

The United Church of Christ of Robesonia

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551

*No matter who you are,
or where you are on life's journey,
you're welcome here.*



*Welcome to our Combined
10:15am Worship Service
In-Person & Streaming Online*



December 4, 2022
Second Sunday in Advent: Peace & Justice
10:15 a.m.

Welcome

*May God's loving presence be very real to you,
and may you receive strength and guidance today
That will enable you to handle life's challenges.*

Children's Bulletins

Crayons and activity bulletins are available in the narthex.
The activities match today's Bible readings and are designed for 3-6 & 7-12 year olds.

Biblias en Español

Biblias Bilingües en Español y Inglés están disponible en el vestíbulo narthex en la mesa de visitantes azul.
(*Bilingual Bibles in Spanish & English are available in the narthex hallway on the blue visitors' table*).

Nursery

Persons of all ages (including children) are very welcome to participate in the entire worship service. For an additional option, we have supervised nursery for 0-8 year olds, located on the first floor.

Junior Worship

On the 2nd and 3rd Sunday of the month, following the mini message, the option of "Junior Worship" is offered downstairs for elementary age children to learn more about today's scripture lessons with fellow youth.

Restrooms

Restrooms are located both on the first and second floors to the left of the elevator.

Changing Tables

All four of our restrooms have changing tables. Each restroom has two "child care protection seats" to keep toddlers safe and secure while their parents use the restroom.

Water Fountains

For the safety of all, our water fountains are disabled during the pandemic.

Sunday School & Adult Faith Formation Classes

Classes for all ages are held at 9:00am.

Sunday Worship

Sunday Worship is held at 10:15am.

Prayer and Care

If you would like to add yourself or someone else to the prayer list, or request a pastoral call, please call or email the church office. You are welcome to take home with you a copy of *Our Daily Bread* daily devotional booklet, located on a table in the narthex hallway.

Looking for a Church to Call Home

If you are looking for a new church family home, we would be happy for you to consider St. Paul's or Zion United Church of Christ. For more information about St. Paul's, Zion, and the UCC, we invite you to talk with our pastors, an usher, a greeter, or any member of our churches.

More Information....

Additional literature about our missions, ministries, and fellowship opportunities is located on the **Blue Visitor Table** in the narthex hallway, or contact us using the contact information on the front page of this bulletin.

Please let us know if we can be in prayer with you or if there is any way in which we can help make your worship experience more meaningful.

*{Symbols used in this bulletin: * = if able please stand; ♪# = Red Hymnal Page; ♫# = Blue Hymnal Page}*



sprucc.org



Free WiFi

Virtual Worship Service

Online: [Live Stream](#) at sprucc.org - Live or Watch & Listen Later on [St. Paul's UCC YouTube Channel](#)
[Facebook Live](#) (St. Paul's) at <https://www.facebook.com/www.sprucc.org/> - Live or Watch & Listen Later
[Phone Stream](#) at 1-888-649-5770 - Live or Listen Later

If you have any access problems, please let us know at 610-621-5770 or Office@sprucc.org

We Gather

*We are coming together as a community of faith to worship our God,
and provide for one another our love, support, and care.*

*Please Do Not move the red ribbons or sit where they are placed.
They are there for your safety and the safety of those around you to help designate social distancing.*

A TIME OF GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*{If you have not already done so,
please sign and pass the pew welcome pad
to the person next to you}*

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP® (Unison)

God of peace and justice, there are wrongs in this world which we did not commit. Is it too late for us to try to right the wrongs? Think good trees removed. Think waterways spoiled. Think natives pushed off their land into reservations in indecent living conditions, lacking comfort, necessities, education. What can we do, God of peace and justice? Help us to do little and big things to change the course for our sisters and brothers who were and are being treated wrongly. In the name of Jesus who said, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Amen.

PIANO PRELUDE *"Hark, the Glad Sound"* the tune "Chesterfield" arr. for piano by
Franklin Ritter

{Those who are able, please rise

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** *"For the Healing of the Nations"*

W&R #621

One License #A-714101

Reprinted at the back of the bulletin on colored paper

*INVOCATION

Leader: In the name of God the Father, and of God the Son, and of God the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP - from Psalm 1

Leader: Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,

People: or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers

Leader: but their delight is in the law of the Lord,

People: and on his law they meditate day and night.

Leader: They are like streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.

People: In all that they do, they prosper.

