



CHRIST

IS BORN

Peace United Church of Christ

Rev. Eric Kirkegaard

December 25, 2022

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.”

* Please stand if you are able.

WORSHIP SERVICE

Words for Reflection – *Candlelight Carol*

How do you capture the wind on the water?

How do you count all the stars in the sky?

How can you measure the love of a mother?

Or how can you write down a baby's first cry?

Find him at Bethlehem laid in a manger:

Christ our Redeemer asleep in the hay.

Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation:

A child with his mother that first Christmas Day.

Candlelight, angel light, firelight and starglow

Shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn.

Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Angels are singing; the Christ child is born.

- John Rutter -

Prelude "I Saw Three Ships" arr. Lorie Line

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 last page)

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 sing: “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know” as the children come forward

Special Music (6:30) "Jesus Is Born" Hanson & Murakami
Sunday School Youth

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 "Let This Be a Sign to You"

Special Music "Night of Silence" Kantor

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

We offer 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

***Hymn #201**

“He Is Born”

Postlude

Serving Today: Musicians: Sherry McElhatton, Elsa Kirkegaard, Mia Dornacker, Litanist: Jackie McCurdy, Audio: John Bliese, Video: Katelyn Scannell

Lectionary for January 1: Isaiah 63:7-9 • Psalm 148 • Hebrews 2:10-18 • Matthew 2:13-23

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday Dec 25 – Dec 31

Dec 25 Betty Spaltner (82)

Dec 26 Anna Piittmann

Dec 27 Scott Buss

Dec 29 Cathy Stern

Dec 30 Taylor O'Brien-Flasch, Isabelle Vey

Happy Anniversary Dec 25 – Dec 31

Dec 29 Jean & Jeffrey Reigle (49)

Dec 30 Matthew & Rachel Schemelin (22)

NEWS & NOTES

Calendar for the Week of Dec 25, 2022

12/25 Merry Christmas! No Sunday School

12/26 Church Office Closed (The week of December 25th the office will be open sporadically. Please call before you visit.)

12/28 XYZ Cards

1/1 Rev. Russell Knoth, Visiting Minister

Art/Craft Sale: Take a look at the tables near both entrances at church to find hand crafted items for sale! Items will change monthly, and proceeds will go towards a designated fund at church. If you are interested in being one of the 'vendors', talk to Karla Spaits, Nancy Stoffel, or Sandi Radeztsky.

Peace UCC on Local Cable – In the West Bend service area we are now on cable television. This week's service will be broadcast on Monday afternoons at approximately 1:00 p.m. On Sunday mornings the prior week's service will be broadcast in sequence with other area congregations at approximately 10:15 (it depends on the length of the services before us). This will be on Spectrum channel 987, and AT&T channel 99. Please let us know how this works for you.

Peace Church Community Meal –Our next Community Meal will take place on January 4th, and the first Wednesday of each month. Our prayer is that we may gather with one another and with our community to break bread and share fellowship. Come all who are lonely, come all who are hungry, come all who wish to celebrate being together! All are welcome!! Please contact the church office if you have any questions or wish to help.



Peace UCC Community Meal FREE for ALL!

Wednesday January 4, 2023
5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Chicken Patty Sandwiches • Hamburgers
Fruit Cups • Baked Beans
Deviled Eggs • Potato Chips
Dessert and Beverage

Peace UCC
320 Main Street, Kewaskum, WI

- Pastor Eric and his family will be away for several days celebrating Christmas. He will then be leaving for the Young Adult Habitat trip to North Carolina and returning on Jan. 10th. Rev. Russ Knoth will be preaching on January 1st and Rev. Gregory Whelton will be preaching on January 8th. In case of a Pastoral emergency, please contact: Rev. Sharon Stier, 414-531-0837, or, during office hours, the church office 262-626-4011.
- The church office will be closed on December 26th and January 2nd. The week of December 25th the office will be open sporadically. Please call before you visit.
- All contributions to the Church for 2022 must be in the Church Office by December 29th to be included in 2022.
- We thank everyone who purchased poinsettias to beautify the sanctuary. Please take your plant(s) home following Christmas Day worship.
- Christmas Offerings will be divided 50% to Hurricane Relief, 25% to the Full Shelf Food Pantry in West Bend, and 25% to the Kewaskum Food Pantry



Poinsettias Given in Memory of:

- ♥ My parents, David & Hazel Gudex by Christ Gudex.
- ♥ Leslie & Helen Reynolds and Jerry & Virginia Blackburn by Bob & Kay Blackburn
- ♥ Kevin Lehmann and Edward Lehmann by Della Lehmann
- ♥ Palmer Schmidt and Ray & Sylvia Melvin by Todd, Kristina, & Elizabeth Schmidt
- ♥ Lyle Polzin by The Jared & Melissa Polzin Family
- ♥ Barbara O'Connor and Kathryn Kuhn by Jerry O'Connor
- ♥ The Parents and Son of Roger & Kathy Mertz
- ♥ Craig Bobb by Elizabeth Bobb
- ♥ Kevin Lehmann by the Lehmann Family
- ♥ Jean Hamilton by Robert Schrader
- ♥ Susan Spoerl by Steven and Matthew Spoerl
- ♥ Willard & Delores Prost by Janine & Scott Prost-Domasky
- ♥ Our Loved Ones by Bob & Joann Manthei
- ♥ Butch, Audrey & Linda Stier by Sharon Stier
- ♥ David D. Dorn by Wanda Dorn
- ♥ Holly Gassner by Janel Gassner
- ♥ Harry E. & Janet C. Koch by Gary, Melissa & Beth Sandvig
- ♥ My parents by Melinda Sargent
- ♥ Bunny Scannell by the Scannell Family
- ♥ Dr. Richard Wesenberg by Nancy Wesenberg, his children and grandchildren
- ♥ Ivan & LaVerne Schaller by Jean Reigle
- ♥ Patty Reigle by Jeff Reigle
- ♥ James Roe by Carol Roe



Poinsettias Given in Honor of:

- ♥ In Honor of Chris Rode
- ♥ In Honor of the Volunteers at Peace Church by Bob Schrader
- ♥ In Honor of our children and grandchildren by John and Karen Grundahl
- ♥ In Honor of JoAnna Schmidt and Karl & Sandi Birkenbach by Todd, Kristina, & Elizabeth Schmidt
- ♥ In Honor of all essential workers by the Lehmann Family
- ♥ In Honor of Delores Terlinden by Donna Kogler

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

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*