

FIRST united methodist CHURCH

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JUSTICE, HOPE,
AND THE
COMING KING

January 25th, 2026

Peaceful Remnant

THE **MISSION** OF **FIRST CHURCH** is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who **Love** Boldly, **Serve** Joyfully, and **Lead** Courageously in our local community and around the world.

Whatever your circumstances and no matter where you have been, you matter to God and to us. *You belong here!* We pray your experience in our Worship today will be one that blesses you and uplifts your relationship with Jesus Christ.

Order of worship

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8 NASB

PLEASE FILL OUT THE ATTENDANCE PAD AND PASS IT TO YOUR NEIGHBOR
+ THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE RISE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Matt Krites

+ CALL TO WORSHIP Matt Krites

Leader: Come, people of God, to the mountain of the Lord where the Holy One teaches us the way of peace.

People: We come, longing for a world made whole, where justice and hope meet.

Leader: Nations shall stream toward God's light, and weapons of violence shall be reshaped for life.

People: We come trusting the promise that swords will be beaten into plowshares.

Leader: The Lord gathers the remnant—the weary, the wounded, and the forgotten.

People: We come as those God has not abandoned, called to walk in the name of the Lord forever.

Leader: Come, let us worship the Coming King, who reigns with justice and peace.

People: We worship with hope, for God's future is breaking into the present. Amen.

PRELUDE

Meditation | by Herman Beefink (1953 -)

+ OPENING PRAYER Matt Krites

God of peace and promise, You gather the scattered and lift up the broken. You do not forget the wounded, the weary, or those the world has cast aside. We confess that we often trust the powers of violence, fear, and self-protection more than Your coming reign. We confess that we grow impatient for peace and reluctant to live as Your remnant in a divided world. Forgive us when we choose comfort over faithfulness, silence over justice, and despair over hope. By Your Spirit, shape us into a people who walk in Your ways. Teach us to beat our swords into plowshares, to turn fear into courage, and to live as signs of Your peace. Gather us again, O Lord. Make us faithful witnesses to Your kingdom, until the day when the Coming King reigns in fullness, and all creation knows Your peace. Amen.

+ HYMN #560

Help Us Accept Each Other | UMH

TIME OF GREETING

CHILDREN'S SONGS

CHAT WITH THE CHILDREN

Judy Krites

Children are dismissed to AWE - Preschool through 5th Grade

CHORAL ANTHEM

Down By the Riverside | arr. Jay Althouse

+ SCRIPTURE SERIES MESSAGE

MICAH 4: 1 – 13



Pastor Christian

RESPONSIVE LITANY

Matt Krites

Leader: We have heard the promise of the Lord: God gathers the remnant and reigns in peace.

People: We trust the God who restores the broken and the lost.

Leader: The nations may rage, but the Lord is our stronghold.

People: We will not give in to fear, for God's future is sure.

Leader: What does the Lord require of us?

People: To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

Leader: The Coming King calls us to live now as citizens of God's peaceful reign.

People: We commit ourselves to lives of peace, hope, and faithfulness.

Leader: We walk as God's gathered people, bearing witness to a world made new.

People: We walk in hope, trusting the Lord who reigns forever. Amen.

+ SONG

King of My Heart

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Hymn Of Heaven | Chorus

+ DOXOLOGY #95

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow | UMH

+ SPOKEN BEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Invention in C Major | by J.S. Bach
(1685 – 1750)

You are invited to be seated and enjoy the Postlude or leave quietly in peace. **Thank you for worshipping with us, and for your continued generosity and support.**



Place offerings in the wooden plates coming through the Pews, during the Offering song.



Want to write down your thoughts, notes, or answers?
See the Bottom of your Bulletin Insert for notepad space!

ICE-BREAKERS

1 **Micah 4** imagines weapons being turned into tools for growing food. If you could magically turn one ‘problem’ in your life (stress, fear, conflict, pressure) into something helpful, what would you turn it into—and why?

2 Micah describes a future where everyone lives safely and learns God’s ways. If you woke up tomorrow in the world Micah describes, what is the very first difference you think you would notice at school, work, or in your neighborhood?

SERMON BASED

1 **Micah describes peace as something that must be taught and learned, not something that comes naturally.** Where do you notice yourself “*reverting to your first language*” of fear, control, self-protection, or impatience—and what might it look like for you to practice the language of God’s peace in those exact places this week?

2 **Micah’s vision holds together two realities: God’s promised future of peace and the present chaos, pain, and injustice of the world.** What would it mean for you, our church, or our community to live as a visible “*sign of the coming kingdom*” rather than a reflection of the present world—and what practices might help us remain faithful while we wait for God’s peace to be fully revealed?

BEYOND THE TEXT

1 **Micah’s remnant is not powerful, impressive, or self-made—it is gathered by God, shaped by mercy, and sustained by hope.** How does believing that you belong to God’s remnant—not because of your strength, but because of God’s grace—change the way you see your worth, your calling, and the people you are tempted to overlook?

2 **Jesus teaches that following him means denying ourselves, taking up our cross, and trusting God’s reign rather than securing our own.** What is one concrete “sword” you are still holding—an attitude, habit, fear, or coping strategy—that keeps you from trusting God’s peace, and what might it look like to surrender it so that your life becomes a tool for God’s healing in the world?