We Repent

This is a time to confess our wrongdoings and neglects, ask for God's mercy, admit our need for God's forgiving grace, hear the assurance of our forgiveness, and then give God our thanks and praise.

*CALL TO CONFESSION (Leader) ⑩

God of love and protection and forgiveness, hear now our confession of sins which separate us from you.

*CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

O Lord, our God, even if we did not start the injustices, even if we glorified the myths, it is time to think and work the other way. Help us to right the wrongs, to think what we have and what other people lack. Help us to realize that the natives, who had lived freely where we live, have gifts and talents to share. They need the freedom and respect and love to be all that they can be. And yet, they are held captive in ways beyond belief. Help us to right the wrongs. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

{A time to silently offer our personal prayers of confession}

*SUNG PRAYER FOR MERCY

“Kyrie”

*Red #518
Public Domain*

Leader: (Spoken) Lord, have mercy upon us.
People: (Sung) Lord, have mercy upon us.
Leader: (Spoken) Christ, have mercy upon us.
People: (Sung) Christ, have mercy upon us.
Leader: (Spoken) Lord, have mercy upon us.
People: (Sung) Lord, have mercy upon us.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Leader)

We are forgiven for the moment. The time is now to act on the forgiveness which has just been bestowed upon us. “What can we do?” we ask ourselves. Now we ask God, “How shall we get started to right the wrongs? What will bring righteousness to our land? What will bring peace and justice?”

*CALL TO PRAISE ⑩

Leader: May we be filled with the Holy Spirit.

People: May we continually gather and sing praise to God.

*SUNG PRAISE *“I’ve Got Peace Like a River”*

Master Chorus Book #130
*Spiritual – arr. by Lyndell Leatherman
One license #A-714101*

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

(Please be seated)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE FOR PEACE - from Psalm 85

“Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.”

We light the candle of peace while we sing:

**Light one candle for peace, one bright candle for peace.
God brings peace to every heart, He comes! He comes!**

**Light one candle for peace, one bright candle for peace.
God brings peace to every heart, He comes! He comes!**

We Hear the Word of God

We seek to learn more about God's love and grace, and how we are to live our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ. The Bible is our primary text on faith, which we consider to be scripture - sacred writings. We believe the Bible to be the "inspired word of God." Gospel (which means "Good News") refers to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, which are Christians' most central books of the Bible.

Proclamation of Scripture

First Lesson: [Isaiah 11:1-10](#)

Second Lesson: [Romans 15:4-13](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON: [Matthew 3:1-12](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

“Let Justice Flow Like Streams”

NCH #588

One License #A-714101

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MINI-MESSAGE

*{Children may return to their pews and remain for the rest of worship,
or 0-8 year olds may go downstairs to nursery,
or on the 2nd & 3rd Sundays of the month, elementary age children may go downstairs at this time
for the additional option of “Junior Worship”}*

CONGREGATION SINGS

“Jesus Loves the Little Children”

Adapted Words of

Traditional Chorus

**Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world.
Shy and quiet, glad and bright,
They are treasures in his sight.
Jesus blesses all the children of the world.**

We Respond with Thanks

*We have heard God's call and have come and worshiped,
we have confessed our sins and been assured of our forgiveness, we have
learned more about God's grace and God's will. We now respond by
re-affirming our faith in God,
praying with and for one another, trusting in God's providence in our world, and
giving of ourselves for the sake of the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ.*

(Those who are able, please rise)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - from the UCC Statement of Faith (Section Five: The Promise)**
**You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and
rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end. Blessing and
honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.**

(Please be seated)

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: God, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER *(Unison)*

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 forever. Amen.**

PRAYER RESPONSE

"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"

**Hear our prayer, O Lord. Hear our prayer, O Lord.
Hear our prayer, O Lord, and grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

Blue #501
George Whelpton
Public Domain

OFFERTORY INVITATION ⑩

Leader: We invite God to bless our tithes and offerings.

People: Yes, the gifts we bring willingly.

Leader: The gifts we bring to increase the kingdom of God on earth.

People: Have we given enough?

Leader: Have we kept enough?

People: We depend on the Holy Spirit to guide us in our giving.

