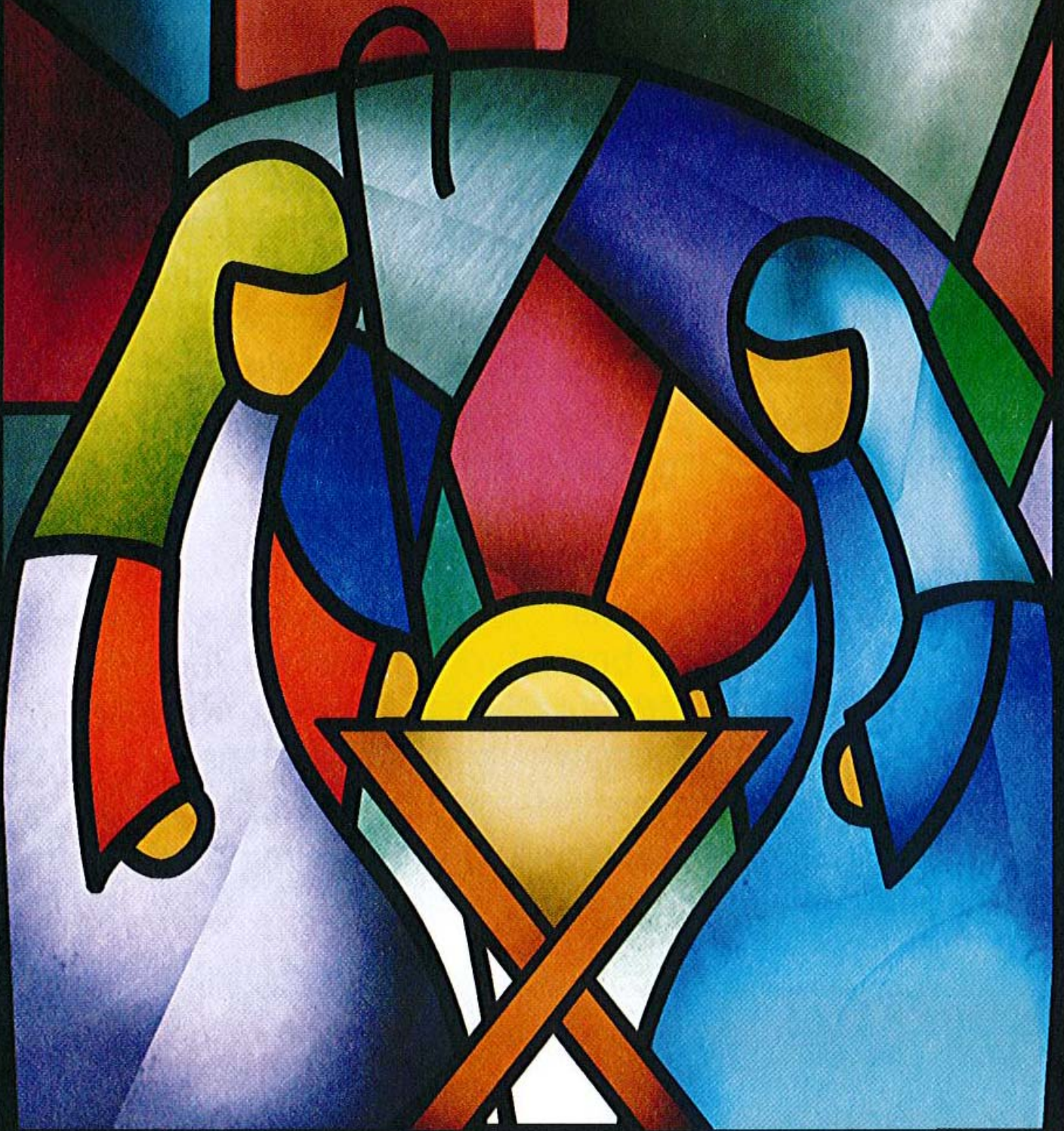


**CHRIST**

**IS BORN**



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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*

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Christmas Eve  
24 December 2020 – 4:00 p.m.  
Rev. Eric Kirkegaard

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***WORSHIP SERVICE***

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**THROUGHOUT THE SERVICE, PLEASE DO NOT SING though you are invited to quietly hum along.**

**Prelude**                      “Still, Still, Still”                      Lorie Line

**Lighting of the Candles and A Time of Quiet Meditation**

**The First Lesson**        **Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**

**“O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;

***Refrain:*** *O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.*

**The Call to Worship**

Leader: Into the deepest darkness, a great light was born.

**All: We open our hearts and make room within for  
a tender child; for the birth of our Lord, Jesus  
Christ.**

**The Bidding Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer with**

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

***...“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.”***

**A Blessing**

**Beloved and almighty God, bless us with divine grace. Gentle Christ, give us the joys of everlasting life: and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels guide us all. Amen.**

**The Second Lesson Luke 1:26-35, 38**

**“O Little Town of Bethlehem”**

**The Third Lesson Matthew 1:18-23**

**“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”**

It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,  
From heaven’s all gracious King.”  
the world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

**The Fourth Lesson Luke 2:1-7**

**“Away in a Manger”**

**The Fifth Lesson Luke 2:8-12**

**“The First Noel”**

The first noel the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.

***Refrain: Noel, noel! Noel, noel!  
Born is the King of Israel!***

**The Sixth Lesson Luke 2:13-20**

**“Angels We Have Heard On High”**

**The Seventh Lesson Matthew 2:1-11**

## **“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!”

Joyful, all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King.”

## **A Christmas Reflection**

### **Prayer of Self-Dedication**

**We come to your humble manger O Lord. Bless and guide us that we may reflect your light through our hearts, our hands, and our simple offerings. Amen.**

### **Prayers**

**One:** ...Lord, in your mercy,

**All:** **hear our prayer.**

## **The Eighth Lesson John 1:1-5 & 14**

**The Ceremony of Lights** (*Please hold lit candles upright at all times, **tip the unlit candle** and light it from your neighbor's lit candle*)

## **“Silent Night”**

### **Benediction**

**One:** Let us bless the Lord.

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

**One:** May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and peace of the Christ Child. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

**All:** **Amen**

# “Joy to the World”

*(Please pass extinguished candles to the ushers as you exit)*

**Postlude**      “Do You Hear What I Hear?”      Lorie Line



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## ***SERVING TODAY***

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Our Worship Team:

Karla Spaits

Sherry McElhatton

Elsa Kirkegaard

Berit Kirkegaard

Laura Kirkegaard

Mike McElhatton

Video: Eric Heidenreiter

Audio: Josh Spaits

Ministers: ALL OF YOU!

*We wish each of you a most blessed and Merry Christmas.  
Go as ministers of the Good News and  
share God's Light and Love!*



**Our Christmas day Service will be Virtual. Premiering  
at 8:00 a.m.**

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## *ANNOUNCEMENTS*

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