

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

propeace.org

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



July 27, 2025

Holy Disruptors – James Cone

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

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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 II. Andante espressivo, from Sonata in D Major

Henri Sauguet (1926)

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 arises powers that seek to destroy, 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 James Cone, who challenged white nationalism and dared to preach a Jesus that is for the liberation of all people. We look to his teachings and theology with open minds and hearts.

Welcome to the fifth Sunday of our 8 week series on Holy Disruptors.

Today we focus on James Cone.

James Cone is a prolific writer and theologian, known most for his work on black theology and his passion for dismantling oppressive systems and white supremacy. His books are a good challenge for individuals from dominant groups to wrestle with. He calls out the individual and systemic sin of racism in clear and powerful ways.

C: We repent of the ways we have participated, intentionally or otherwise, in systems that oppress or hurt others. Give us the courage to see our sinfulness, confess it to you and those we have hurt. And when we can, take part in the reconciliation and healing that is always your Son's hope for the world.

P: God in Christ Jesus yearns for God's people to be a full and loving human community. Our God who loves us receives our confession and give us the power of the Holy Spirit so that we might forgive and love in ways that seek the thriving of all.

C: Amen! Come Holy Spirit!

*** Gathering Hymn Just a Closer Walk with Thee**

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Just a Closer Walk with Thee'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a bass line on a bass clef staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The first system covers the first three lines of the refrain, and the second system covers the remaining lines of the refrain and the chorus.

Refrain Just a clos - er walk with thee, grant it, Je - sus, is my plea;
1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;

dai - ly walk - ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.
I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. *Ref.*
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. *Ref.*
guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore. *Ref.*

Text: North American traditional
Music: CLOSER WALK, North American traditional

***Prayer of the Day**

Holy God, we give thanks for the prophets who awaken us, and especially today we give thanks for James Cone, a holy disruptor in your church. We pray for the courage to embrace the unsettling truth of the Gospel, to confront injustice wherever it exists, and to amplify the voices that have been silenced. May we, like Cone, be moved by divine love to dismantle oppressive systems and to build a world where all are truly free. Strengthen our resolve to be agents of your liberating justice, for the sake of your kin-dom on Earth. Amen.

The Word

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

¹ Now I want you to understand, siblings, the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ² through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³ For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures ⁴ and that he was buried and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures.

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

Children's Message

Drew Ajer

Sermon

Pr. Sara

***Song of the Day** *Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table*

(Printed on the next page)

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.

Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table



1 Look who gath - ers at Christ's ta - ble! Hear the sto - ries
2 Clouds of light sur - round the ta - ble; an - cient fol - low -
3 Their sad sto - ries are re - peat - ed in a thou - sand
4 Bring your joy and bring your sad - ness, and pre - pare to



that they bring. Some are weep - ing; some are laugh - ing;
ers ap - pear, saints con - fess - ing how they wres - tled
dif - f'rent ways, but they share one thing in com - mon:
be sur - prised by the host whose hands are wound - ed,



some have songs they want to sing. Oth - ers ask why they're in -
with their guilt, their doubt and fear. Pe - ter tells of his de -
they all end in thanks and praise for the host who has in -
who will o - pen wide your eyes when he bless - es bread and



vit - ed, bur - dened by the wrong they've done. Christ in - sists they
ny - ing Christ was ev - er in his sight; Paul re - lates his
vit - ed north and south and east and west to con - verge a -
breaks it— truth and man - na from a - bove!— and then pass - es



all are wel - come. There is room for ev - 'ry - one.
fruit - less ef - forts to ob - lit - er - ate the light.
round this ta - ble, where all life is fed and blest.
wine that wa - kens in your heart the taste of love.

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 *Française, d'après Claude Gervaise (16ème siècle)*

Francis Poulenc (1939)

Anthem *My Times Are in Your Hand*

Summer Choir

Music by Kerry Lewis, Lyrics by Dave Baldwin

My times are in your hand, O Lord. My times are in your hand.

Whenever my actions come to naught
and I feel as useless as a broken pot, you rescue me.

My times are in your hand, O Lord. My times are in your hand.

Whenever I sigh and waste in grief
and flutter to earth like a falling leaf, you rescue me.

My times are in your hand, O Lord. My times are in your hand.

Make your face to shine upon me;
let your loving kindness flow free to rescue me.

The Sending

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 *I Believe I'll Testify*

(Printed on the next page)

*Dismissal

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

Postlude *The Latchford Schottische* Clement Harris (1909)

One last side note
for today- all three
of the instrumental
music selections this
week were written
by LGBTQ
composers.

With thanks to our worship leaders:

Brian Davis, *Head usher*
Gabe Pearson Winterhof, *Reader*
David L. and Ethan W., *Sound & Video*
Yildiray H., Pam L, & Barbara E.,
Coffee Hosts

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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*

I Believe I'll Testify



1 I be-lieve I'll tes - ti - fy while I have a chance, I be-lieve I'll
2 I be-lieve I'll clap my hands while I have a chance, I be-lieve I'll
3 I be-lieve I'll sing this song while I have a chance, I be-lieve I'll
4 I be-lieve I'll shout for God while I have a chance, I be-lieve I'll



tes - ti - fy while I have a chance, I be-lieve I'll tes - ti - fy
clap my hands while I have a chance, I be-lieve I'll clap my hands
sing this song while I have a chance, I be-lieve I'll sing this song
shout for God while I have a chance, I be-lieve I'll shout for God



while I have a chance, for I may not have a chance an-y-more.
while I have a chance, for I may not have a chance an-y-more.
while I have a chance, for I may not have a chance an-y-more.
while I have a chance, for I may not have a chance an-y-more.

Text: traditional
Music: I'LL TESTIFY, traditional

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 & their families.

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

Welcome visitors!

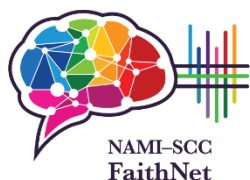
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[namisantaclara.org/
classes/faith-net-2](http://namisantaclara.org/classes/faith-net-2)



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.