OFFERTORY

CHORAL OFFERTORY “O Day of Peace” the tune “Jerusalem” by Hubert H. Parry

{Those who are able, please rise}

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE “We Give Thee But Thine Own”

W&R #688
Public Domain
How/Foley

**We give thee but thine own whate’er the gift may be.
All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.**

*{As we share in hybrid worship, there is no passing of the plate in person.
A plate is placed in the rear of the sanctuary for offerings to be placed
when arriving or departing from the sanctuary.*

*Whether worshiping in person or online,
the safest way to offer your tithe and offering to God through his church
is through St. Paul’s UCC secure [Online Giving](#) option on our website at [sprucc.org](#). [St. Paul’s UCC Click Here](#)
Offerings may also be mailed to St. Paul’s UCC; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551
or Zion UCC; PO Box 97; Womelsdorf, PA 19567}.*

*OFFERTORY PRAYER (Leader) ⑩

Thank you for your provision and for our stewardship of your provision. Guide us!
Inspire us to give our first-fruits – from the top. Help us to watch what happens to our
thinking and our living. We pray in the name of Jesus who loves us without measure.
All: Amen.

We Are Sent Out

*In response to God’s love and grace,
we go out into the world to share God’s Good News
through our words and actions.*

*COMMISSION ⑩

Leader: Are we untouched by what we have heard?

People: Let us not be untouched by the plight of our sisters and brothers.

Leader: Can we accept the responsibility to show that we care?

People: How can we start?

Leader: Tell Pastor Mary Etta that you are interested.

People: We will see what God can do with our interest.

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

Red #558
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*SENDING HYMN “Let There Be Peace On Earth”

W&R #614
One License #A-714101

*Reprinted at the back of the bulletin on colored paper.
{During the hymn, today’s Greeters & Ushers may return to the rear of the sanctuary,
to help greet after worship.}*

*{Acolyte carries the light back into the world, leading us,
as we now go to carry God’s light and love back into the world.}*

POSTLUDE

7 TIME OF FELLOWSHIP



The Flow of the Worship Service

Our worship service has an intentional order to it. The flow of worship is called the liturgical movement. The movement reminds us weekly of our journey in faith of moving from being separated from God by sin, to being restored by God's grace as disciples of Christ. It is based on the sixth chapter of the Biblical book of Isaiah.

- (1) God welcomes us and invites us
- (2) We respond to God's call by worshiping Him
- (3) We confess our need for God's forgiveness and grace
- (4) We are assured of God's forgiveness and grace
- (5) We learn more about God's will through scripture, song, and sermon
- (6) We grow closer to God and one another through prayer
- (7) We give God thanks by offering our time, talent, and treasure
- (8) God sends us into the world to share His love and grace with others



Worship Service Resource Credits

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- Ⓢ *Gathered By Love* by Lavon Baylor. (1994). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
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- Ⓢ *Lecturn Resource*. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.
- Ⓢ Edmonds, Robert Lee (Editor). (2008). *In Our Own Way; Living a Scouting Life Through Faith; A Handbook of Prayer and Devotion*. Dallas, TX: Red Honor Press
- Ⓢ Reprinted with Permission from *Lecturn Resource*. 2014. Logos Productions, Inc., Inver Grove Heights, MN.
- Ⓢ Miller, Earl D. (1994). *Consecrating Stewards*. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
- Ⓢ The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz
- Ⓢ The Rev. Mary Etta Mest
- Ⓢ *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).

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www.SPRUCC.org

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 Consistory Vice President: Elsa Wertz
 Consistory Secretary:
 Treasurer: Terry Pastor
 Acting Financial Secretary: Terry Pastor

Zion United Church of Christ

PO Box 97; Womelsdorf, PA 19567

www.IZion.org

Consistory President: George McLain
 Consistory Vice President: Cory Putt
 Treasurer: George McLain 717-628-1875 or
 610-507-7865
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Free WiFi: StPaulsUCC-Guest & StPaulsUCC-5G-Guest

Password (for both): iamheretoserve

Link to Website's **Upcoming Events**



About Today

Church Season: Advent – is a season of preparation for the coming of Christ: (1) the second coming of Christ; (2) the preparation for the anniversary of Jesus’ birth on Christmas; and (3) the reminder to be daily aware of Christ’s presence for the Kingdom of God is near.

Color of the Paraments (cloths on the altar and pulpit):

Blue – symbolizes the hope found in the anticipated coming of Christ

Violet – symbolizes royalty and penitent preparation for Christ our King, who offers forgiveness

Rose/Pink – symbolizes joy, as expressed by Jesus’ mother Mary

The suggested scripture lessons are from the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), which selects passages throughout the Bible over a three year cycle. The RCL is the most common lectionary used by Christian churches. We are in **Year A**, which emphasizes the Gospel of Matthew.

