

Peace United Church of Christ

Rev. Eric Kirkegaard 29 November 2020 First Sunday of Advent 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.

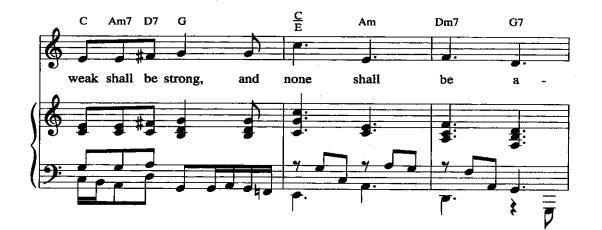
Therefore, we declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming Congregation, where an extravagant welcome and grace are extended to all, and each person's gifts are celebrated, welcomed, nurtured and blessed, that all may be one. Amen.

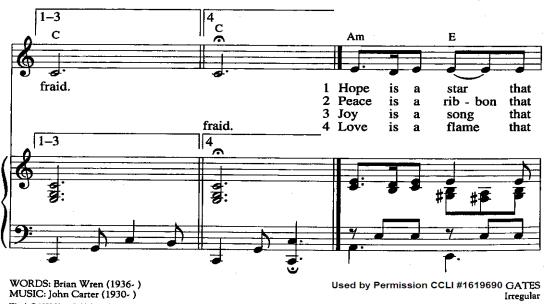
Approved by Peace Church 10/20/2019

WORSHIP SERVICE

Prelude "Oh Come Little Children" arr. Lorie Line PLEASE DON'T SING Hymn 165 "When God is a Child"







MUSIC: John Carter (1930-) Words © 1989 Hope Publishing Company Music © 1998 Hope Publishing Company



Prayer of Hope – adapted from UCC Worship Ways

One: God of justice and of peace — You have woven into the fabric of the world threads of mercy and kindness.

Many: We hunger for the awe and wonder revealed in your marvelous artistry.

One: God of promise and of love — You beckon to us in the beauty of sunset and darkness, of daylight and lengthening shadows.

Many: We rejoice in the majesty of your creation.

One: The spectrum of your love spills forth all around. The hues of your love warm our spirits. The vibrancy of your love saturates us with hope.

Many: Blessed is the God of love whose art expressed in Christ we anticipate.

- One: We light this candle in abundant hope that the radiance of you, O God, will be kindled in our hearts, filling us with hope, as we anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ.
- Many: We who wait on the Lord are filled with hope.

The Prayer of Confession and the Assurance of Pardon

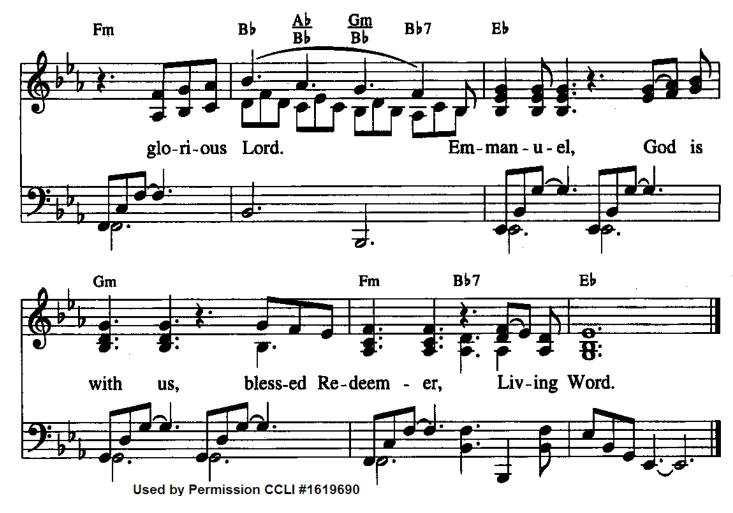
- One: As we begin our advent journey, our days grow shorter, the sacred-darkness longer. We turn to symbols of candles, evergreens, and wreaths to proclaim our belief in the unquenchable light that shines in the darkness. In confession we offer our darkness trusting in God's Reign of light.
- All: We confess that our lives are not always lived in ways pleasing to you, God. Our shame has left us feeling distant from you who are both Mother and Father to us all, the One in whose hands we are like clay. We know that you love us just as we are, but we also know that you love us too much to have us remain merely as we are. Forgive us O Lord, for what we do and for what we fail to do. Guide us with your light that we might become a light to the nations. We humbly pray in your name O Christ, our Lord. Amen
- One: God, our Creator, has given us the ultimate gift. God's gift to us is grace everlasting love offered in startling and unexpected ways. **Alleluia, Amen.**

