



Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ

4704 13th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20011

Sunday, October 26, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds
Interim Minister

"This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Love God and Love Neighbor

ENTER TO WORSHIP...

The Order of the Word
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Children's Sabbath
Sunday, October 26, 2025
The Liturgical Color is Green

Centering Thought

"We Pray for Children," a poem by Ina Hughes [last page of OOS]

Prelude

****Opening Hymn**

No. 617 AAHH Carey Bonner

Praise Him, All Ye Little Children

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

**Land Acknowledgment and
Nature of the Occasion**

Deacon Michèle Bonhomme

****Call to Worship**

Dr. Helga Baskett-Tippett

Leader: Today, we join with the Children's Defense Fund and faith communities across the country to observe the Children's Sabbath Celebration and to engage in the work of building a Beloved Community. Brick by brick, we will do the good work God has already prepared for us. Our call to worship is also a call to action. Will you join me in making a holy commitment to take action and to envision what Beloved Community can look like?

People: We make a holy commitment to take action so children flourish. We will mobilize our communities for concrete steps, such as advocating for universal health care, quality education, and nutritious school meals for every child.

Leader: The Beloved Community is a place where every child is loved, valued, seen, and protected, and given a deep sense of belonging.

People: It is a fortified place, as wide and long as the earth, where all God's children flourish here and now.

Leader: Imagine what we can build together, a place where our hands join with God's hands, a place which no discriminatory policy or unjust action can tear apart.

People: We commit to imagining and to working together for our children and for the next generation—a place where justice, equity, hope, and love abound.

Leader: Beloved, we can do this, for we are God's masterpieces, created to do good works God has already prepared.

People: We put our hands to this good work. Children are an inheritance from our Mighty God, and they, too, are God's masterpieces.

All: Holy God, as we enter Your gates, we worship that we might be filled with Your Spirit and be renewed in our commitment to do justice, to work together, and to build up a new world for the sake of our children. The Beloved Community. Amen and Asé.

**** Invocation and Savior's Prayer**

Deacon Michèle Bonhomme

Holy God, as we gather in this sacred space, we welcome Your presence. We come as Your children, created for the good works You call us to do. Today, we come ready to do the good work, even when it is hard work. Search our hearts and teach us to do right, to seek justice, and to advocate for those whose lives hang in the balance and on the margins.

Mighty and Majestic God, make us of one accord—not only for our sakes but for the sake of the children in our churches and communities. You have entrusted them to us. As we observe Children's Sabbath weekend, remind us that You have already equipped us. Because we are Your masterpieces, we bring ourselves as a canvas. Give us instruction and make it plain so we can call out injustice and, without fear, color outside the lines toward a fair and just world. Sovereign Builder, You have assigned to our hands the work of building Beloved Community. Strengthen our hands and grant us tools, wisdom, and courage for this holy assignment.

In Your sovereignty, spark our imagination and curiosity. Enliven us as co-laborers who envision adults and children from all backgrounds and faith expressions building a world where children abound in faith, hope, and joy. Master Builder, breathe on this worship, breathe on what we have prepared, and breathe on us.

Help us to dream again. Give us vision and vibrant ideas that bring joyful, life-giving change. Align our plans with Your plans. Saturate our hearts with what pleases You, and let what breaks Your heart break ours. For every child here, every child within our reach, and every child who depends on us to create places to play, learn, sing, and flourish—breathe new life today.

As we lift songs, embrace our call to action, and follow Your blueprint, breathe on us. Breathe on children whose well-being is harmed by unjust policies and laws. As You put words of justice in the mouths of the prophets, put them in ours. This work is not

easy, but justice rarely is. Disturb our comfort with doing nothing and make us uncomfortable with the injustices beyond this threshold. This weekend, we make a holy commitment to build the Beloved Community. Breathe on us as we listen for You in hymn and harmony, in prayer and proclamation, in the voices of our children, and in the preaching of Your word. Hear our prayer, O God. Move among us and help us build and fortify the Beloved Community.

Together, as one body, we lift our voices in prayer, as Jesus taught us: 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, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 11:6

Miles Murrain

Ephesians 2:10

Bobby Edwards

****Gloria Patria**

Saint Hilary of Poitiers

Glory be to the Father and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost as it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen

Family Community Agencies

Georgia Avenue Family Support Collaborative
Sasha Bruce Youthworks

Song of Preparation

Traditional

When We Gather at the Heavenly City How Happy We Shall Be
Mercy Akai, Soloist

Sermon

Rev. Y. Trevor Beauford,
Children's Defense Fund
Senior Organizing Manager

"For the Sake of the Children"

Invitation to Discipleship

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

Prayers of the People

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds

Offertory

Dr. Helga Baskett-Tippett

Musical Selection

Kirk Franklin

The Reason Why We Sing

Offertory Prayer

Dr. Helga Baskett-Tippett

**** Doxology**

Thomas Ken

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

****Closing Hymn**

No.402 AAHH Mary Gardner/Thomas Dorsey

Walking Up the King's Highway

****Benediction**

Rev. Y. Trevor Beauford

Postlude

Anna B. Warner/William B. Bradbury

Jesus Loves Me

...DEPART TO SERVE

Dr. Robert L. Jefferson, Director of Worship and Peoples Congregational Choir
Minister Diedre D. Gray, Assistant Director of Worship and Peoples Praise

Minister Geneva Hudson, Minister of Congregational Care
Minister Francis Smith, Minister of Community Engagement

*AAHH - African American Heritage Hymnal

**All who are able, please stand

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We Pray for Children

by Ina Hughes

We pray for children

who sneak popsicles before supper,
who erase holes in math workbooks,
who can never find their shoes.

And we pray for those

who stare at photographers from behind barbed wire,
who can't bound down the street in a new pair of sneakers,
who never "counted potatoes,"
who are born in places where we wouldn't be caught dead,
who never go to the circus,
who live in an X-rated world.

We pray for children

who bring us sticky kisses and fistfuls of dandelions,
who sleep with the cat and bury goldfish,
who hug us in a hurry and forget their lunch money,
who squeezes toothpaste all over the sink,
who slurp their soup.

And we pray for those

who never get dessert,
who have no safe blanket to drag behind them,
who watch their parents watch them die,
who can't find any bread to steal,
who don't have any rooms to clean up,
whose pictures aren't on anybody's dresser,
whose monsters are real.

We pray for children

who spend all their allowance before Tuesday,
who throw tantrums in the grocery store and pick at their food,
who like ghost stories,
who shove dirty clothes under the bed, and never rinse out the tub,
who get visits from the tooth fairy,
who don't like to be kissed in front of the carpool,
who squirm in church or temple and scream in the phone,
whose tears we sometimes laugh at and whose smiles can make us cry.

And we pray for those

whose nightmares come in the daytime,
who will eat anything,
who have never seen a dentist,
who aren't spoiled by anybody,
who go to bed hungry and cry themselves to sleep,
who live and move but have no being.

We pray for children

who want to be carried
and for those who must,
for those we never give up on
and for those who don't get a second chance.
For those we smother... and for those who will grab the hand of anybody
kind enough to offer it.

We pray for children. Amen



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CONGREGATIONAL
United Church of Christ