The Bible is in two sections: Old Testament - OT (scripture prior to Christ’s birth), located in the first 2/3 of the Bible; and New Testament - NT (about Christ & early church).

This Sunday, December 4, 2022 -- Lectionary Reading for the 2nd Sunday in Advent:

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalm 1

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

Justice & Peace

Isaiah

The book of Isaiah (OT) is attributed to three prophets. The first of whom is from where the book gets its name, and is about Isaiah’s call to become a prophet and his prophecy that Jerusalem will face God’s judgement regarding its immorality in order to be God’s Holy City (chaps. 1-39, written 738-688 B.C.), the second is about living in exile in Babylon (chaps. 40-55, written 597-539 B.C.), and the third is about the return from exile to Judah and the rebuilding of the Temple (chaps. 56-66, written 520-515 B.C.). A prophet is one who is divinely appointed by God to lead and instruct.

Psalm 1

This OT song, gives praise to God’s law, and proclaims the blessings of following God’s law.

The Letter of Paul to the Romans

This epistle (letter) is addressed “to all God’s beloved in Rome.” It was dictated by the Apostle Paul to Tertius in 58 A.D. in Corinth and delivered to Rome by Phoebe (she was appointed by Paul as a deacon, teacher, and leader of the church). Paul was a Christian, Jew, Pharisee, Roman citizen, and church leader, who had a direct encounter with Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus after Jesus’ ascension into heaven. Paul, a highly educated man, wrote more of the NT than any other person.

The Gospel According to Matthew

Matthew’s Gospel was written around 80-90 A.D. in Antioch, Syria by a Greek-speaking Jewish Christian. The first writing was probably by a Christian scribe who wrote in the name of Matthew. Matthew was a disciple who knew Jesus personally.

Next Sunday, December 11, 2022 -- Lectionary Reading for the 3rd Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10

James 5:7-10

Matthew 1:18-25

UNITED
CHURCH
OF CHRIST**Communitas**
PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE1441 Laura Lane, Suite 100, Pottstown, PA 19464
484-949-8374

December 4, 2022

UCC Coloring Books for Young and Old

Looking for something new for members?

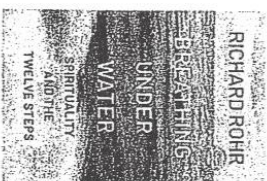
Christmas Coloring Books make ideal Christmas gifts for kids and adults alike. Five themes available: *The Light Shines in the Darkness*, *Shepherding the Light, God's Love Colors Everything*, *The Light Is Surely Coming*, and *For Such a Time as This*. Order at uccresources.com, search coloring books.



Book Study: "Breathing Under Water"

Breathing Underwater by Richard Rohr study starts Tuesday January 10 at 7:30 to 8:30 by zoom. The number of sessions will be determined by the group. Who should attend: Anyone interested in learning more about spiritual healing for themselves and others.

Breathing Under Water by Richard Rohr is a written within the framework of the 12 steps for those experiencing addiction. But this book is so much more. Rohr goes through the steps weaving biblical passages into the fabric of the steps in such a way that every one of us can benefit from the spiritual journey he takes us on. This book will broaden your understanding of the deeply spiritual healing that takes place in recovery as well as the deeply spiritual healing we all need.



Note: Participants will need to purchase book themselves before the first session.

Go to psec.org and click January 10th on the calendar (under the Event & News tab) for more

News from the Keystone Study Group

Communications Team

Steve Davis	St. John's UCC, Fullerton (Penn NE)
Sterling Fritz	Redeemer's UCC, Littlestown (PCC UCC)
Robin Hightower	Peace in Zion UCC, Zieglerville (Penn SE)
Deb Long	First Trinity UCC, Youngwood (PWC)

On Friday, November 11, 2022, the second gathering of the Keystone Study Group (a study and discernment group of the 4 PA UCC Conferences – Penn West, Penn Central, Penn NE, Pennsylvania SE) continued to build our understanding and framing around the possibility of coming together for the work of mission and ministry as one (1) Pennsylvania conference. Over the last several months, using resources provided by all 4 conferences, initial conversations have occurred to explore what new thing God may be calling together in our area.