PLEASE DON'T SING Hymn 177 Jesus, Name Above All Names



WORDS and MUSIC: Naida Hearn (1944-) Words and Music © 1974 Scripture In Song (a div. of Integrity Music)

Used by Permission CCLI #1619690



The Passing of the Peace

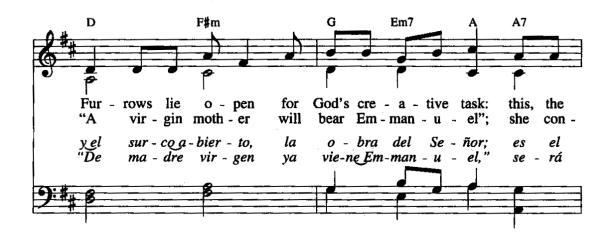
The peace of Christ be with you And also with you

Gospel

Mark 13:24-37

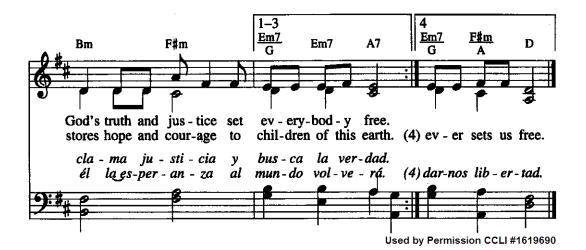
The Children's Time **PLEASE DON'T SING** Hymn #437 "Jesus Loves Me, This I Know" PLEASE DON'T SING - Hymn 163 "All Earth is Hopeful"







WORDS: Alberto Taulé (1932-); tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall (1946-) MUSIC: Alberto Taulé (1932-); arr. Skinner Chávez-Melo (1944-1992) Words and Music © 1993 Centro de Pastoral Liturgica (Admin. OCP Publications) Words Tr. © 1995 Madeleine Forell Marshall (Admin. Augsburg Fortress) Used by Permission CCLI #1619690 TAULÉ 11.11.12.12.



- 3 Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared; new highways opened, new protocols declared. Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace! All clear every gateway, in haste, come out in haste!
- 4 We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib. This same Lord Jesus today has come to live in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.
- Montes y valles habrá que preparar; nuevos caminos tenemos que trazar.
 Él está ya muy cerca, venidlo a encontrar, y todas las puertas abrid de par en par.
- 4 En una cueva Jesús apareció, pero en el mundo está presente hoy. Vive en nuestros hermanos, con ellos está; y vuelve de nuevo a darnos libertad.

Epistle	1 Corinthians 1:3–9	
O.T. Lesson	Isaiah 64:1-9	
Sermon	"What a Strange Journey"	
Special Music	"Coventry Carol"	arr. Chip Davis

Prayer of Dedication

Many: Gracious God, we bring these gifts as a sign of our love for you and one another. Bless us with your presence as we give ourselves to you and to your people. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer – Silent 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

- Leader: The worship is ended, now the service begins. Go in peace, serve the Lord.
- People: We go to love and to serve for we are the church!
- All: Alleluia and Amen!

PLEASE DON'T SING J Hymn #176 "Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty"



WORDS: George Weissel (1590-1635); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878); para. Psalm 24:7-10 TRURO MUSIC: Thomas Williams' Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789 Used by Permission CCLI #1619690 L.M.

