



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***

Peace United Church of Christ

Christmas Eve

24 December 2023 – 6:30 & 8:30 pm

Rev. Eric Kirkegaard – Vikar Jakob Kröner

WORSHIP SERVICE

Prelude

(6:30) “Trepak” & “The Little Drummer Boy” Coralee Flood, piano

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

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.

Lighting the Advent Candles - A Time of Quiet Meditation

“Fum, Fum, Fum”

(6:30) *Brady Flood, piano*

(8:30) *Mia Dornacker, and Sherry McElhatton*

Greeting and Prayer Requests

A Blessing

One: Beloved and almighty God, bless us with divine grace.

All: 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.

♪ “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 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.”

The First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

(Page 526)

♫ “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!

O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by then advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And deaths dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*

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 all 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

(Page 783)

♪ **“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

(Page 783)

(6:30 p.m.) “Sing a Song of Christmas” – Youth Choir

♪ **“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.”

Offertory “I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve”

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.**

Solo “O Holy Night”

(6:30 - Sherry McElhatton, 8:30 - Mia Dornacker)

The Ninth Lesson

John 1:1-5 & 14

(Page 809)

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.

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht
Alles schläft; einsam wacht
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

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 all 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

“Joy to the World”

(6:30 – Kaylee Flood, 8:30 – Sherry & Mia)

Serving Today: Musicians: Sherry McElhatton, Mia Dornacker, Lizzie Nichols, Robyn Nichols, Coralee Flood, Brady Flood, Kaylee Flood; Video: Katelyn Scannell

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!*



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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Christmas Day Worship is at 9:30 a.m.
- 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 class for “Living the Questions” on December 28th at 10:00 a.m.
- 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.



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.