

Peace United Church of Christ

Rev. Eric Kirkegaard

December 24, 2021

Christmas Eve

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

Prelude

Lighting of the Candles and A Time of Quiet Meditation

♪ “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

#182 Vs. 1 & 2

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.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;

Glory to God, all glory in the highest; *Refrain*

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

...“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 First Lesson

[Isaiah 9:2, 6-7](#)

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♪ “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” #154 Vs. 1 & 2

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,

That mourns in lonely exile here,

Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

The Second Lesson

[Micah 5:2-5a](#)

(Page 712)

♪ **“O Little Town of Bethlehem”** #180 Vs. 1 & 2
O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting Light:
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.

The Third Lesson

[Luke 1:26-35, 38](#)

(Page 781)

♪ **“Fairest Lord Jesus”**

#123 Vs. 1 & 4

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
O Thou of God and man the Son:
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou my soul’s glory, joy, and crown.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be Thine!

The Fourth Lesson

[Matthew 1:18-23](#)

(Page 737)

♪ **“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”** #191 Vs. 1 & 3

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.

For lo, the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when, with the ever circling years,
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,

and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

The Fifth Lesson

[Luke 2:1-7](#)

(Page 783)

♪ “Away in a Manger”

#203 Vs. 1 & 2

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky all looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
The little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

The Sixth Lesson

[Luke 2:8-12](#)

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♪ “The First Noel”

#229 Vs. 1 & 2

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!

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

The Seventh Lesson

[Luke 2:13-20](#)

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♪ “Angels We Have Heard On High” #188 Vs. 1 & 3

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echo back their joyous strains.

Refrain: *Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore, on bended knee,
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain*

The Eighth Lesson

[Matthew 2:1-11](#)

(Page 738)

♪ **“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”** #185 Vs. 1

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.”

Prayer of Dedication

We bring the gift of our lives 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.

♪ Response Hymn # 196 v. 4

***What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part,
Yet, what I can, I give him: give my heart.***

Prayers

One: ...Lord, in your mercy,
All: **hear our prayer.**

The Ninth Lesson

[John 1:1-5 & 14](#)

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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”**

#186

Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love’s pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

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”

#179 Vs. 1, 2 & 4

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

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

Postlude

(Tonight's offering will be shared equally to Kewaskum Food Pantry, West Bend Food Pantry, Albrecht Free Clinic, Haiti St. Joseph's School for Boys, Haiti Ventures in People Water Filtration)

SERVING TODAY

Organist: Karla Stoffel
Litanist: 6:30 Jerry O'Connor
Audio: Josh Spaits

*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!*



**Join Us Christmas Day 9:30 a.m. Worship
Sunday, December 26
- One Service -
9:30 A.M. Worship With Communion
NO Sunday School NO Youth Choir**

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.
- Kewaskum Food Pantry, West Bend Food Pantry, Albrecht Free Clinic, Haiti St. Joseph's School for Boys, Haiti Ventures in People Water Filtration



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.