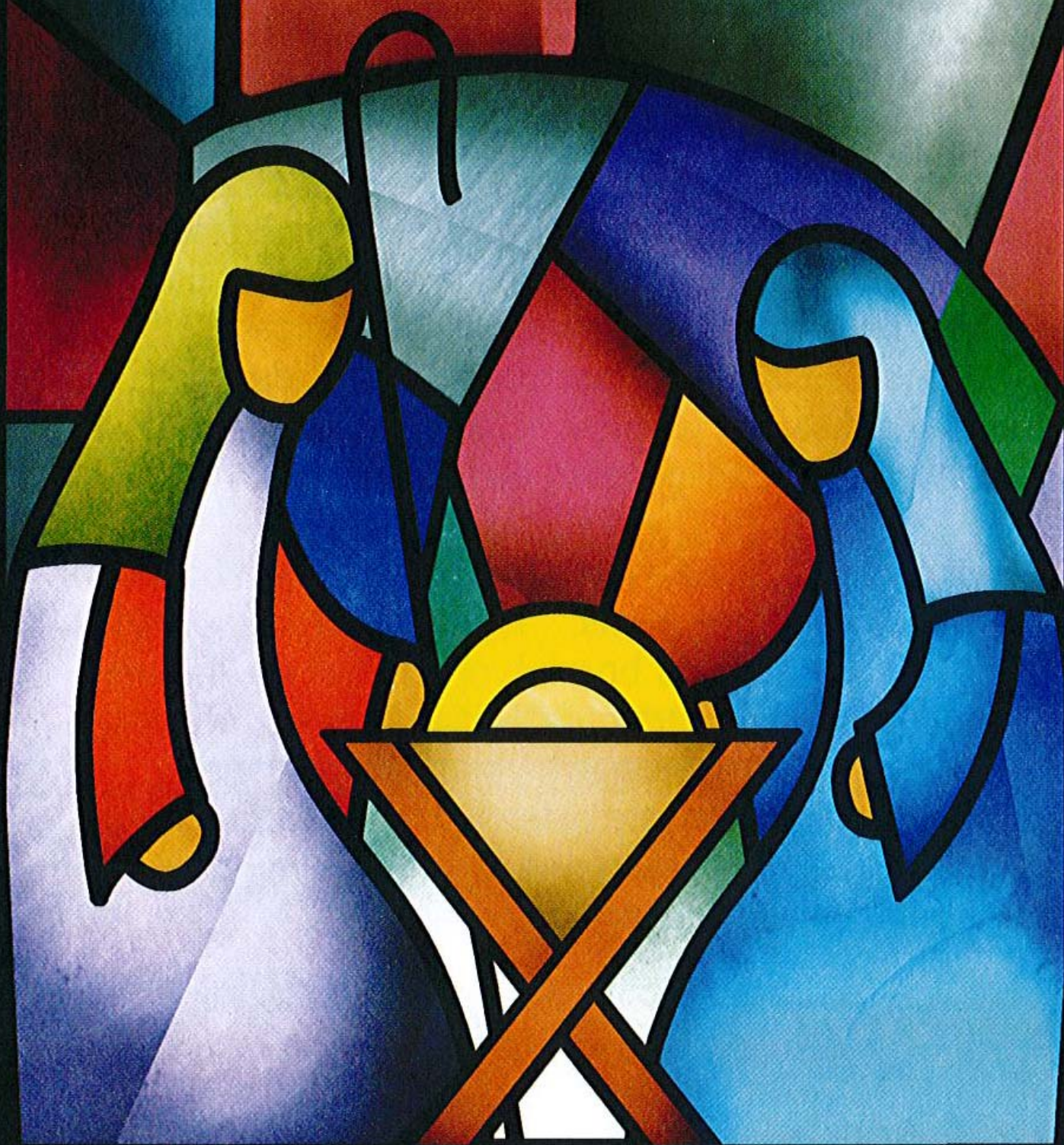


CHRIST

IS BORN



We, the members of Peace United Church of Christ, believe that we are called to be a congregation of grace and welcome to all of God's children:

- to celebrate every person as a child of God, created in God's image.
- to love all as God has first loved us.
- to acknowledge the presence of, and offer healing to the wounds of oppression, injustice, prejudice, and hate, and to stand with those who are left out.

