CHURCH OF THE CROSS (PCUSA)

PRESENTS

SING *for* UNITY

A Global Concert for Peace

Join voices with people around the world in a celebration of hope, harmony, and our shared humanity.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

2:00 PM

Church of the Cross (PCUSA)

475 West Higgins Road, Hoffman Estates, IL

Welcome All ~ Share God's Love ~ Offer Hope

...all in Jesus' Name

MUSIC • COMMUNITY • A MORE PEACEFUL WORLD

Our concert today joins our voices with people around the globe as we sing for unity, community, peace, and equity. Our presence here today symbolizes our desire for these things to expand exponentially in our world. Together we are part of a sound wave of positive energy traveling around the globe from time zone to time zone, getting stronger as it grows.[1]

Today, voices from every corner of the planet sing
to send a powerful message:
We are one world, one people, and we stand together
in unity and community.

Thank you for joining your voice with ours today!

Music Director: Marie Rutter
Pianist: Dr. Robert Kania
Pastor: Rev Julie Peterson

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PRELUDE — Dr. Robert K.

WELCOME — Rev. Julie Peterson

OPENING PRAYER — Rev. Julie Peterson

***ALL SING** **"Come! Live in the Light!"** **GTG #749**

POEM[2] ~ Curmudgeons of Joy ~ *Steven Charleston* [3] — Laurie U.

CHOIR WOMEN "I Then Shall Live" — arr. Lloyd Larson

***ALL SING** **"We Shall Overcome"** **GTG #379**

CHOIR "Peace I ask of Thee, O River" — by Gwyneth Walker

SCRIPTURE READING ~ Ephesians 2:14-22 — Ken G.

***ALL SING** **"Where Have all the Flowers Gone?"** *(see insert)* — by Pete Seeger

CHOIR "I will be a Child of Peace" — by Elaine Hagenberg
"You do not walk Alone" — by Elaine Hagenberg

***ALL SING** **Blest Be the Tie** **GTG #306**

WORDS OF WISDOM[3] — Dave L.

CHOIR "It is Well with My Soul" — arr. Tom Fettke
"I will Rise" — arr. Mary McDonald

***ALL SING** **When Peace Like a River** **GTG #840**

POEM[4] "The Peace of Wild Things" by Wendell Berry — Judie T.

CHOIR "What a Wonderful World" — arr. Mark Brymer
"Why We Sing" — by Greg Gilpin

POEM ~ The Hoop of Nations — Laura D.

***ALL SING** **"Let There Be Peace on Earth"** *(see insert)* — *by Sy Miller /Jill Jackson*

SENDING WORDS — Rev. Julie Peterson

CHORAL SENDING "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" — Robert H. Hallagan

POSTLUDE — Dr. Robert K.

[1]©2026 Sing For Unity ~ a global celebration of community and unity on UN International Day of Peace September 21st, 2025, at 2 pm ~ singforunity.com ~ COTC Choir is a registered participant of this international event

[2]"Curmudgeons of Joy" from SPIRIT WHEEL Meditations from an Indigenous Elder, pg 218 © 2023 by Steven Charleston, Printed by Broadleaf Books, Minneapolis. Used with permission.

[3]Stated in a UN Press Release SG/360, December 22, 1953. Dag Hammarskjöld was a Swedish diplomat who served as the second Secretary-General of the United Nations from 1953 until his death in a 1961 plane crash. He is best known for shaping the UN into an active peacekeeping force during Cold War crises and was posthumously awarded the 1961 Nobel Peace Prize.

[4]"The Peace of Wild Things" by Wendell Berry, from The Peace of Wild Things And Other Poems (Penguin, 2018) Copyright (c) 2012 by Wendell Berry, reproduced by permission of Counterpoint, https://www.azquotes.com/author/6178-Dag_Hammarskjold?p=3

[5]"The Hoop of Nations" from SPIRIT WHEEL Meditations from an Indigenous Elder, pg 184 © 2023 by Steven Charleston, Printed by Broadleaf Books, Minneapolis. Used with permission.