



**Peace United Church of Christ**

Rev. Eric Kirkegaard

February 4, 2024

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

*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)*

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*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** “Raise You Up”

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

**\*HYMN 438** “On Eagle’s Wings”

**TURNING TO GOD** - Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

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

**All: And also with you.**

One: Praise the Lord! Because it is good to sing praise to our God! Because it is a pleasure to make beautiful praise! The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem, gathering up Israel’s exiles.

**All: God heals the brokenhearted and bandages their wounds. God counts the stars by number, giving each one a name. Our Lord is great and so strong!**

One: God’s knowledge can’t be grasped! The Lord helps the poor, but throws the wicked down on the dirt! Sing to the Lord with thanks; sing praises to our God with a lyre!

**All: God covers the skies with clouds; God makes rain for the earth; God makes the mountains sprout green grass. God gives food to the animals— even to the baby ravens when they cry out.**

One: God doesn’t prize the strength of a horse; God doesn’t treasure the legs of a runner. No.

**All: The Lord treasures the people who honor him, the people who wait for his faithful love.**

**Praise the Lord!**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy God, silence beyond silence, and Word beyond words, calm our fluttering and flustered hearts as we open them to your power and presence. We have much to confess as we speak the truth of our lives; we need your wisdom and patience. We have sinned against you and against humanity when we have refused to accept the fullness of life in one another. We have made the differences between us monumental barriers to understanding; when they should be embraced as celebrations of your wondrous and diverse creation. We have followed our fears rather than our faith. We shrink behind prejudice and narrow perceptions. We say we want peace but then we have done things that encourage violence. You, O God, call us to faithfulness in each and every moment, yet our hearts are often closed to your nudge upon our lives. Receive now our earnest prayers of confession, which spring from our deepest being into your merciful ear . . .**

*Time for silent confession*

**Hear us as we pray the prayer your Son 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**

**As dawn comes after the long night, so, too, does forgiveness shine when we acknowledge before God and one another those things that separate**

us from God's love. This is the good news that we believe—we have been made new once again! Let us take this newness and know that God's love frees us to love one another, and to love ourselves.

**Thanks be to God, whose steadfastness is for all generations.**

**\*A RESPONSE OF HALLELUJA**

**“Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le, lu-ja”**

**THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

**CHANCEL CHOIR “Come, Share the Lord”**

**LESSON** 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 (Page 873)

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

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (Intinction)**

**PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

#737 Santo, Santo, Santo

*Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you.  
My heart is glad to say the words:  
you are Holy, Lord!*

*Santo, santo, santo, mi corazon te adora.  
Mi corazon te sabe decir: santo eres Senor.*

**PREPARATION OF THE TABLE**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (IN UNISON)**

**O God, in this simple meal you come to us again. You share yourself and your sustaining Spirit with our hungry souls. In the broken bread and the shared cup, the good news is proclaimed. Christ was born, Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again. Amen**

**HYMN 587** “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

**GOSPEL LESSON** Mark 1:29-39

**SERMON**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

“Let Us Break Bread Together” Hanson

**OFFERTORY**

**\*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**

**All:** You have encouraged us, O God, to listen to your message of hope and peace. We respond with gratitude. As you have given us gifts, and as we have come to know that we are your beloved daughters and sons, we offer a portion of all we have so that others may receive. May your peace and justice fill the earth. Amen.

**PASTORAL PRAYER – SILENT PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION**

**All:** Christ beside us, Christ before us, Christ beneath us, Christ above us, surround us with your presence and inspire us with your purpose. Confirm us in your love, and send us out into the world in peace to serve.  
Alleluia and Amen!

**\*HYMN 231** “Arise, Your Light Is Come”

**POSTLUDE** “March of the Kings” Line

**Serving Today:** Musicians: Karla Spaits, Mia Dornacker; Video: David Dorn

**Today's Altar Flowers** are donated by Elizabeth Bobb in honor of Jerome Vicki.

**Lectionary for February 11** - 2 Kings 2:1-12 • Psalm 50:1-6 • 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 • Mark 9:2-9

**Happy Birthday Feb 4 - 10**

Feb 6 Barbara Breitag, Katie Singer

Feb 8 Holly Henk, Colleen Roe, Ethan Singer

Feb 9 Amanda Herbst, Melissa Polzin

Feb10 Coralee Flood

**Calendar for the Week of February 4**

2/4 5:30-7:00pm, 9<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation

2/6 Lectionary 10am, Faith Formation 7pm "Half Truths"

2/7 XYZ Cards, Book Club 9:30 am,  
Community Meal 4:30-6 pm

2/8 Living the Question 10 am, Grief Group 1 pm

**Youth Group Events** – The Peace Church Youth Group will meet after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday service in the youth room (2<sup>nd</sup> floor) on the following date: February 18<sup>th</sup>. All young people (grade 6 and up) and up are invited to attend!

**Adult Faith Formation** – Begins this week from 7:00-8:30 (Future dates: February 6, 20, March 5, 19, and April 2.) A 5-week study by Pastor Adam Hamilton entitled *Half Truths – "God helps those who help themselves" and other things the Bible doesn't say*. Session titles are:

1. Everything Happens For A Reason.
2. God Helps Those Who Help Themselves.
3. God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle.
4. God Said It, I Believe It, That Settles It.
5. Love The Sinner, Hate The Sin.

Each session will explore the theological and Biblical implications of these familiar phrases that only contain half-truths while often the other half is quite destructive and misguided. These discussions will be led by Pastor Eric and/or Vikar Jakob.



## Prayers of Comfort

Prayers of comfort to Jill Rhoads, as she continues her journey with pancreatic cancer.

Prayers of comfort to the family and friends of Curtis Nehm, who was killed in a farm accident in rural Hartford this weekend.

## Prayers of Healing

Prayers of healing to David Rockhill as he recovers from hip surgery.

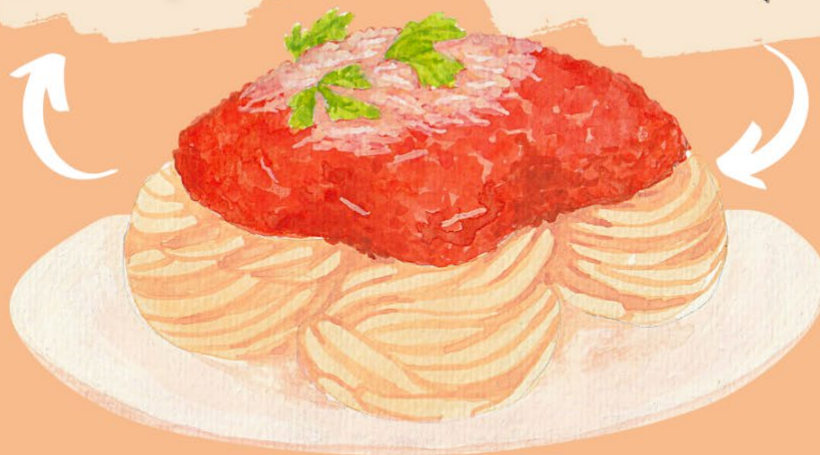
Prayers of healing to Heidi Rodenkirch's great-niece, Micah, who was born on January 6th and has been diagnosed with infant leukemia.

Prayers of healing to Kim Bocher's mother, Louise, who is at home recovering from a cardiac condition.

# PEACE UCC Community Meal

Free to All!

February 7th  
4:30-6:00 pm



Spaghetti & Meatballs, Garlic  
Bread, Green Salad, Beverage  
and Desserts

320 Main Street, Kewaskum