

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

propeace.org

on-line worship: [YouTube.com@princeofpeacesaratoga](https://www.youtube.com/@princeofpeacesaratoga)



August 10, 2025

Holy Disruptors – Desmond Tutu

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Welcome to Prince of Peace! As we begin worship, we hope and pray that it will be a time of connection with God and with others, so that we can leave this service ready to love and serve our neighbors.

Bold type indicates everyone's response.

Gathering

Prelude *Variations on "Praise, My Soul, The King of Heaven"*
(*Lauda anima, J. Goss*) Christa Rakich

Welcome

*Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: We begin our worship in the name of the One who creates, The One who liberates, and the One who inspires us to be who we were made to be.

C: Our faith has challenged us to make good trouble, to make this world a better place.

P: In every generation around the world, there arise powers that seek to dominate and oppress for their own gain. In every generation the faithful are called to rise up and name this oppression.

C: Our faith has challenged us to make good trouble, to make this world a better place.

P: To be a Holy Disruptor is to take up your cross and follow Jesus. Faithfully, we divest our hearts, minds, and actions from the way that harm... and invest our hearts, minds, and actions in the Way that brings life, healing, and wholeness.

C: Our faith has challenged us to make good trouble, to make this world a better place.

P: Today we walk alongside Bishop Desmond Tutu, who did the hard work of reconciliation and forgiveness in South Africa after apartheid.

C: Amen! Come, Holy Spirit, transform our hearts!

Today we focus on Desmond Tutu. Tutu was a South African bishop, theologian, human rights and anti-apartheid activist. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in bringing an end to apartheid in South Africa and his reconciliation work in the aftermath.

"If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality."

* Gathering Hymn

O Holy Spirit, Root of Life



1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, root of life, cre -
2 E - ter - nal vig - or, Sav - ing One, you
3 O ho - ly Wis - dom, soar - ing pow'r, en -



a - tor, cleans - er of all things: a - noint our wounds, a -
free us by your liv - ing Word, be - com - ing flesh to
com - pass us with wings un - furled, and car - ry us, en -



wak - en us with lus - trous move - ment of your wings.
wear our pain, and all cre - a - tion is re - stored.
cir - cling all a - bove, be - low, and through the world.

*Prayer of the Day

Holy God, we thank you for the gift of your Son, who showed us the path to forgiveness. His life, teachings, and sacrifice frees us to live lives of grace, even amidst our world's complexities and relationships.

We also thank you for the life of Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Through his radical forgiveness and wisdom, you helped a nation begin to heal its deep divisions and racism. May we learn from both your Son and from Archbishop Tutu how to walk a path of reconciliation in our own lives. Amen.

The Word

Reading

2 Corinthians 5:11-21

¹¹ Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade people, but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. ¹² We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. ¹³ For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴ For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves but for the one who for their sake died and was raised.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

L: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thank be to God.**

Children's Message

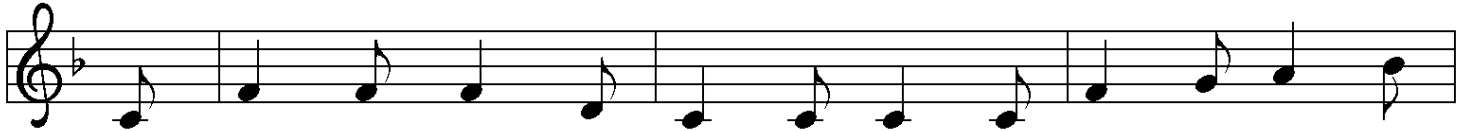
Drew Ajer

Sermon

Pastor Sara

*Song of the Day

I Come with Joy



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: DOVE OF PEACE. W. Walker. *Southern Harmony*. 1835

*Prayers of the People

We join together in praying as a church body. Our prayers are lengthy today, so feel free to stand or sit depending on your comfort.

L: Hear us, O God,

C: **Your mercy is great.**

Passing of the Peace

We give one another a word of peace, as a prayer and a blessing. Take your time, cherishing the people here in our midst.

Offering

Your offering makes possible and powerful the ministries of this congregation. You may place your offering in one of the plates in the back of the church. If you wish to give your offering electronically today, please scan this QR code...



The Meal

****Please stand as you are able****

***Words of the Institution**

***Invitation to Receive Communion**

Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, welcomes everyone (and we mean everyone!) to this table, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender expression, citizenship, ability, political affiliation, or faith.

***The Lord's Prayer**

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen**

To all guests and visitor, to all who have been excluded...

Please know that you are welcome at this table!

The communion bread is vegan and we have gluten free options. Wine is red, grape juice is white.

If the walk to the altar is too far, just let our ushers know and we can bring you communion.

Communion Music *Chorale-Prelude on Slane*

Healey Willan

Goodness is Stronger than Evil

Summer Choir

Words by Desmond Tutu, adapted by John L. Bell

Music by John Bell

The Sending

Youth Group Sharing & Announcements

*Blessing

The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit † bless you and give you peace. **Amen.**

*Sending Song

Alleluia



Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.



Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Music: South African; arr. Gobingca Mxadana
Arr. © Gobingca Mxadana

*Dismissal

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit. **Thanks be to God. We will!**

Postlude *Improvisation on St. Anne's Tune*

(O God, Our Help in Ages Past, Isaac Watts) J. Stuart Archer

With thanks to our worship leaders:

Todd Hauschildt, *Head Usher*

Susie Camp, *Reader*

Ethan W. & David L., *Sound & Video*

The Roy Family, *Coffee Hosts*

Prince of Peace Staff

Reverend Sara Pearson, Pastor

Drew Ajer, Director of Youth and Services

Anne Hess, Office Manager

Katie Hoffman, Office Associate

Barbara Day Turner, Director of Music

Michael Touchi, Pianist/Organist

Kerry Lewis, Music Staff Associate

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Welcome visitors!

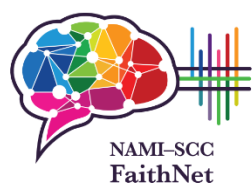
We're so glad you joined us! Please use your visitor card in the pews and leave it in the offering plate.

Learn about upcoming events: request a copy of "Peace Notes," our print announcements, and the calendar. We invite you to learn more about us on our website: propeace.org.

Prince of Peace is a congregation of the *Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA* .

We are proud to be a *Reconciling in Christ* congregation , publicly affirming our commitment to being a welcoming faith community for LGBTQ+ people and their families.

We are also members of *NAMI-FaithNet* , which creates mental health-friendly, stigma-free congregations in the Santa Clara Valley.



[namisantaclara.org/
classes/faith-net-2](http://namisantaclara.org/classes/faith-net-2)



Our theme for 2025:

Rooted in the love of Christ, we will grow and cultivate a thriving mycorrhizal network, characterized by faithful awareness, bold hope, and empathetic action.