Congregation/Corporation will be held following worship on February 9, 2025. Agenda items include approving the 2025 budget and new church officers.
- The church rummage sale is Saturday, February 8, from 10 am to 2 pm. Donations of your gently used cast offs are appreciated. Help is needed on Monday, Friday and Saturday during the week of the sale. There is a sign up sheet in the lounge. Bring your donations to the church, preferably on Feb. 2 or 3, but anytime that week before February 7.
- We will continue to take a special offering today for victims of the LA fires. Please make checks out to PLUC. Funds will be sent to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program
- Consistory meeting, Tuesday, January 28 @ 6:00 pm
- Angel Mission needs: Olive and/or canola oil.

Serving This Morning

Presider: Rev. Peter Norland

Musician: Susie Byykkonen

Greeter: Beth Smock

Reader: Elizabeth Middleton

Prayer Writer: Rev. Peter Norland

Children's Church: Olivia Byykkonen

Coffee: Biruta Lowther, Judy Albee

Our flowers today are provided by Rick vonBatchelder in memory of John vonBatchelder



Are there any other announcements?

MEDITATION



We must bring beauty to birth
in a poor and plastic world.
We must restore the human community.
We must grow in concert
with the God who is within.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

PRELUDE

+ Call to Worship (responsive)

We praise you, God, for the diversity of your body,

by God's Spirit, we are one.

From diverse backgrounds and diverse places,

by God's Spirit, we are one.

From diverse cultures and diverse generations,

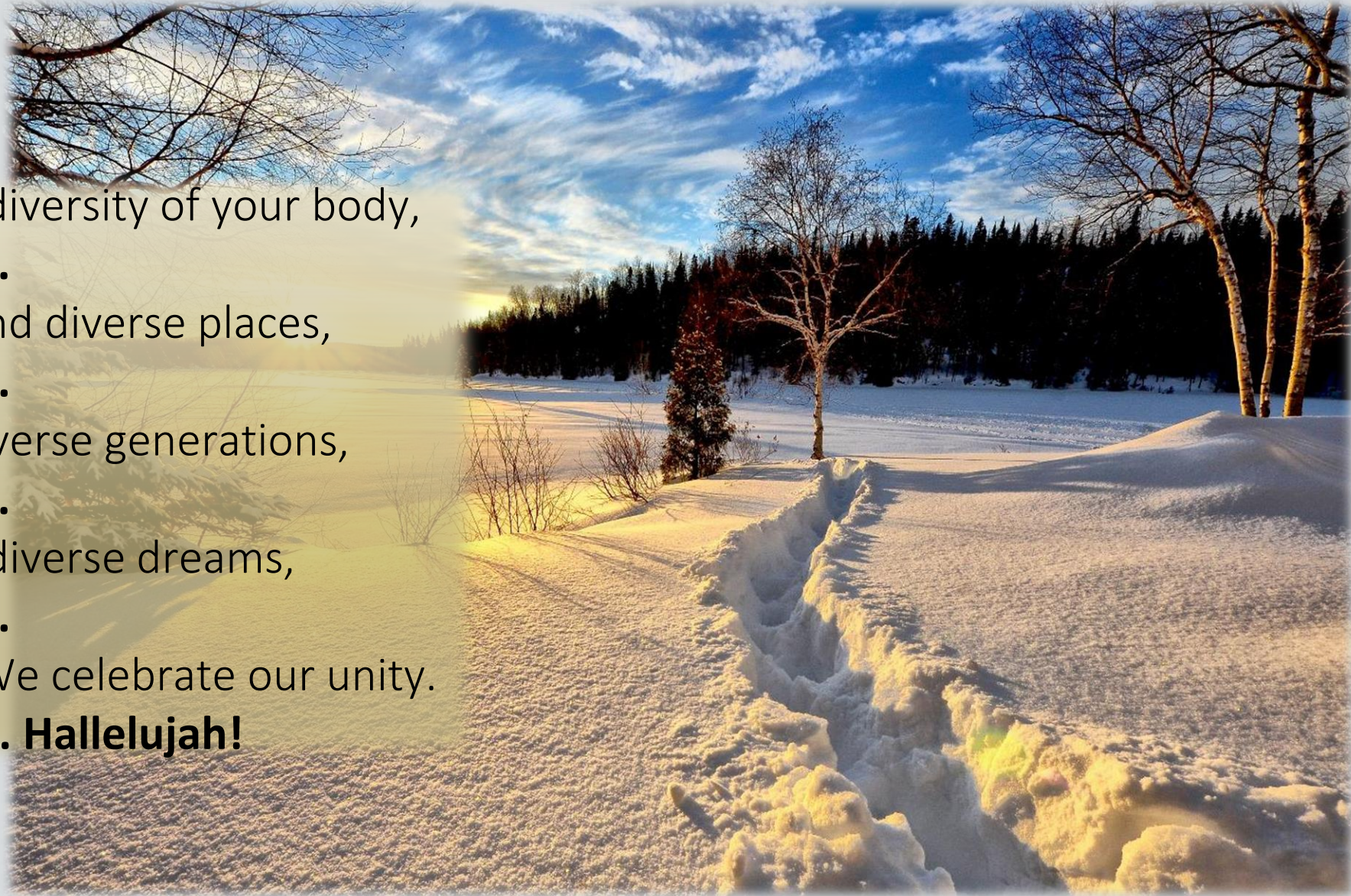
by God's Spirit, we are one.