We spent much of our time identifying a vision for healthy congregations, the supports needed from the conference, and the potential roadblocks to moving forward together. As churches and leaders across many denominations discern the changing landscape of "doing church" and how we can "Be the Church" in new and life-giving ways, we are exploring what we, as conferences, could do to help local congregations and pastors experience deeper connections and provide support for vitality. We are identifying the challenges of navigating through uncertain times and new ways of intergenerational connections to our present and future communities with the message of hope our faith, experience and tradition has to offer. Together, the study group will be asking the significant questions to strengthen the connection between pastors and local congregations and larger conference networks of the PA UCC conferences to share support, resources, experiences, training and equipping and offer hope.

We welcome and appreciate your prayers as this body of leaders from the 4 PA UCC Conferences study and explore together, gaining valuable information from you and melding the ways we work together to imagine and see the possibilities God is bringing to us. We hold all these things in sacred trust of our shared covenantal relationships.

Respectfully submitted,
Keystone Project Communications Team

For the Healing of the Nations 621

B \flat $\frac{B\flat}{D}$ B \flat $\frac{B\flat}{F}$ $\frac{F}{E\flat}$ $\frac{B\flat}{D}$ E \flat $\frac{B\flat}{D}$ Gm $\frac{F}{A}$ F7 B \flat

1 For the heal-ing of the na-tions, Lord, we pray with one ac-cord,
 2 Lead your peo-ple in - to free-dom, from de-spair your world re-lease,
 3 All that kills a - bun-dant liv-ing, let it from the earth be banned:
 4 You, Cre - a - tor-God, have writ-ten your great name on hu-man-kind;

B \flat $\frac{B\flat}{F}$ $\frac{B\flat}{D}$ B \flat $\frac{Adim}{C}$ $\frac{Gm}{D}$ D Gm D $\frac{Gm}{B\flat}$ Gm $\frac{F}{C}$ C7 F

for a just and e - qual shar-ing of the things that earth af-fords.
 that, re-deemed from war and ha - tred, all may come and go in peace.
 pride of sta - tus, race, or school-ing, dog-mas that ob - scure your plan.
 for our grow - ing in your like-ness, bring the life of Christ to mind;

F B \flat B \flat 9 E \flat Cm Dm $\frac{Cm}{E\flat}$ Gm F sus F7 B \flat

To a life of love in ac-tion help us rise and pledge our word.
 Show us how, through care and good-ness, fear will die and hope in-crease.
 In our com-mon quest for jus-tice may we hal-low life's brief span.
 that by our re-sponse and serv-ice earth its des-ti-ny may find.

WORDS: Fred Kaan (1929-)
 MUSIC: Henry T. Smart (1813-1879)
 Words © 1968 Hope Publishing Company

REGENT SQUARE
 8.7.8.7.8.7.

Let Justice Flow like Streams

588

Jane Parker Huber, 1984

Amos 5:14-15, 24; 7:7-8

1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spark - ling wa - ter, pure,
 2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,
 3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,

En - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure.
 An ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.
 And jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

This is one of two hymns Jane Parker Huber wrote for special events emphasizing economic justice for women at the time of the reunification of two Presbyterian denominations in 1983. The text's brevity underscores the urgency of Amos' pronouncements against injustice.

Tune: ST. THOMAS S.M.
 Aaron Williams' New Universal Psalmist, 1770

614 Let There Be Peace on Earth

C Am Dm7 G7 C F C G7sus G7
 Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me;

C B7 Em/B B7 Em B7/D# G7/D G7
 let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.

WORDS: Sy Miller (1908-1971) and Jill Jackson (1913-1995), alt.
 MUSIC: Sy Miller (1908-1971) and Jill Jackson (1913-1995); harm. Charles H. Webb (1933-)

Words and Music © 1955, Ren. 1983 Jan-Lee Music

G7 Am Am6 Em C7 F $\frac{Em}{G}$ G7 C

With God our cre - a - tor, chil - dren all are we.

Am7 D7 G Am7 D7 G G7

Let us walk with each oth - er in per - fect har - mo - ny.

C Am Dm7 G7 C F C G7sus G7

Let peace be - gin with me; let this be the mo - ment now.

C B7 $\frac{Em}{B}$ B7 Em $\frac{B}{D\#}$ $\frac{G7}{D}$ G7

With ev - ery step I take, let this be my sol - emn vow:

G7 C C+ F D7 Fm6

to take each mo - ment and live each mo - ment in peace e - ter - nal - ly.

$\frac{C}{E}$ E7 F C F Dm7 G7 $\frac{Dm7}{G}$ C

Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me.