Following Christ's example, we welcome and include everyone in all aspects of life, leadership, and ministry of the church. We affirm persons of all races, nationalities, sexual orientations, gender identities, family structures, physical or mental abilities, political stances, faith backgrounds and socio-economic status.

In the way of Jesus, we stand against acts of hate and violence in all their forms.

Therefore, we declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming Congregation, where an extravagant welcome and grace are extended to all, and each person's gifts are celebrated, welcomed, nurtured and blessed, that all may be one. Amen.

Approved by Peace Church 10/20/2019

Christmas Day
25 December 2020
Rev. Eric Kirkegaard

WORSHIP SERVICE

Words for Reflection –

"Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men."

"Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world."

"Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting."

"Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts."

"May the Christmas morning make us happy to be your children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen!"

~ Robert Louis Stevenson

Prelude "Carol of the Bells"

Greetings – A Time of Silence

Hymn # 182 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Turning Our Hearts to God

One: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the joy and mystery of Christ's birth be with you all.

Many: **And also with you.**

All: **Christ is born Emmanuel, sing a song of glory!**

Gathering Prayer

One: Blessed Child of God and of Man, we rejoice in the wonder of your birth, in the glory of Christmas.

All: Open our hearts, that we might cradle You and in turn be transformed. Come, be born to us again as we gather in Your name. Together we pray: “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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.”

Psalter

Psalm 96

(see insert)

Please join in singing the response

The Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

With humble spirits we offer our confession to you, O God:

Gentle Jesus, as we gather to celebrate your birth, we forget how humbly you ask to enter our lives. You don't ask for bright lights or extraordinary gifts, you ask only for us to know you. You seek to be born with us not only this day, but every day; and yet we so readily resist; we are frightened by the prospect of your transforming love being for us, and for all people. Forgive us our frailties, forgive us our distraction, and forgive us our fears. Amen.

God, the one who tenderly created all that is, has given us a gift: the gift to us is grace and joy through the birth of God's own Son, God's own self. Jesus is born as a sign to the world that love is real and new life is for each of us. Rejoice and sing, for Christ has come, Emmanuel!

The Gloria Patri

The Passing of the Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you

And also with you

Special Music "Little Drummer Boy/Peace on Earth" Althouse

First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

(Page 526)

The Children's Time

Lighting Our Advent Candles: "When God is a Child"

Refrain

When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be first and the

weak shall be strong, and none shall be a -

fraid. 1 Hope is a star that
2 Peace is a rib - bon that
3 Joy is a song that
4 Love is a flame that

to Refrain

Am $\frac{G7}{B}$ C C#dim7 $\frac{G}{D}$ Em Am D7 G

rit. *rit.*

shines in the night, lead - ing us on till the morn - ing is bright. When
 cir - cles the earth, giv - ing a prom - ise of safe - ty and worth. When
 wel - comes the dawn, tell - ing the world that the Sav - ior is born. When
 burns in our heart, Je - sus has come and will nev - er de - part. When

Used by Permission CCLI #1619690

The light shines in the darkness,
 And the darkness has not overcome it.

We pray:

Source of all light, we celebrate today the coming of your Word made flesh, your Light of Life dwelling among us. Bless these holy flames that in their glow we may be blessed by your grace and abiding love. Bless us that we might reflect the Light of Christ in our daily lives, and in our world which is so desperate for the hope, peace, joy and love that your birth brings. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world! Amen

Epistle

Titus 2:11-14

Hymn # 199

“Carol at the Manger”

Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:1-20

Sermon

“A Christmas Sermon”

Special Music

“Mary did you Know?”

Lowry and Greene

Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

We come to adore you and celebrate your birth O Lord. Bless and guide us that we may reflect your light through our hearts, our hands, and our simple offerings. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer - Silent Prayer

Prayer Response “Father, I Adore You”

Father I adore you. Lay my life before you.

