



**Peace United Church of Christ**  
Rev. Eric Kirkegaard  
December 18, 2022  
The Fourth Sunday of Advent

*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*

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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

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*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)

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

\* Stand if you are able

Prelude

“Carol of the Bells Fantasy”

Vandall

**Greetings – Prayer Requests**

Hymn 185

[“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”](#)

**Preparing Our Hearts for God (from Worship Ways)**

One: Love. Everything begins with Love.

**Many: From the beginning of creation to the end of time, God’s love colors everything.**

One: Open your hearts to love and you will recognize hope shining in the most ancient of promises. Love. Everything continues with Love.

**Many: From strangers across oceans to neighbors next door, God’s love dwells in everything.**

One: Live love as a way of being and you will see peace shining in each and every face that images: beloved. Love. Everything ends with Love.

**Many: From the most challenging struggle to the most wondrous delight, God’s love flows through everything.**

One: Give love with open hands and you will find joy shining in the surprises that undo us and transform us. Love. Everything leans toward Love.

**Many: From the greatest ruler to the tiniest baby, God’s love changes everything.**

One: Prepare the way for love and you will find love shining in each and every breath that whispers: Emmanuel.

**Confessing and Receiving Forgiveness**

Jesus, God sent you in mercy to be Emmanuel, God-with-us.

**You seek to teach us the compassion of God. Forgive us when we fail to share the gift.**

Jesus, your life took flesh in the mercy of Mary’s womb.

**We rejoice in the compassion of Mary. Forgive us the times that we fail to let your love dwell within us.**

Jesus, your family took shape in the mercy of Joseph’s welcome.

**We give thanks for the compassion of Joseph. Forgive us our struggles to let our hearts mirror your welcome.**

Jesus, your holy family knew the struggle of trying to find a safe place to spend the night, to find grace that looked beyond the obvious.

**Teach us the compassion of God; Lead us in the ways of justice and mercy.**

**We confess, compassionate God, that we fail to live your witness in thought, word, and deed; in what we do and in what we fail to do. Forgive us. Humbly we pray as you have taught 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.”**

**Words of Assurance: from Isaiah 49:13**

“Shout for joy, O heavens; rejoice, O earth; burst into song, O mountains! For our God comforts the people and will have compassion on the afflicted ones.”

Hear the good news: In the name of Jesus, God's love made flesh, our compassionate God forgives us and gives us the grace to start over.

**\*Hymn 177**                    “Jesus, Name Above All Names”  
**Jesus, name above all names,  
beautiful Savior, Glorious Lord.  
Emmanuel, God is with us,  
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.**

**\*The Passing of the Peace**

**One:**        May the peace of Christ be with you.

**All:**        **And also with you.**

*9:30 a.m.*                    “Star of Wonder”  
   *The Churchmen*

**Lesson**                                    [Isaiah 7:10-16](#)                                    (Page 525)

**The Children’s Time** - As the children come forward, please sing Hymn # 226 “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know” vs. 1

**Lighting the Advent Candle –**

**One:**        We come to kindle God's light in the world. In Advent, we remember the darkest days

**Many:**     **and await the brilliant light of hope.**

**One:**        In Advent, we remember the thirsty days

**Many:**     **and await the quenching light of peace.**

**One:**        In Advent, we remember the silent days

**Many:** and await the singing light of joy.

One: In Advent, we remember the days when we feel invisible, ineffective, too small to make a difference

**Many:** and we await God's invitation to be God-Bearers, witnesses of God's love.

One: We light these candles inviting God's light to shine in the darkness and to lead us on toward Christmas.

**Hymn #165** [“When God is a Child”](#)

**Psalm** [80:1-7, 17-19](#) (Page 446)

9:30 a.m. “The Littlest Carol”  
The Chancel Choir

**Lesson** [Romans 1:1-7](#) (Page 857)

9:30 a.m. “Mary Rocked the Little Baby”

**Gospel** [Matthew 1:18-25](#) (Page 737)

9:30 a.m. “Emmanuel”

8:00 a.m. **Sermon** “Choosing Love and Joy in the Darkness”

**Special Music** “Oh Come Little Children” Lorie Line

**Prayer of Dedication** (in unison)

**We offer to you, O God, the gifts of our lives and service. Keep us close Lord, to all who need your love, justice, compassion, and healing; help us to show them that you are known in Jesus Christ, whose compassion lives in all of us. Amen.**