Our Worship Team: Karla Spaits Sherry McElhatton Elsa Kirkegaard Josh Spaits - sound Eric Heidenreiter - video

Ministers: ALL OF YOU!

<u>Altar Flowers</u> – The flowers on the altar today from Karen & John Grundahl in honor of their 49th anniversary. Happy Anniversary Karen & John!

Lectionary texts for December 6 – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Isaiah 40:1-11 • Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 • 2 Peter 3:8-15a • Mark 1:1-8

CALENDAR – WEEK OF NOVEMBER 29

Lectionary group at Peace Church – December 1 - 10:00 a.m. Contact the church if you are interested. Each week we will study the scripture for the upcoming Sunday.

Adult Faith Formation, Confirmation Redux:

First, third, and fifth Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. - We are continuing to study the confirmation materials used by our 9th grade confirmands.

Join in person in fellowship hall or connect by zoom: https://zoom.us/j/91928904117?pwd=SFIDNzF0ZmwrNINydCtpQXFP WE9EQT09 Meeting ID: 919 2890 4117 Passcode: 655329

9TH Grade Confirmation – 9th Grade Confirmation classes will be held on Wednesday, December 2 from 4:00 – 5:15 p.m. via Zoom.

Christmas Services will necessarily look different this year...

We will be offering three in person services on **Christmas Eve**, they will all be candlelight services of lessons and carols. We will stream the indoor service and one of the outdoor services.

- 4:00 p.m. **Christmas Eve inside service** The service will be limited to 20 people and will be streamed online. We will not be doing any singing during this service, instead we will be relying on our musicians and treating hymnody as poetry.
- 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. **Christmas Eve outdoor services** We will also be offering two abbreviated candlelight services held in our church parking lot. Being outside will allow us to sing together more safely some of our beloved carols. It will still be required that people wear masks over their mouths and noses throughout these services (an easy thing to do outside at this time of year.) And equally important we ask that people still practice social distancing. A mask does not remove the guidance for distancing! This is Wisconsin, if people can bundle up to share in a Packers' game than they can certainly do it for a celebration of Christmas.
- **Christmas Day will be strictly Virtual** this year. We will continue our tradition of lifting some special Christmas cheer, but this year you can stay home and watch the celebration in your pajamas with a hot mug in your hands! We will plan to post this service by 8:00 a.m. Christmas Day

This has been a year of many changes – Remember, Christmas is surely about the inbreaking of the unexpected changing the world. This year we will continue in celebrating together God's light and love dwelling among us in unusual ways. Imagine, God as a baby. Imagine, Christmas Eve with a parking lot full of little group of candles and gentle singing... imagine.

Worship at Peace Church

We are currently regathered for worship in our church building. Service times have changed to: 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Reservations are requested: Please click on either the 8:00 worship link (first link below) or the 10:00 worship link (second link below) to reserve your spot at worship. Or call the church office 626-4011. While the risk level is "Very High" (or "Critically High" as it now is) we will be limiting attendance to 20 people per service, in addition to the worship leadership. 8:00 am. worship- https://peaceucc800worship.eventbrite.com 10:00 am. worship- https://peaceucc10amworship.eventbrite.com

Christmas Eve 4:00 p.m. worship -

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/christmas-eve-service-tickets-130573184911

Thank you Peace Church Congregation!

The Peace Church congregation has always been committed to our mission and has demonstrated that commitment over and over. We thank all of you who have continued to send in your offerings – it is very much appreciated!

We hope, that if you are able, you will continue to give to the church during this difficult time.

