



**Peace United Church of Christ**  
Rev. Eric Kirkegaard  
October 8, 2023  
Nineteenth 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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# WORSHIP SERVICE

## PRELUDE

## GREETINGS - A TIME OF CENTERING

HYMN 51 "How Great Thou Art"

## A PRAYER OF SELF DEDICATION

One: This is our church,

**All: We make it what it is.**

One: Others will feel welcomed,

**All: If I am welcoming.**

One: It will do a great work,

**All: If I work.**

One: It will make generous gifts to many causes,

**All: If I am a generous giver of my time, talents, and treasure.**

One: It will be a sanctuary for social justice and peace,

**All: If I advocate for marginalized communities and practice peace in every setting of my life.**

One: It will be a church that embraces all, builds community, grows faith, and transforms lives,

**All: If I, who make it what it is, practice these things.**

One: Therefore, with the grace of God, we shall be a safe and inclusive church, living God's message of radical hospitality and unbounded mercy.

**All: And I shall dedicate myself to being all the things I want my church to be. Amen.**

## PSALM 19

One: The heavens declare the glory of God;

**All: The skies proclaim the work of his hands.**

One: Day after day they pour forth speech;

**All: Night after night they display knowledge.**

One: There is no speech, there are no words;

**All: No sound can be heard.**

One: Their voice goes out into all the earth,

**All: Their words of the ends of the world.**

One: In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun,

**All: Which is like a bridegroom coming forth from his wedding canopy, like a champion rejoicing to run his course.**

One: It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other;

**All: Nothing is hidden from its heat.**

One: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.

**All: The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.**

One: The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart.

**All: The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.**

One: The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever.

**All: The ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous.**

One: They are more precious than gold,

**All: Than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb,**

One: By them is your servant warned;

**All: In keeping them there is great reward.**

One: Who can discern his errors?

**All: Forgive my hidden faults.**

One: Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me.

**All: Then will I be blameless, innocent of great transgression.**

**May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.**

## **CONFESSING AND RECEIVING FORGIVENESS** *(adapted from A New Zealand Prayer Book)*

One: Let us confess our sin before God and one another.

**All: We have sinned by building walls that divide the Body of Christ. We sin by claiming our differences as more important than our oneness. We fail daily in living our lives as a reflection of our relationship with God.**

**Loving and all-seeing God, forgive us where we fail to support one another. Forgive us for failing to be what we claim to be. Forgive us where we fail to serve you; and where our**

thoughts and actions have been contrary to yours. You have offered us simple instructions for living our lives with right thoughts and actions. But when they are inconvenient, we easily disregard your commands. Forgive us as we pray for your kingdom-ways to guide us: *“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.”*

*(a time of silence)*

**One:** God forgives us, be at peace. Rejoice and be glad, for Christ is resurrection and reconciliation for the entire human race.

**All:** **We shall all be one in Christ, one in our life together. Praise to God who has created us, praise to God who has accepted us, praise to God who sends us into the world.**

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**                      Matthew 21:33-46                      (page 755)

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

**HYMN 94**                      “Shout to the Lord”

**LESSON**                      Philippians 3:4b-14                      (page 895)

**LESSON**                      Exodus 20:1-20                      (page 57)

**SERMON**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**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** – *a Haitian prayer*

**Lord, I heard a man say, “I give You my heart.” But this morning I feel I cannot give only my heart – I offer my whole self. Amen**

## **PASTORAL PRAYER – SILENT PRAYER**

## **BENEDICTION**

**One:** Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**All:** **We go with God's steadfast love before our eyes, God's faithfulness beneath our feet, God's justice burning in our souls. Amen!**

**HYMN 393** “Blest Be the Ties that Bind”

## **POSTLUDE**

**Serving Today:** Musicians: Karla Spaits, Video: David Dorn

**Today's Altar Flowers** are from Lorna Schwingle-Glass in memory of her husband, Rolland.

**Lectionary for October 15** - Exodus 32:1-14 and Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 • Isaiah 25:1-9 and Psalm 23 • Philippians 4:1-9 • Matthew 22:1-14

## **Happy Birthday Oct 8 - 14**

Oct 8 Kathy Roesel (81)

Oct 12 Olivia Herbst

Oct 14 Karlee Herman, Carson Strom

## **Happy Anniversary Oct 8 - 14**

Oct 10 Doug & Judy Christensen (59)

Oct 11 Jessica & Kevin Klahn (20)

Oct 13 Nicole & David Brei (11)

## **Calendar for the Week of October 8**

10/9 Pastoral Relations 6:30 pm

10/10 Lectionary 10 am, Church Council 6 pm

10/11 XYZ Cards

10/12 Living the Question 10 am, Grief Group – 1pm

**Keys Run/Walk** will take place on Sunday (TODAY), October 8<sup>th</sup>. Please be aware of the runners and walkers who will be on the street in front of the church starting at 11:00 a.m. this morning.

**Living the Questions 2.0** - Starting October 12<sup>th</sup>, we will begin a Thursday Morning study on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 10:00-11:30 – When we have done this study in the past it has felt like it offered members in the class an introductory taste of the riches of a seminary education. This is an amazing opportunity to take your faith, your relationship to scripture, God, and the Church to a new level. Vikar Jakob will be the primary leader for this class.

*People know that at its core, Christianity has something good to offer the human race. At the same time, many have a sense that they are alone in being a "thinking" Christian or struggling with how to navigate what Christianity means today. What is needed is a safe environment where people have permission to ask the questions they've always wanted to ask but have been afraid to voice for fear of being thought a heretic. As well as having the tools to ask more informed questions of the faith we have inherited.*

*Living the Questions is a 21 session DVD based small group study exploring beyond the traditions and rote theologies in which so many people and churches seem to be stuck. Living the Questions will help seekers and "church alumni/ae" alike in discovering the significance of Christianity in the 21st Century and what a meaningful faith can look like in today's world.*

**Shoe Drive** - Our neighbors in the Phoenix area are in need of help in handling the number of refugees who are coming into the area. The churches in the greater Phoenix area are working together to address this urgent need. Desert Palm United Church of Christ in Tempe is one of the churches in the East Valley Network and Refugee Welcome Center

As the numbers of asylum seekers entering the United States have increased, the Welcome Center is in urgent need of gently used, comfortable shoes. Peace Church would like to help our neighbors by collecting gently used children's shoes (no flip-flops) during the month of October. Can you help by donating shoes for children ages 1 to 12 years? There will be a box next to the church office for the shoes.

**Peace Church Banned Book Group** – will meet on **Wednesday, October 18th 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 15th. 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 22nd. We will have the dedication/blessing on October 29th, 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.

**New Member Orientation** will be held on Sunday, October 15 following the 9:30 a.m. service. (approx. 10:45 a.m.) in the library on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. If you are interested in being part of this meeting, please contact the church office to RSVP – 262-626-4011. We hope to see you there!

**Prayers for Comfort:**

To Rosemary Frank, who has entered hospice care at Cedar Community.

To Ralph Faisst, who has entered hospice care at Cedar Community.