**Pastoral Prayer – Silent Prayer**

**Response** “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

**Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.**

**Benediction**

One: Let us go forth striving to be compassionate as our Creator is compassionate, awaiting with joy the birth of Jesus, in whose way of love, justice and mercy we will walk with our sisters and brothers. Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**All: We go to love and to serve, for we are the church. Alleluia and Amen!**

**\*Hymn #159** [“The King of Glory Comes”](#)



**Postlude**

“Duet Fantasy on Joy to the World”

Vandall

**Serving Today:** Musicians: Sherry McElhatton, Karla Spaits, Elsa Kirkegaard, Lia Piittmann, Mia Dornacker, Litanist: Jerry O’Connor, Audio: Joshua Spaits, Video: David Dorn

**Lectionary for December 24 & 25:** Isaiah 9:2-7 • Psalm 96 • Titus 2:11-14 • Luke 2:1-14, (15-20); Isaiah 62:6-12 • Psalm 97 • Titus 3:4-7 • Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20; Isaiah 52:7-10 • Psalm 98 • Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12) • John 1:1-14

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## ***BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES***

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### **Happy Birthday December 18 - 24**

Dec 18 Gayle Van Ess

Dec 19 Karla Spaits

Dec 20 Corbin Walker

Dec 21 Kathy Danielson

Dec 23 Nolan Bocher

### **Happy Anniversary December 18 – 24**

Dec 20 John & Margaret Schmahl (53)

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## ***NEWS & NOTES***

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### **Calendar for the Week of December 18**

12/18 Peace Church Christmas Choir Concert – 9:30 am service  
9<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation 4-5:30 pm

12/20 Lectionary 10 am

12/21 XYZ Cards, Faith Formation Class 7-8:30 pm

12/22 Grief Group 1 pm

12/24 Christmas Eve Candlelight services 6:30 & 8:30 pm

12/25 Christmas Day service 9:30 am

**Peace Church Choir for Christmas** - the choir will be having rehearsals after church on Sundays for those in the congregation who would like to sing with us.

**Art/Craft Sale:** Take a look at the tables near both entrances at church to find hand crafted items for sale! Items will change monthly, and proceeds will go towards a designated fund at church. If you are interested in being one of the 'vendors', talk to Karla Spaits, Nancy Stoffel, or Sandi Radeztsky. So far, the crafters have raised \$662!

**Evening Bible Study:** We have begun a new 10 session adult study – “What’s So Amazing About Grace” by Philip Yancey. We meet the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30 p.m. All are welcome as we investigate grace.

**Peace UCC on Local Cable** – In the West Bend service area we are now on cable television. This week’s service will be broadcast on Monday afternoons at approximately 1:00 p.m. On Sunday mornings the prior week’s service will be broadcast in sequence with other area congregations at approximately 10:15 (it depends on the length of the services before us). This will be on Spectrum channel 987, and AT&T channel 99. Please let us know how this works for you.

**Peace Church Community Meal** – Our next Peace Pantry Community Meal will be on Wednesday, January 4, 2023. The menu will be chicken patty on a bun, hamburgers, baked beans, fruit, deviled eggs, dessert, and beverages. Everyone is welcome to join in this wonderful time to share a meal and conversation!

A special thank you to Sargento Cheese, who donated all the cheese for the grilled cheese sandwiches we served at our last meal!

### **Congratulations Graduates!**

Congratulations to Lily Lindgren on her college commencement on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> from Northern Michigan University. Lily graduates Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Fine Arts.

Congratulations to Emma Preder who graduated from UW-Platteville on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Emma, graduated Magna Cum Laude, with a major in Forensics Investigation and a minor in Criminal Justice.

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## ***PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK***

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*Current prayers will be listed for one week unless otherwise indicated. Requests may be emailed to [office@peace-ucc.org](mailto:office@peace-ucc.org) or by calling the office at 262-626-4011. You may also share your prayer requests 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.*

### **Prayers for Healing:**

We pray for Quin Dornacker, who broke his foot at a basketball tournament last weekend.

We pray for Christ Gudex as he recovers from cardiac catheterization procedure he had done on Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving:**

Thank you to all who helped with our Children’s Christmas program!



**TODAY**

**December 18**

**9:30 a.m. - Choir Christmas Concert**

**December 24**

**Christmas Eve**

**6:30 p.m. & 8:30 p.m.**

**Candlelight Services of Lessons and Carols**

**December 25**

**Christmas Day**

**ONLY ONE SERVICE**

**9:30 a.m.**

**January 1**

**First Sunday after Christmas**

**ONLY ONE SERVICE**

**9:30 a.m. with Communion**

**Guest Pastor: Rev. Russ Knoth**