



**Peace United Church of Christ**

Rev. Eric Kirkegaard

October 15, 2023

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

*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  
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On the web @ [www.peace-ucc.org](http://www.peace-ucc.org), Peace on Facebook, YouTube at: Peace UCC Kewaskum

## WORSHIP SERVICE

PRELUDE "Cranes for Eliana" Line

## GREETINGS - A TIME OF CENTERING

HYMN 113 "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart"

## BEING GATHERED TO GOD

One: The peace and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**Many: And also with you.**

One: Gather us in your presence O Lord and show us whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just.

**Many: Help us to be singers of your praises and servants of your word.**

One: Come, let us worship our God anew!

## CONFESSING AND RECEIVING FORGIVENESS

*(In conversation with Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23)*

One: *Praise the LORD! O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. Who could possibly repeat all of the Lord's mighty acts or publicly recount all his praise?*

**Many: We try to remember all of the ways that you have been at work in our lives, but our own desires and the ways of the world distract us.**

One: *Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times.*

**Many: God, if only we could always remember your transforming ways. If only we could walk with your sense of justice for all people and all of creation.**

One: *We have sinned – right along with our ancestors. We've done what is wrong. We've acted wickedly.*

**Many: God, we fail you as individuals and as communities in thought word and deed, by what we do and by what we fail to do. In your mercy, forgive us our sin.**

One: *They made a calf at Horeb and worshiped a cast image.*

**Many:** Lord we create all kinds of idols, narrow ideologies, materialism, self-certainties that distract us from you. Gracious Savior, stand in the breach again. Forgive us our faults. Gather us back into your fold and open our hearts to the power of your embrace.

Humbly we pray as you taught: *“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.”*

**One:** The mercy and the love of God are endless.  
Friends, believe the good news of the gospel, trust in God's abundant promise:

**Many:** In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

A Response Of Hallelujah “Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le,lu-ja”

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you**

**LESSON** Exodus 32:1-14 (page 66)

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

**HYMN 469** “Lord of All Hopefulness”

**LESSON** Philippians 4:1-9 (page 895)

**GOSPEL** Matthew 22:1-14 (page 756)

**SERMON**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** “All Things Bright & Beautiful” Vandall

## **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.**

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**God of abundant love, with thanksgiving we return a portion of our gifts to you. God, we offer ourselves, our labors, our love, all that we are, to you and to your world. Bless our offerings and guide us in your service. Amen**

## **PASTORAL PRAYER – SILENT PRAYER**

## **BENEDICTION**

One: ...Go in peace and serve the Lord.

Many: **We go to love and to serve for we are the Church, alleluia and amen!**

**HYMN 424** “How Can I Keep from Singing” vs 1 & 4

## **POSTLUDE**

**Serving Today:** Musicians: Sherry McElhatton, Karla Spaits, Mia Dornacker, Lia Piittmann; Video: David Dorn

**Today’s Altar Flowers** from Harold Ramthun in memory of Eileen Ramthun for her birthday – October 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Lectionary for October 22** - Exodus 33:12-23 and Psalm 99 • Isaiah 45:1-7 and Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13) • 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 • Matthew 22:15-22

## **Happy Birthday Oct 15 - 21**

Oct 16 Ella Gitter, Trygve Schemelin, Jackie Machek  
Oct 17 Linda Kirst, Tim Stoffel  
Oct 20 Jamie Piittmann  
Oct 21 Terry Koch

## **Happy Anniversary Oct 15 - 21**

Oct 17 John & Arlene Lemke (59)  
Oct 20 Tim & Nancy Stoffel (39)  
Oct 21 Todd & Kris Schmidt (17)

## **Calendar for the Week of October 15**

10/15 New Member Orientation 10:45 am in the Library  
10/16 Church office open 10 am – 2 pm (10/16-10/17)  
Care & Connection 1 pm  
10/17 Lectionary 10 am, Faith Formation 7 pm  
10/18 XYZ Cards, Banned Book Club 1:30 pm

**Evening Faith Formation will start on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023.** We will resume on the First, Third, and Fifth Tuesdays of the month from 7-8:30 p.m. We will begin this fall with delving into the insightful, humorous, and engaging theology of Dr. Amy-Jill Levine.

We begin with an interview with AJ “The Bible with and without Jesus”. Then, beginning November 7<sup>th</sup> we will turn to this Orthodox Jewish New Testament Scholar’s four session study on Advent. (More details on materials for the Advent study will be in the November Tidings). Again, all are welcome.

**Peace Church Banned Book Group** – will meet on **Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m.** in the church music room. The group will discuss “All Boys Aren’t Blue” by George M. Johnson. Books are reserved at the Kewaskum Library and can be picked up starting September 15<sup>th</sup>. If you need assistance with obtaining a book, please contact the church office.

The Peace Church Banned Book Club meets on the third Wednesday of each month. Below is the schedule for the 2023 calendar:

October 18 - All Boys Aren't Blue by George M. Johnson

November 15 - The Kite Runner by Kahlid Hosseini

December 20 - The Hate You Give by Angie Thomas

**Mitten Ministry News:** We are collecting mittens for those in need on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will have the dedication/blessing on October 29<sup>th</sup>, and plan to distribute to the schools and pantries the first week of November. If you need yarn, stop by the church to pick some up! If you would like to learn how to knit, I would love to hear from you - the more the merrier! You can reach me (Heidi Rodenkirch) at 920-602-1184.

**Thank you!** A huge thank you to the crew that got the church grounds ready for winter on Monday – John & Karen Kletti, Clark Pearson, Mark Bocher, and Tim Stoffel! Job well done!

## **Prayers for Healing:**

For Todd Duck, who had heart bypass surgery last week.

For Fred Krieser, who had hip surgery last week.

## **Special Prayers:**

For Lindsey Krebs, as she embarks on a new and exciting chapter in her life. Lindsey has moved to Texas.