How I love you.

Jesus I adore you. Lay my life before you.

How I love you.

Spirit I adore you. Lay my life before you.

How I love you.

Benediction

One: And now may the glory and love of God surround you. May the peace and grace of Christ dwell deep within you. May the power and presence of the Holy Spirit uphold you. Go in peace, serve the Lord.
Amen

Hymn #201

“He Is Born”



***Peace UCC stands firm in its commitment
to the inherent worth of all individuals,
and encourages all persons to keep their hearts open,
treating everyone with dignity and respect.***



SERVING TODAY

Musicians:

Sherry McElhatton

Karla Spaits

Elsa Kirkegaard

Anna Piittmann

Lia Piittmann

Bill Stangl

Eric Walker

Video: Eric Heidenreiter

Audio: Josh Spaits

Sexton: Roger Lindgren

Ministers: ALL OF US!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Pastor Eric will be off from December 27th after worship through January 4th. In case of Pastoral emergency, please contact: Pastor Bob Blackburn Visitation Minister 920-279-0816.
- The Church office will be closed December 24th through January 4th.
- All contributions to the Church for 2019 must be in the Church Office by December 30th to be included in 2020.
- Peace Church Christmas Offerings: Christmas offering distribution will be divided equally between UCC Disaster Relief, Pathfinders, and The Salvation Army.

A Blessed Christmas to All!



Psalm 96

RESPONSE

Psalm 96:1

Unison F Gm F Bb F Bb C Bb F



O sing a new song to God, sing to God, sing all the earth.

R

¹O sing to God a new song;
sing to God, all the earth.

²Sing to God, bless God's name;
tell of God's salvation
from day to day.

³Declare God's glory among
the nations,
God's marvelous works among
all the peoples. *R*

⁴For great is God, and greatly
to be praised;
God is to be revered above all gods.

⁵For all the gods of the peoples
are idols,
but God made the heavens.

⁶Honor and majesty are before God;
strength and beauty are in
God's sanctuary.

⁷Ascribe to God, O families of
the peoples,
ascribe to God glory and strength. *R*

⁸Ascribe to God the glory
due God's name;
bring an offering,
and come into God's courts.

⁹Worship God in holy splendor;
tremble before God, all the earth.

¹⁰Say among the nations, "God is ruler!
The world is firmly established;
it shall never be moved.

"God will judge the peoples;
God will judge the peoples
with equity." *R*

¹¹Let the heavens be glad,
and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

¹²let the field exult,
and everything in it.
Then shall all the trees of the forest
sing for joy ¹³before God;

for God is coming,
for God is coming
to judge the earth.

God will judge the world
with righteousness,
and the peoples with God's truth. *R*

O Come, All Ye Faithful

182

G Am G D F# G D G C G/D D Em

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 3 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,

A7/E D A D G/B D/F# G D/A A7 D

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove;
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;

G/B Am G D7/A G D/F# G Em Am/C D

come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

Refrain

G D G D7 G D G D7 G D

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

G D7/A G D/F# A7/E D G/B C G/D D G

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord.

Carol at the Manger

199

Unison Eb Ab Eb Eb/G Cm Fm7 Bb

1 Ho-ly Child with - in the man - ger, long a - go yet ev - er near;
 2 Once a - gain we tell the sto - ry—how your love for us was shown,
 3 Ho-ly Child with - in the man - ger, lead us ev - er in your way,

Bb7 Cm Fm/Ab Bb Cm Eb/G Fm7 Bb7 Ebsus Eb

come as friend to ev - ery stran - ger, come as hope for ev - ery fear.
 when the im - age of your glo - ry wore an im - age like our own.
 so we see in ev - ery stran - ger how you come to us to - day.

