

# Peace United Church of Christ



Rev. Eric Kirkegaard  
17 February 2021  
Ash Wednesday

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## WORSHIP SERVICE

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*Tonight, we will be worshipping with “Holden Evening Prayer.” This is a service of song and prayer that we have used for many years throughout the Lenten season. This year will be the first (and we hope only) occasion when you will be invited not to sing. Let God's spirit carry you in the music.*

### Service of Light

Leader: Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;

**All: the light no darkness can overcome;**

Leader: Stay with us now, for it is evening,

**All: and the day is almost over.**

Leader: Let your light scatter the darkness,

**All: and shine within your people here.**

### Holden Evening Prayer · Evening Hymn

### Silence for Meditation

Leader: May our prayers rise up before you O God.

Christ calls to us, inviting us to raise up our hearts and prayers to him.

**All: We lift them that we may be made whole. We recommit our lives to God, confessing our brokenness, and asking God for strength. Transform us O God - guide us in more fully and more humbly knowing your love.**

## Old Testament Lesson Joel 2:1, 12-13

Blow the horn in Zion; give a shout on my holy mountain! Let all the people of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming. It is near—

Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; tear your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is merciful and compassionate, very patient, full of faithful love, and ready to forgive.

## Responsive Psalm Psalm 51:1-15

Have mercy on me, God, according to your faithful love! Wipe away my wrongdoings according to your great compassion!

**Wash me completely clean of my guilt; purify me from my sin!**

Because I know my wrongdoings, my sin is always right in front of me.

**I've sinned against you—you alone. I've committed evil in your sight.**

That's why you are justified when you render your verdict, completely correct when you issue your judgment.

**Yes, I was born in guilt, in sin, from the moment my mother conceived me.**

And yes, you want truth in the most hidden places; you teach me wisdom in the most secret space.

**Purify me with hyssop and I will be clean; wash me and I will be whiter than snow.**

Let me hear joy and celebration again; let the bones you crushed rejoice once more.

**Hide your face from my sins; wipe away all my guilty deeds!**

Create a clean heart for me, God; put a new, faithful spirit deep inside me!

**Please don't throw me out of your presence; please don't take your holy spirit away from me.**

Return the joy of your salvation to me and sustain me with a willing spirit.

**Then I will teach wrongdoers your ways, and sinners will come back to you.**

Deliver me from violence, God, God of my salvation, so that my tongue can sing of your righteousness.

**Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will proclaim your praise.**

### The Gospel of Matthew 6:1–21 (CEB)

6 “Be careful that you don’t practice your religion in front of people to draw their attention. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

2 “Whenever you give to the poor, don’t blow your trumpet as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets so that they may get praise from people. I assure you, that’s the only reward they’ll get. 3 But when you give to the poor, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing 4 so that you may give to the poor in secret. Your Father who sees what you do in secret will reward you.

5 “When you pray, don’t be like hypocrites. They love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners so that people will see them. I assure you, that’s the only reward they’ll get. 6 But when you pray, go to your room, shut the door, and pray to your Father who is present in that secret place. Your Father who sees what you do in secret will reward you.

7 “When you pray, don’t pour out a flood of empty words, as the Gentiles do. They think that by saying many words they’ll be heard. 8 Don’t be like them, because your Father knows what you need before you ask. 9 Pray like this:

Our Father who is in heaven,  
uphold the holiness of your name.

10 Bring in your kingdom  
so that your will is done on earth  
as it’s done in heaven.

11 Give us the bread we need for today.

<sup>12</sup> Forgive us for the ways we have wronged you,  
just as we also forgive those  
who have wronged us.

<sup>13</sup> And don't lead us into temptation,  
but rescue us from the evil one.

<sup>14</sup> "If you forgive others their sins, your heavenly Father will  
also forgive you. <sup>15</sup> But if you don't forgive others, neither will  
your Father forgive your sins.

<sup>16</sup> "And when you fast, don't put on a sad face like the  
hypocrites. They distort their faces so people will know they  
are fasting. I assure you that they have their reward. <sup>17</sup> When  
you fast, brush your hair and wash your face. <sup>18</sup> Then you  
won't look like you are fasting to people, but only to your  
Father who is present in that secret place. Your Father who  
sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>19</sup> "Stop collecting treasures for your own benefit on earth,  
where moth and rust eat them and where thieves break in  
and steal them. <sup>20</sup> Instead, collect treasures for yourselves in  
heaven, where moth and rust don't eat them and where  
thieves don't break in and steal them. <sup>21</sup> Where your treasure  
is, there your heart will be also.

Meditation "Leaning in to Lent"

Holden Evening Prayer · Psalmody (Psalm 141)

Prayers of Confession

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Most holy and merciful God: We confess to  
you, to one another, and to all of creation  
that we sin by our own fault in thought,  
word, and deed, by what we do, and by what  
we leave undone.**

Leader: We do not love you with all our heart, and mind, and  
strength. We do not love our neighbors as  
ourselves. We do not forgive others as we have  
been forgiven.