From diverse questions and diverse dreams,

by God's Spirit, we are one.

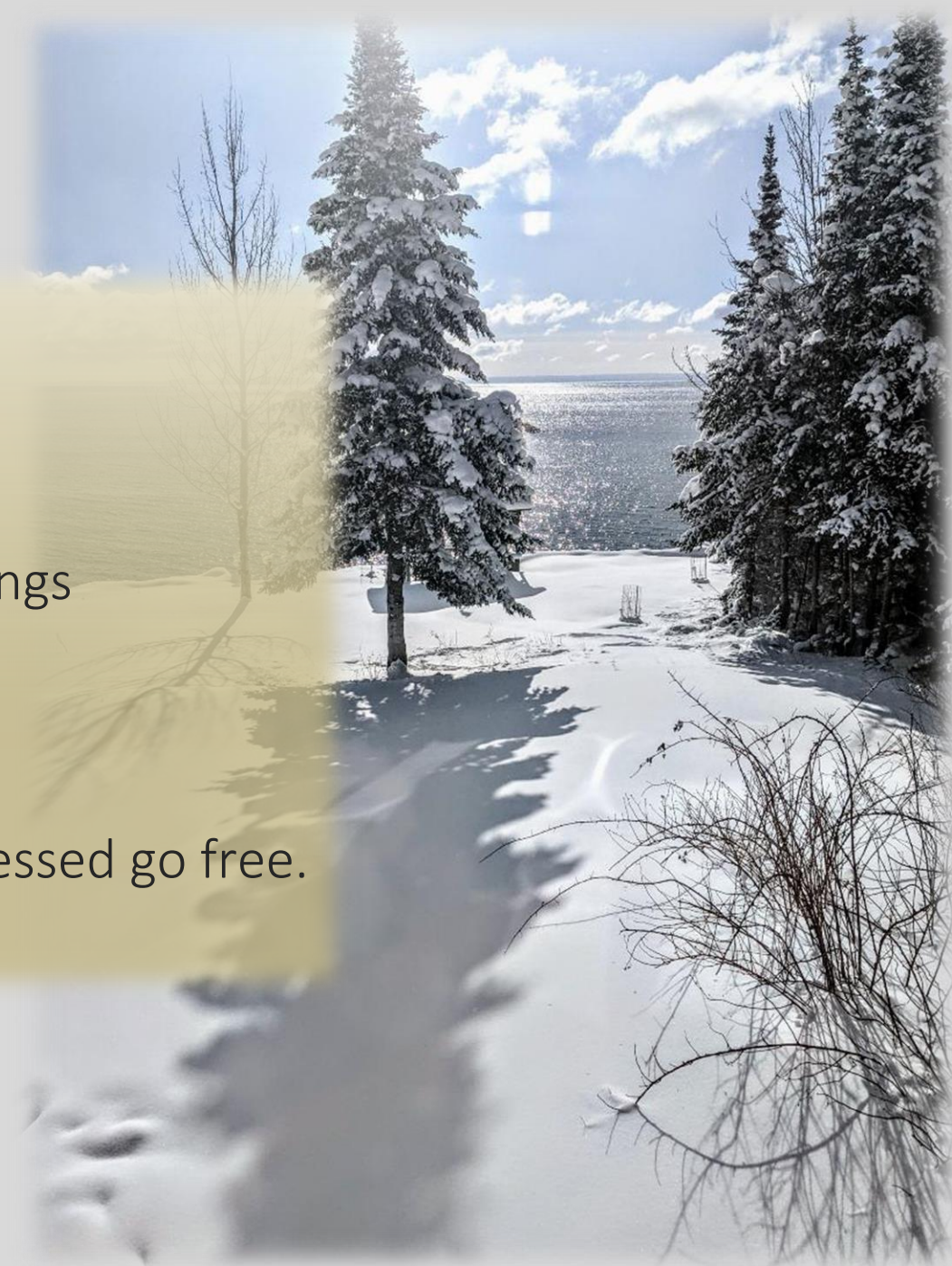
We celebrate our diversity. We celebrate our unity.