Here are ways to give to Peace:

- Mail your gift to church: The church address is: Peace UCC, PO Box 433, Kewaskum, WI 53040
- Give online by going to <u>GIVE</u> on our website. Scroll down to online giving and click the link and follow the directions.
- You can also set up automatic contributions with your bank. To do this just go to your bank's website or to call your local branch and they will assist you.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday November 29 November 30 December 1 December 2 December 3 December 4	November 29 – December 5 Mason Vey Tami Staehler Croix Kivell Virginia Michaels (92), Dan Rundquist Matthew Gill, Art Schmidt (83) Ralph Faisst (92), Steve Falk, Kathy Schreffler,	
December 5	Brian Weinreich Betty Hallen (94), Kyle Henk	
Happy AnniversaryNovember 29 – December 5December 1Rosemarie & Clifford Maeder (68)December 5Harvey & Nancy Brodzeller (56)		

PRAYER LIST

Please let us know of any updates to the Prayer Lists

<u>Those in Need of Healing</u>: all shut-ins and those experiencing pain or loss **Members**:

- Harvey Brodzeller Hanna Bruenn Debbie Butzlaff Cliff and Kim Clark John Coulter Carol Gardner Marian Herriges John Kletti
- Nancy Laguna Jackie McCurdy Marilyn McIntosh Don Neitzel Cheryl Novotny Dennis Novotny Donna Ogi Shirley Ogi
- Judy Price Kathy Roesel Lucille Swanson Betty Skaug Mark Steinhardt Alec Taylor Howard Zemlicka Sharon Zolp

Friends & Family:

Rose Ambler (B. Hallen) Steve Cooper (Rodenkirch) Heather Crass (Walker/Winninghoff) Jessica (DeLaurier) Joe Donald (J.C. Lemke) Judy Gambino (Bobb) Ronald Graff (Betty Graff) Griffin (Radeztsky) The Joshua Haas Family (Lemke) Riley Hahn (Rodenkirch) Cindy Hoffman (Grundahl) Debbie (Hallen) Therese Rohlinger (Roesel) Chance Prince (J.C. Lemke) Marion Schuster (J.C. Lemke) Izzy Straub (McElhatton) Cheryl Thill (Mertz/Stoffel)

Please keep us updated. Concerns will be listed for 6 weeks.

Those Dealing with Cancer:

Members: Laurie Struck, Dennis Novotny, Carol Butzlaff

Friends & Family:

Gary & Evelyn Beaupre Jean Cornell (Herriges) Nephew of Beck Ehmer Kerri Estep (Atwater) Nancy Gruebling (Kletti) Paula Hader (Adler) Sheri Theep (Van Beek) Jan (D. Stangl) Sue Mitchell (Rhoads) Paige More (Pearson) Sharon Rosbeck (Herriges) Dennis Liepert (J. Michaels) Steve Siebenaler (J. Manthei) Susan Tolonen (Lindgren) Russell Will (Will)

Prayers of Comfort

The family and friends of Les Martin, who passed away on Monday, November 23, 2020.

Those Serving our Country



Thank you to the following who are currently serving in the **Armed Forces**, for their courage, strength and dedication to keeping us safe:

Julia (Leithold) Beasley (Air Force)

Sgt. Tyler Graff (Air Force – Betty Graff grandson)

Spencer Guenther (Air Force – Van Ess nephew)

Kyle Henk (Army)

Matthew Jankowski (Army National Guard – Jackie McCurdy grandson) Luke Linden (Army National Guard – Joanne Amerling grandson) Major Erik Rundquist (Army) Maggie Singer (Army National Guard) Dallas Stolowski (Marine Corp. – Knoth grandson) Ryan Wunsch (Army National Guard – McElhatton son-in-law) Samuel Zemlicka-Retzlaff (Air Force)

Our Covenanted Partner in Ministry: Rev. Gretchen Martin who serves the wider church through her work with the North Carolina Organ Donor Network.

PEACE CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact Us At: P. O. Box 433, Kewaskum, WI 53040 Church Office – Robin Mock 262-626-4011 - office@peace-ucc.org Pastor Eric cell: 262-707-0758 - pastor@peace-ucc.org Pastor Bob Blackburn, Visitation Minister 920-279-0816 Gayle Van Ess, Faith Formation Coordinator 262-339-0304 faithformation@peace-ucc.org Peace Church Prayer Chain - prayers@peace-ucc.org

On the web @ <u>www.peace-ucc.org</u> Find Peace on <u>Facebook</u>

On YouTube at: Peace UCC Kewaskum