



**Peace United Church of Christ**

Rev. Eric Kirkegaard

November 26, 2023

Reign of Christ

*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](mailto:pastor@peace-ucc.org)*

*Church Office: Robin Mock, 262-626-4011 - [office@peace-ucc.org](mailto:office@peace-ucc.org)*

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

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

***\*Please stand***

## **WORSHIP SERVICE**

**PRELUDE**      “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”      Line

## **GREETINGS - A TIME OF CENTERING**

**\*HYMN 342**      “Rejoice, the Lord is King”

## **BEING GATHERED TO GOD- Psalm 100**

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

**All:**    **And also with you.**

**One:**    Come, let's sing out loud to the Lord! Let's raise a joyful shout to the rock of our salvation!

**All:**    **Let's come before him with thanks! Let's shout songs of joy to him! The Lord is a great God, the great king over all other gods.**

**One:**    The earth's depths are in his hands; the mountain heights belong to him; the sea, which he made, is his along with the dry ground, which his own hands formed.

**All:**    **Come, let's worship and bow down! Let's kneel before the Lord, our maker! He is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, the sheep in his hands.**

## **CONFESSION**

**Mighty and merciful God, in our minds we believe we are attentive to those who are hungry or thirsty, welcoming to strangers we encounter, giving care to those who are ill, and offering friendship to those who are imprisoned. But in our hearts, we know that we more often avert our eyes, pretending not to see the homeless person, avoiding anyone who is different, and staying away from those who are suffering because we don't know what to say or do.**

**Forgive us for when we fail to recognize you in the face of a stranger and fail to care for those in need. Open our hearts so that we might see the stranger with your eyes and strive to be your hands and feet in the world.**

**Hear our confession, humble us, O God, and assure us again that your love would transform our weakness into strength with you. Amen.**

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Friends, do not be held captive by your sin! God sent Jesus not to condemn us but to free us. Believe in the Good News of the gospel! In Christ, the King of Kings, you are forgiven. Thanks be to God. **Amen**

**\*A Response #338 – “King of Kings**

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you**

## **PEACE CHANEL CHOIR**

**“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”**

**LESSON** Ezekiel 34:11-24 (page 662)

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

**HYMN 337** “We Will Glorify”

**GOSPEL** Matthew 25:31-46 (page 759)

## **SERMON**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** “Crown Him King of Kings” Damazio

## **\*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 DEDICATON**

**Lord, your ways are beyond measure. We come before you with hearts of gratitude and yearning. Help us to discern your will and share your blessings with all of creation. Amen.**

## **PASTORAL PRAYER – 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."*

**BENEDICTION** - a Franciscan Blessing

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.

May God bless you as you go forth in service, living hand in hand with Christ the King.

**We go to love and to serve for we are the church, the body of Christ in the world! Alleluia and Amen.**

**\*HYMN 719** "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

**POSTLUDE**

**Serving Today:** Musicians: Sherry McElhatton, Mia Dornacker; Video: Katelyn Scannell

**Lectionary for December 3** - first Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9 • Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 • 1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
• Mark 13:24-37

**Happy Birthday Nov 26-Dec 2**

Nov 26 Lorelei Walker, Auden Walker

Nov 27 Quin Dornacker, Joyce Meinberg (88)

Nov 30 Tami Staehler

Dec 1 Croix Kivell

Dec 2 Dan Rundquist

## **Happy Anniversary Nov 26-Dec 2**

Nov 27 Karen & John Grundahl (52)  
Dean & Colleen Roe (69)

## **Calendar for the Week of November 26**

11/26 5-8p.m. - High School Movie Night (no 9<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation)  
11/27 Stewardship Committee Meeting 5:30 pm  
11/28 Lectionary 10 am  
11/29 XYZ Cards

**Young Adult Habitat trip** - is scheduled for January 1, 2024, to January 7, 2024. Any young adult is welcome to come along. They don't have to be members of our church. Pastor Eric and Sheri Rehn will be the chaperones. They will be going to Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The cost is \$200.00 per person for the week, and this includes staying at the Volunteer Lodge, breakfast, lunch, and dinners. Meals on the way there and back, and on our off day, are not included in the cost. If you or someone you know is interested in joining, please let Robin in the church office at 262-262-4011. Paperwork and payment is due by Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please call Pastor Eric at 262-707-0758 or Karen Kletti at 262-224-2212.

**Intragenerational cookie frosting event** Saturday, December 2 at 1:00 PM at church.

If you'd like to participate in the **Kewaskum Christmas Parade**, representing peace, church, please contact Becky Manthei.

There is a strong need for additional visitation with our **Shut-ins**. Please call the office if you are able to commit to one or more visits.

## **Prayers of Comfort**

To Shirley Schlice as she moves to Waterford Place in West Bend and continues to recover.

## Poinsettias

This year we again invite you to order a Christmas poinsettia through Peace Church. The plants will be identical in size and all of them red in color. They will be in 6 ½ inch pots and come with foil wrap. Cost per plant will be \$20.00. These plants may be ordered in memory of loved ones, in honor of special moments or persons, or just love gifts. They will be placed in church on December 24th. **After the service on December 25<sup>th</sup>, you may take your plant home to enjoy.** Wouldn't you like to help beautify the church sanctuary with these traditional Christmas flowers? Please contact the church office 626-4011, email: [office@peace-ucc.org](mailto:office@peace-ucc.org), or mail: P. O. Box 433, Kewaskum, WI 53040 by December 5th. Plants must be paid for in advance. Thank you!

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### Christmas Poinsettia Order

Please order \_\_\_\_\_ Plant(s) for me:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Check \_\_\_\_\_ (\$20.00 per plant – payable to Peace UCC)

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Other Designation \_\_\_\_\_