By God's Spirit, we are one. Hallelujah!



+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy One,
we thank you for the gift of the Bible,
for its psalms and poems, myths and stories,
histories, teachings, and prophecies.
May the Holy Spirit who called out those ancient writings
continue to call us out today,
that our lives may reflect the first sermon of Jesus,
our crucified and risen Christ,
who brings good news to the poor and lets the oppressed go free.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



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This Is the Day

Ps. 118:24; Luke 24:1-7; Acts 2:1-4

St. 1 paraphr. by Les Garrett, 1967; alt.
St. 2-3, traditional; alt.

Unison

1 This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our
God has made; we will re-joice, we will re-joice and be glad in it, and be

glad in it. This is the day that our God has made, we will re-joice and be
glad in it; This is the day, this is the day that our God has made.

The first stanza of this hymn was written by Leslie Garrett, who was born in New Zealand and served as pastor of a church in western Australia. The other two stanzas are anonymous.

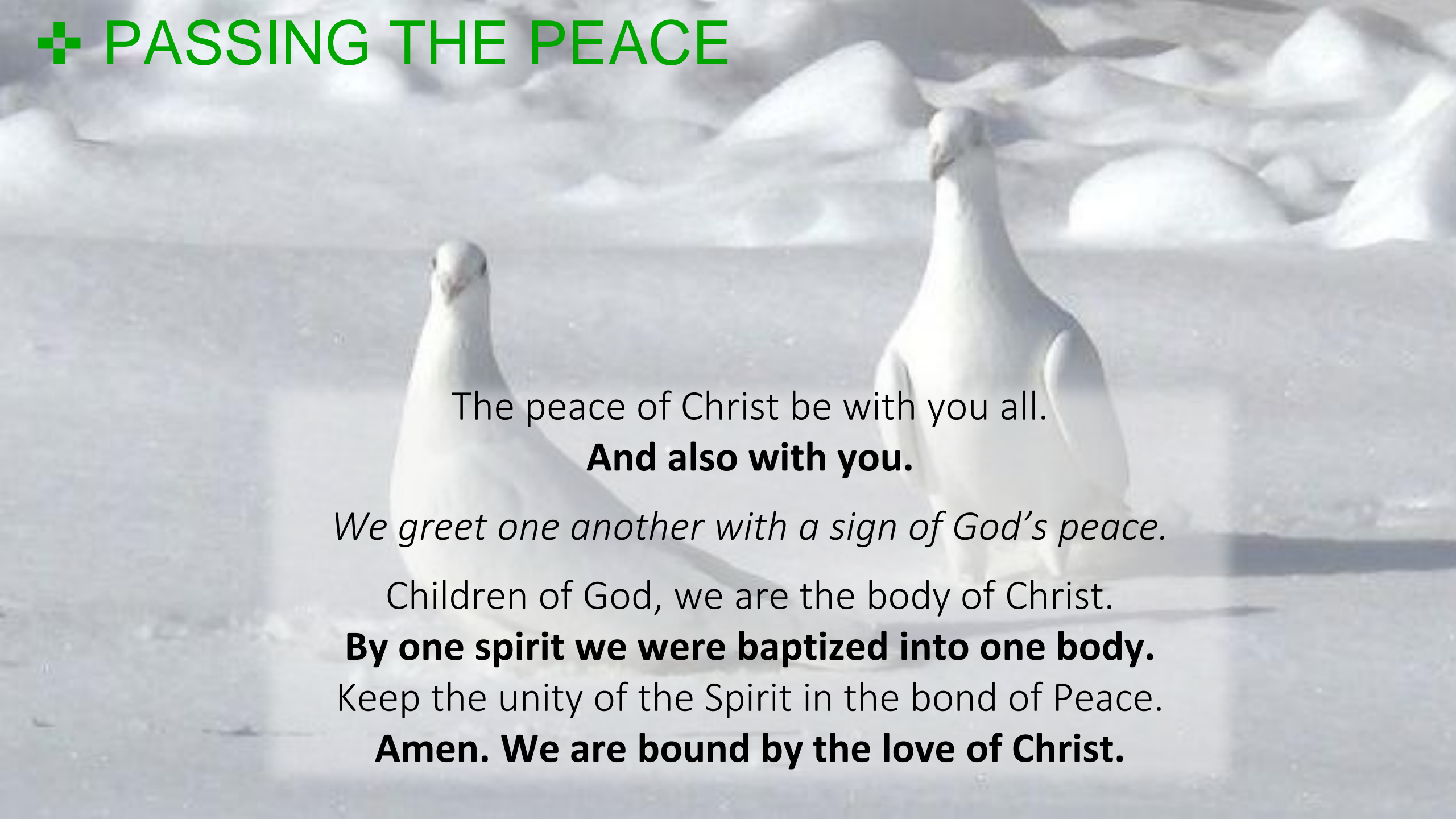
Tune: THIS IS THE DAY Irr.
Les Garrett, 1967

+ Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess
that we have wandered from your light.
We follow paths of self-indulgence,
instead of focusing on our need of you.
We passively accept the suffering of the world,
expecting others to stand up and work
for the change we would like to see.
Lord, in your strength,
renew us and compel us by your invitation
that we may work to pursue
your justice and mercy for all people,
sharing your light in ways great and small.



+ PASSING THE PEACE



The peace of Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

We greet one another with a sign of God's peace.

Children of God, we are the body of Christ.
By one spirit we were baptized into one body.
Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of Peace.
Amen. We are bound by the love of Christ.

WORD

*God speaks to us in
scripture, reading,
preaching and song*



Scroll of Isaiah from Qumran Museum of Israel, Jerusalem

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

1 All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. **2** Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. **3** He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

5 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. **6** Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

8 So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

9 And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. **10** Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."



