



# NEWTOWN United Methodist Church

September 21, 2025 – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*Worship is a time to move close to God and receive spiritual energy for living courageously and serving others faithfully.*

Prelude "Hope of the World" Guilmant/Paxton

Welcome and Announcements

Spoken Prayer "A Prayer for the World" Danny Thomas, M.Div.  
(by Rabbi Harold Kushner) The Peace Center

\*Gathering Hymn "This Is My Song" UMH #437

\*Call to Worship

Leader: Lord, lead us from death to life,

**People: From falsehood to truth.**

Leader: Lead us from despair to hope,

**People: From fear to trust.**

Leader: Let peace fill our hearts, our world, and our universe. Let us dream together, play together, and work together,

**People: To build one world of peace and justice for all. Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn "O God of Every Nation" UMH #435

\*Opening Prayer

**God of All People, help us to see the world as you do. In your eyes, there is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, neither male nor female, for we are all one in Christ Jesus. Speak to our hearts and remind us that no**

**one is greater than another because of appearance or any other earthly attribute. Teach us to honor the beautiful diversity of humankind and to embrace our shared humanity, so that peace may finally prevail on earth. Amen.**

\*Affirmation of Faith The Prayer of Saint Francis UMH #481

Epistle Reading James 3:13–18 Pew Bible pg. 230

Special Music "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" Christian Brailsford

\*Gospel Reading Matthew 5:1–12 Pew Bible pg. 4

Sermon Series **Simple Church** Pastor Rodney Brailsford  
"A Church That Brings Peace"

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

**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. Amen.**

\*Hymn "For the Healing of the Nations" UMH #428

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory "Peace" Eugene Englert

\*Response Doxology, UMH #95

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

\*Offertory Prayer

\*Closing Hymn                      “Let There Be Peace on Earth”                      UMH #431

\*Dismissal and Blessing

Postlude                      “Testimony of Faith”                      Ritter

\*Please Stand if able

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### A Day Devoted to Strengthening the Ideals of Peace

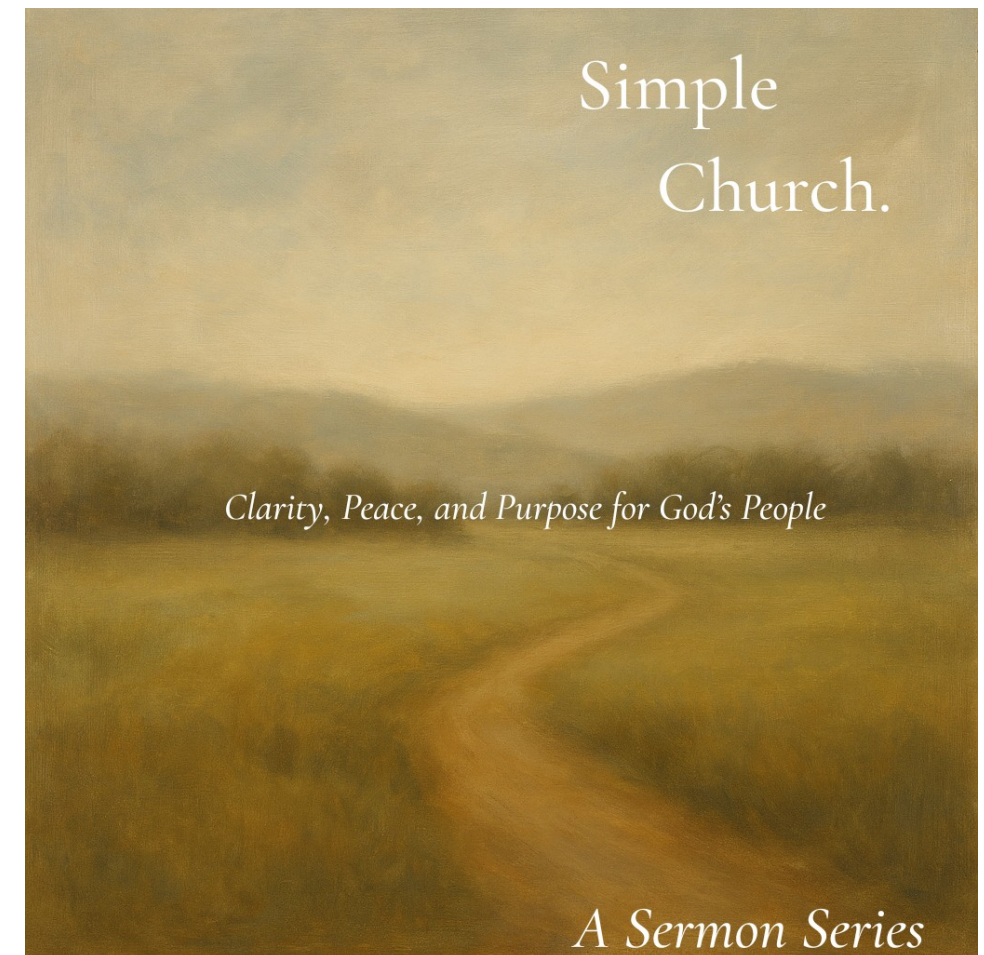
The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by Resolution 36/37 of the United Nations General Assembly. It is a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples. To further enhance this mission, the General Assembly adopted Resolution 55/282 in 2001, establishing September 21 as an annual day of non-violence and cease-fire. It is also a global call to action, inviting communities to become peacebuilders, resolving conflict, promoting justice, and fostering understanding. This year’s 2025 theme, “Act Now for a Peaceful World,” reminds us that peace is not passive, it requires courage, commitment, and collective effort.

At Newtown United Methodist Church, the spirit of this day has deep meaning. In 2008, a number of members of this congregation participated in a thirteen-week study entitled *Living the Questions*. As a result of that study, we erected the Peace Pole, which stands at the foot of our driveway and proclaims: “*May Peace Prevail on Earth*” in a number of languages. We have celebrated the International Day of Peace many times since.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.”  
— *Matthew 5:9*

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## Peace Sunday

 In Observance of the International Day of Peace 

**Newtown United Methodist Church**  
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Newtown, PA 18940  
Rev. Rodney Brailsford, Pastor  
Kathy Mershon, Administrative Assistant