Cm Ab Eb Bb Eb Ab Eb Bbsus Bb

As you lived to heal the bro - ken, greet the out - cast, free the bound,
 Come, en - light - en with your wis - dom, come and fill us with your grace.
 In our lives and in our liv - ing give us strength to live as you,

G7/B Cm Bb Fm Ab Eb/G Fm7 Bb7 Ab/Eb Eb

as you taught us love un - spo - ken, teach us now where you are found.
 May the fire of your com - pas - sion kin - dle ev - ery land and race.
 that our hearts might be for - giv - ing and our spir - its strong and true.

He Is Born

201

Refrain (Unison)

F $\frac{Bb}{F}$ Fmaj7 $\frac{Bb}{F}$ F Dm $\frac{G}{B}$ C



He is born, the di-vine Christ child, play the o-boe and bag-pipes mer-ri-ly!

F Gm7 Am Gm7 F Dm $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ C7 F



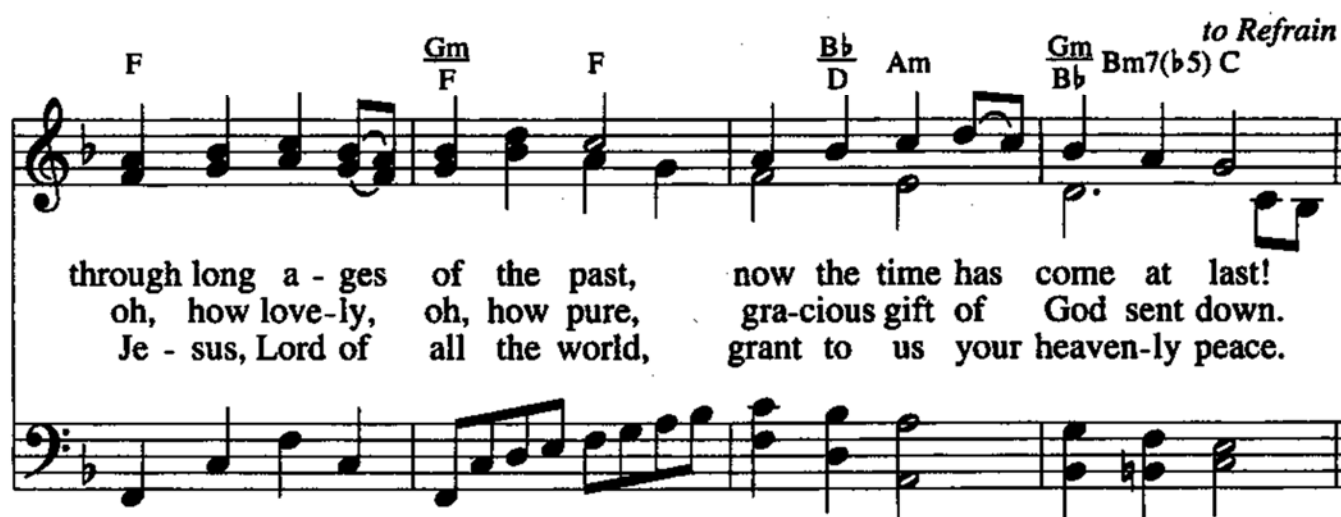
He is born, the ho-ly child, sing we all of the Sav-ior mild.

F $\frac{Gm}{F}$ F $\frac{E}{A}$ $\frac{C7}{G}$ F $\frac{E}{C}$ C



1 Through long a - ges of the past proph-ets have fore - told his com-ing;
 2 Oh, how love-ly, oh, how pure is this per-fect child of heav-en;
 3 Je - sus, Lord of all the world, com-ing as a child a-mong us;

F $\frac{Gm}{F}$ F $\frac{Bb}{D}$ Am $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ Bm7(b5) C *to Refrain*



through long a - ges of the past, now the time has come at last!
 oh, how love-ly, oh, how pure, gra-cious gift of God sent down.
 Je - sus, Lord of all the world, grant to us your heav-en-ly peace.

Used by Permission CCLI #1619690

WORDS: French carol; arr. Donald P. Hustad (1918-)

Music Arr. © 1990 Hope Publishing Company

IL EST NÉ
Irregular