Possible site of the Water Gate

Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

One Body with Many Members

12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. **13** For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

14 Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. **15** If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. **16** And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. **17** If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? **18** But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. **19** If all were a single member, where would the body be? **20** As it is, there are many members, yet one body. **21** The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” **22** On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, **23** and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; **24** whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, **25** that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. **26** If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a (continued)

27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. **28** And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. **29** Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? **30** Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? **31** But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

**1. In Christ there is no east or west,
In Him no south or north;
But one great fellowship of love
Throughout the whole wide earth.**

**2. In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
Their high communion find;
His service is the golden cord,
Close-binding humankind.**

**3. Join hands, disciples of the faith,
Whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God
Are surely kin to me.**

**4. In Christ now meet both east and west,
In Him meet south and north;
All Christly souls are one in Him
Throughout the whole wide earth.**

MC KEE CM
John Oxenham, 1908; alt.
African-American spiritual
Jubilee Songs, 1884
Adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1940
Text: Reprinted by permission of the
American Tract Society, Garland, Texas.

+ GOSPEL READING Luke 4:14-21

14 Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. **15** He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

16 When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, **17** and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind,

to let the oppressed go free,

19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

20 And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. **21** Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

The Gospel of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Sermon

Suppliciter exoramus ut sicut ec-
clesie tue beatus andreas apo-
stolus extitit predicator et rec-
tor: ita apud te sit pro nobis
perpetuus intercessor. p̄ xp̄m
dm̄m nostrum. Amen.

De omnibus aplis. Ant.

Nos quemq; singulari-
ter omnes precor: pari-
ter ut meis excessibus oretis p̄
omnibus. Amen. V. Annun-
tiant opera dei et facta eius
intelleverunt. Oremus. Oratio.

Graudi nos deus salu-
tans noster et aposto-
lorum tuorum nos tuere presi-



✚ Offering and Prayer of Dedication

God of life and of new life,
bless these gifts that we have given
that they may further your reign in this world.



Christ Preaching in the Temple
ca. 1500 Jan Polack

+ Hymn "Give Thanks" #216 GREEN

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**Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One;
Give thanks because he's given
Jesus Christ, his son.**

(Repeat)

**And now let the weak say,
"we are strong!"
let the poor say, "We are rich
because of what the Lord has done for us!"**

(Repeat)

Give thanks. Give thanks.

Text and music: Henry Smith (b. 1952)

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION



PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

ECUMENICAL

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.



+HYMN “We Are One In the Spirit”

INSERT

**Verse 1 We are one in the Spirit,
we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit,
we are one in the Lord;
and we pray that all unity
may one day be restored:**

**Refrain: And they'll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love; yes,
they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**Verse 2 We will walk with each other;
we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other;
we will walk hand in hand;
and together we'll spread the news
that God is in our land: (Refrain)**

**Verse 3 We will work with each other;
we will work side by side;
We will work with each other;
we will work side by side;
and we'll guard human dignity
and save human pride: (Refrain)**

**Verse 4 All praise to the Father,
from whom all things come;
And all praise be to Christ Jesus,
God's only son,
and all praise to the Spirit,
who makes us one: (Refrain)**

A parish priest at St. Brendan's on the South Side of Chicago in the 1960s was very involved in the local Civil Rights movement and needed something for his youth choir to sing at ecumenical, interracial events. Finding nothing, he wrote this song in a single day.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

CHARGE AND BLESSING

Go into the world and proclaim the good news!

As we go from this place on this day holy to God
we rejoice in the strength of God,
we fix our eyes on the grace of Christ,
and we drink deeply of the Spirit, who makes us one.



Reflection and Postlude

The Old Testament “year of jubilee” to which Jesus refers in his first sermon—what some have called his “mission statement”—was a time set aside every fifty years to forgive financial debt and redistribute the land among the people.

Why do you think God envisioned a year of jubilee, and what might that look like in our world today?

Thanks to

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Visio Divina

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Artwork

Scroll of Isaiah from Qumran Museum of Israel, Jerusalem

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54196>

Possible site of the Water Gate

<http://www.biblicalarchaeologytruth.com/the-water-gate.html>

Christ Preaching in the Temple ca. 1500 Jan Polack

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56079>

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Portage Lake United Church

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Rooted in the Trinity. Growing in God's Word.
Branching out to those in need. Nourished by many waters.

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