**People: Have mercy on us, O God.**

Leader: We are deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We fail to be true to the ways and thoughts of Christ.

**People: Have mercy on us, O God.**

Leader: We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness - our pride, and our judgment of others, our impatience, and self-indulgence in our lives,

**People: Have mercy on us, O God.**

Leader: We fail to offer our lives as a living sacrifice to you; we exploit ourselves and others,

**People: Have mercy on us, O God.**

Leader: For all our stubborn certainties which lead us to seek easy or comfortable ways instead of your ways.

**People: Have mercy on us, O God.**

Leader: For our angers and frustrations, for the ways that we fail to let our daily life reflect your ways.

**People: Have mercy on us, O God.**

Leader: For our negligence in prayer and worship and our failure to nurture the faith that you place within us,

**People: Have mercy on us, O God.**

Leader: Merciful God, accept our repentance for the wrongs we have done; for our neglect of human need and suffering, for our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**People: Accept our repentance, O God.**

*- Silence for Confession and Prayer -*

Leader: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

**People: Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.  
Amen**

Sharing the Lord's Supper  
Remembering our Story

“Jesus took the Bread”

by Ruth Duck

## Receiving the Gifts of God's Love

*We receive communion as a proclamation of God's grace offered to each of us through the gift of Jesus Christ.*

*Jesus' table was open to all, so is ours. Everyone is always welcome to share communion with us.*

## Preparing the Ashes - Humbling our Hearts Before God

As we consider our own need for repentance, our own brokenness in the face of God's grace, we recall the words of Genesis 3:19: And God said to Adam: "By the sweat of your face you shall eat your food until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

**Lord have mercy upon us. We are dust and to dust we shall return. Restore us O God to your mercy. Cleanse our hearts.**

## The Imposition of Ashes

*We invite people to process, masked, maintaining appropriate social distance from those not in their "bubble." Ashes will be offered to all those who wish them.*

*We receive ashes as an act of confession, and as a physical sign and reminder of our mortality and penitence.*

Leader: May our prayers come before you, O God, as incense, and may your presence surround and fill us, so that in union with all of creation, we might sing your praise and your love in our lives.

**All: Amen.**

Leader: The Light shines in the darkness

**All: and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Holden Evening Prayer · The Annunciation · Litany and Prayers

God of mercy, hold us in love.

In peace, in peace, we pray to you:

**God of mercy, hold us in love.**

For peace and salvation, we pray to you:

**God of mercy, hold us in love.**

For peace between nations, for peace between peoples:

**God of mercy, hold us in love.**

For all who are gathered to worship and praise you:

**God of mercy, hold us in love.**

For all of your servants who live out your gospel:

**God of mercy, hold us in love.**

For all those who govern that justice might guide them:

**God of mercy, hold us in love.**

For all those who labor in service to others:

**God of mercy, hold us in love.**

Grant weather that nourishes all of creation:

**God of mercy, hold us in love.**

Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from danger:

**God of mercy, hold us in love.**

For all the beloved who rest in your mercy:

**God of mercy, hold us in love.**

Help us, comfort us, all of our days:

**Keep us, hold us, gracious God.**

Great and merciful God, Source and Ground of all goodness and life, give to your people the peace that passes all understanding, and the will to live your Gospel of mercy and justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

God remember us in your love, and teach us to pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your Kingdom come: your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we**



**forgive those who sin against us. save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Sharing a Sign of Peace

Peace be with you,

**And also with you.**

Benediction – *from the New Zealand Prayer Book*

God be your comfort, your strength,

God be your hope and support,

God be your light and your way;

and the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer, and Giver of Life, remain with you now and for ever.

*You are invited to please place your offering in the plates located near the exits. Our Lenten/Easter Offerings will be shared six ways as follows:*

*Interfaith Caregivers, Kewaskum Community Pantry, Full Shelf Food Pantry, Heifer International, UCC Disaster Relief, Peace Church Habitat for Humanity*

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## ***SERVING TODAY***

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*A Special Thanks Tonight to Our Worship Team*

Musicians:

Sherry McElhatton

Karla Spaits

Elsa Kirkegaard

Video: Eric Heidenreiter

Sexton: Roger Lindgren

**Upcoming Wednesday Midweek Lenten Worship will be posted to YouTube at: [Peace UCC Kewaskum - YouTube](#)**

**Pre-recorded service will premier online at 7:00 p.m. February 24, March 3, March 10, March 17, March 24**

Services will be the sung Holden Evening Prayers with reflections led by this year's 9<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation Class. While the services will first be available on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m., they will remain available on YouTube to watch any time after that.