

Peace United Church of Christ

Rev. Eric Kirkegaard

December 25, 2021

Christmas Day

Our mission: Love like Jesus...

Welcome all, love all, grow in faith together, and seek justice for all.

“Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.” – John 13:34

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

Our vision: “Peace Church exists to feed souls, grow in God’s extravagant love and together serve all of God’s children and creation.”

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

Greetings – Prayer Requests – A Time of Silence

↑ ♪ Hymn # 182 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Turning Our Hearts to God

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

People: 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!

↑ Act of Praise #338

“King of Kings”

King of Kings and Lord of lords, glory, hallelujah!
King of Kings and Lord of lords, glory, hallelujah!
Jesus, Prince of Peace, glory, hallelujah!
Jesus, Prince of Peace, glory, hallelujah!

↑ **The Passing of the Peace**

May the peace of Christ be with you
And also with you

The Children's Time - Please hum or sing: “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know” as the children come down to the front before being sent to Sunday School

Lighting Our Advent Candles

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

♫ Advent Hymn #165

“When God is a Child”

First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

(Page 526)

Epistle

Titus 2:11-14

(Page 909)

Hymn # 199 “Carol at the Manger”

Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:1-20

(Page 783)

Sermon

Special Music

↑ **Prayer of Dedication (in unison)**

We bring the gifts of ourselves, our labors, our love, all that we are, to the newborn Lord. Bless and guide us that our lives may reflect your light to the world. 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

Announcements

↑ ♫ **Hymn #201 “He Is Born”**

Postlude

SERVING TODAY

Organist: Sherry McElhatton

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Pastor Eric and his family will be away for several days celebrating Christmas. He will return on Jan. 9th. Rev. Russ Knoth will be preaching on January 2nd and Rev. Karl Kuhn will be preaching on January 9th. In case of a Pastoral emergency, please contact: Rev. Sharon Stier, Interim Visitation Minister 414-531-0837, or, during office hours, the church office 262-626-4011.
- The church office will be closed on December 24th and December 31st.
- All contributions to the Church for 2021 must be in the Church Office by December 30th to be included in 2021.
- We thank everyone who purchased poinsettias to beautify the sanctuary. Those who indicated may take their plants home following Christmas Day worship.
- Peace Church Christmas Offerings: Kewaskum Food Pantry, West Bend Food Pantry, Albrecht Free Clinic, Haiti St. Joseph's School for Boys, Haiti Ventures in People Water Filtration

A Blessed Christmas to All!



Psalm 96

RESPONSE

Psalm 96:1

Unison F Gm F B \flat F B \flat C B \flat 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*

Poinsettias Given in Memory of:

- ♥ *My parents, David & Hazel Gudex by Christ Gudex.*
- ♥ *Leslie & Helen Reynolds and Virginia Blackburn by Bob & Kay Blackburn*
- ♥ *Ronald Skaug by Betty Skaug*
- ♥ *Kevin Lehmann and Edward Lehmann by The Lehmann Family*
- ♥ *Our Parents, Eileen Ramthun and Karen Weiskopf by Tim and Kathy Danielson*
- ♥ *Lyle Polzin by The Jared & Melissa Polzin Family*
- ♥ *Barbara O'Connor and Kathryn Kuhn by Jerry O'Connor*
- ♥ *Joseph Harter by Jill Rhoads*
- ♥ *Craig Bobb by Elizabeth Bobb*
- ♥ *Our Loved Ones by Cal & Sharon Rauch*
- ♥ *Jean Hamilton by Robert Schrader*
- ♥ *Susan Spoerl by Steven and Matthew Spoerl*
- ♥ *Norbert Bossill, Larry & Nick Martiny, Willard & Anne Manthei
by Robbie & Cheri Manthei*
- ♥ *Our Loved Ones by Bob & Joann Manthei*
- ♥ *Butch, Audrey & Linda Stier by Sharon Stier*
- ♥ *Carol Sedgwick by Donald Sedgwick*
- ♥ *Holly & Bob Gassner by Janel Gassner*
- ♥ *Harry E. & Janet C. Koch by Gary, Melissa & Beth Sandvig*
- ♥ *Fuzzy (James) Flitter by Nancy Krahn*
- ♥ *Lucas Arnold Luther by Greg & Valerie Vorpahl*
- ♥ *Pete & Pat Peterson and Kim T. Peterson by F. Lyn Peterson*
- ♥ *Bob Neumann by Russ & Jean Lange*
- ♥ *In Memory of Edward and Kevin Lehmann by Della Lehmann*
- ♥ *In Memory of Marion Doms by Roger & Kathy Mertz*
- ♥ *In Memory of Doris Fisher by Gary Fisher*

Poinsettias Given in Honor of:

- ♥ Our family by Loran and Rozanne Butzlaff
- ♥ Frontline Health Care Workers by Bob Schrader
- ♥ Our children and grandchildren by John and Karen Grundahl
- ♥ Carol Clark by John & Karen Grundahl
- ♥ In Honor of Pastor Eric & family and In Honor of Josh & Karla Spaits by Della Lehmann
- ♥ In thanks for the generosity Peace Church has shown in allowing KEYS the use of Peace's facility for meetings this past year.

Poinsettias may be picked up immediately following the Christmas Day Service.