PEACE
FOR THE
EARTH
FROM THE BIBLE
TO THE FRONTLINES
WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS
CENTERING MUSIC
One: A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches. The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Havilah.

All: The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Cush.
One: The name of the third river is Tigris, which flows east of Assyria.

All: And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

One: We are people of the rivers. We are people of lands that are not ours.
One: We come from the watersheds of many rivers:

All: We come from the watersheds of the Cape Fear, the Columbia, the Delaware, the San Joaquin, the Mississippi, the James, the San Antonio, the Salinas, and many others.
One: We come from the lands of many indigenous peoples:

All: We come from the lands of the Catawba, the Sioux, the Shawnee, the Apache, the Powhatan, the Kusso, the Yokuts, the Osage, and many others.
One: We gather on the lands of the Ramapough Lenape and at the watershed of the Hudson,

All: giving thanks for the gift of a place to worship and grow.

One: Indeed, we are grateful, O God, for the indigenous peoples upon whose lands we gather and for the rivers with which you have entrusted us.
One: In this place, may we seek anew your Spirit of peace and justice,

All: and may we learn to be more faithful stewards of our relationships with others and with all creation.

One: Stir and swirl and flow and dance in our midst, Holy One.

All: Give us a new peace-filled vision for being people of the rivers and people of lands that are not ours. Amen.
GATHERING HYMN

Shall We Gather at the River

#375
Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod, with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God. Yes, we’ll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river; gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.
On the margin of the river, 
washing up its silver spray, 
we will walk and worship ever, 
all the happy golden day.
Yes, we’ll gather at the river, 
the beautiful, the beautiful river; 
gather with the saints at the river 
that flows by the throne of God.
Ere we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down; grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown. Yes, we’ll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river; gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.
Soon we’ll reach the shining river;
soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver
with the melody of peace.
Yes, we’ll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.
CONFESSION
Forgive us, O God. For though we are people of the rivers, people claimed by the water at baptism, we fail to be springs of shalom. We fail to join our hands and hearts and lives to be tributaries of peace. We fail to share our resources to be watersheds of mercy and justice and healing in the world. In your mercy, make us new.
Splash us again with sacred, ordinary water so that we might catch another glimpse of your new heaven and new earth. Splash us again with sacred, ordinary water so that we might be called anew to co-create your beloved community here and now. Splash us again with sacred, ordinary water, so that we might really be people of your peace for the sake of all creation. Amen.
ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS
PASSING THE PEACE
One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION
SCRIPTURE READING

Revelation 22:1-2
Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Revelation 22:1-2
HYMN OF CONTEMPLATION

Dona nobis pacem

#752
Latin
Dona nobis pacem, pacem.
Dona nobis pacem.

Hebrew
Sim shalom, sim shalom, sim shalom.
Sim shalom aleinu.

Arabic
Rabbu habna salamann tamman.
Rabbu habna salamann.
AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from Confession of Belhar
We believe:

that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ;
We believe:
that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world,
that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker,

that the church is witness both by word
and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells;
We believe:
that God’s life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliations and hatred, bitterness and enmity,
that God’s life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world. Amen.
OFFERING

I Saw a River Flowing
I saw a river flowing bright as crystal in the sun. Through the center of the city, its living waters run.
And beside that rushing river, trees abound with leaves of green that bring healing to the nations as God’s holy face is seen.
I saw a river flowing, gleaming like the sun on snow, through the center of the city the waters seem to glow. For upon that rushing river shines a never fading light that brings healing to the nations, and a world with no more light.
I saw a river flowing where the peace of God is known: in the center of the city, the Lamb is on the throne. And along that rushing river, every culture, class, and race joins the healing of the nations, born of justice, love, and grace.
May the God of Hope Go with Us
#765
May the God of hope go with us every day, filling all our lives with love & joy & peace. May the God of justice speed us on our way, bringing light & hope to every land & race.

Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all; working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.
CHARGE & BENEDICTION