



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.”*

Welcome visitors! *Please take a moment to complete a Guest Information card in the pew racks in front of you. Please place the completed card in the offering plate.*

Prayer Requests - *As we gather together as one family in Jesus Christ, we covenant to hold one another’s joys and concerns. Please share your prayers with us by writing them on the “Prayer Request” slip found in the pew in front of you and return them to the usher or place them in the offering plate. Thank you.*

Contact Peace Church: *Peace UCC - P. O. Box 433, Kewaskum, WI 53040*

Pastor Eric cell: 262-707-0758 - pastor@peace-ucc.org

Church Office: Robin Mock, 262-626-4011 - office@peace-ucc.org

Intern Minister: Vikar Jacob Kröner, 262-626-4011

On the web @ www.peace-ucc.org, YouTube: Peace UCC Kewaskum

****Please stand***

Christmas Day
25 December 2023 – 9:30 a.m.
Rev. Eric Kirkegaard – Vikar Jakob Kröner

WORSHIP SERVICE

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 distractions, 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!

***A Response 177 – “Jesus, Name Above All Names”**

***The Passing of the Peace**

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

The Children's Time - As the children come forward, please sing Hymn 437 “Jesus Loves Me” vs 1

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

First Lesson Isaiah 9:2-7 (Page 526)

Epistle Titus 2:11-14 (Page 909)

Hymn 184 **“What Child Is This”**

Gospel Lesson Luke 2:1-20 (Page 783)

Sermon

Offertory

***The Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below:
Praise God for all that love has done:
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

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

We bring our gifts to the newborn Lord. We offer ourselves, our labors, our love, all that we are, to you. 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 179**

“Joy to the World”

Postlude

Serving Today: Musicians: Karla Spaits, Mia Dornacker; Video: David Dorn

Announcements

- Pastor Eric will be off from December 25th after worship through December 30th. In case of pastoral emergency, please contact: Vikar Jakob Kröner 262-353-8840.
- All contributions to the Church for 2023 must be in the Church Office by December 31st to be included in 2023.
- Peace Church Christmas Offerings: Christmas offering distribution will be divided equally between UCC Disaster Relief, Peace Pantry, and West Bend Full Shelf Pantry
- The church office will be closed December 25th, 26th, and January 1st.
- There WILL be Living the Questions Study on December 28th.
- There will be NO grief group on December 28th. It will resume January 11th
- There will be ONE service December 31st, at 9:30 a.m.

Prayers of Comfort:

For the family of Pat Heaslip (died 12/18/2023) Services will be at Miller-Myrhum-Patten Funeral Home Saturday, Dec. 30th. Visitation from 11a.m.-1:45p.m., Funeral Service at 2:00p.m.

Prayers of Celebration:

For the birth of Baker Ernest Heidenreiter (born 12/16/2023) grandson of Robin and Alan Mock.

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*



Poinsettias Given in Memory of:

- ♥ Harry E. & Janet C. Koch by Gary, Melissa & Beth Sandvig
- ♥ Eileen Ramthun from Harold Ramthun
- ♥ James Roe from Carol Roe
- ♥ Our loved ones from Karen & John Grundahl
- ♥ Our parents, Earl & Jean Peters and Henry & Mabel Billmann from Mary & Joe Billmann
- ♥ Willard & Dolores Prost from Scott & Janine Prost-Domasky
- ♥ Marlene Domasky from David Domasky
- ♥ John Gudex from Jeff & Mary Steger
- ♥ Barbara O'Connor & Kathryn O'Connor Kuhn from Jerry O'Connor
- ♥ Elmer Hallen from Betty Hallen
- ♥ Butch, Audrey, and Linda Stier from Sharon Stier
- ♥ Gerald & Virginia Blackburn and Leslie & Helen Reynolds from Pastor Bob & Kay Blackburn
- ♥ Susan Spoerl from Steve Spoerl
- ♥ Lyle Polzin from the Jared Polzin Family
- ♥ Jean Hamilton from Bob Schrader
- ♥ Beloved family from Bob Schrader
- ♥ Nancy Hovland from the Hovland Family
- ♥ Maurice Hovland from the Hovland Family
- ♥ Mitchell Ogi from Shirley Ogi
- ♥ Linda Kettling from Elys Kettling Law
- ♥ David and Hazel Gudex from Christ Gudex

Poinsettias Given in Honor of:

- ♥ In Honor of Chris Rode
- ♥ The Birth of our Lord from Jeff & Mary Spurgat
- ♥ In Honor of Clark Pearson

Please pick up your poinsettias immediately following the Christmas Day Service.