



Peace United Church of Christ

Rev. Eric Kirkegaard

14 March 2021

Fourth Sunday in Lent

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

“Near the Cross”

arr. Lorie Lane

PLEASE DON'T SING Hymn #113 “El-Shaddai”

Michael Card & John Thompson

Gathering Our Hearts Before God – Psalm 107:1-9, 17-22

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

Many: And also with you.

Many: Praise the Lord, for He is good; His steadfast love is eternal!”

One: Thus, let the redeemed of the Lord say, those He redeemed from adversity, whom He gathered in from the lands, from east and west, from the north and from the sea. Some lost their way in the wilderness, in the wasteland; they found no settled place. Hungry and thirsty, their spirit failed. In their adversity they cried to the Lord,

Many: and He rescued them from their troubles. He showed them a direct way to reach a settled place. Let them praise the Lord for His steadfast love, His wondrous deeds for mankind; for He has satisfied the thirsty, filled the hungry with all good things.

One: There were fools who suffered for their sinful way, and for their iniquities. All food was loathsome to them; they reached the gates of death. In their adversity they cried to the Lord

Many: and He saved them from their troubles. He gave an order and healed them; He delivered them from the pits. Let them praise the Lord for His steadfast love, His wondrous deeds for mankind. Let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell His deeds in joyful song.

The Prayer of Confession

We reach deep within our hearts and offer our confession to you,
O God:

Silence for reflection and self-examination:

We pray: **God of gentle mercy, we confess before you and each other that too often we are unfaithful to you. We easily fail to trust in your abundance, we fail to trust in a spirit that would quench our souls always. We hold our brokenness tightly and don't allow your healing love to release us for new life. We too easily allow our prejudice, and quick assumptions, to divide us from the neighbors we have in you. We too easily cling so tightly to the darkness that we struggle to see you beckoning light.**

Beloved Lord, we sin against you in thought, word and deed, by what we do and by what we leave undone. Forgive us, renew us, and strengthen us, that each day we may more fully trust in your ways and become Your holy people. We pray: *“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.”*

PLEASE DON'T SING -Hymn # 378 “Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God”

***Create in me a clean heart, O God;
Create in me a clean heart, O God;
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me. (twice)***

Words of Assurance

Hear the Good News that is ours: by the redemptive, unconditional, and extraordinary love of Christ, we are forgiven.

The Passing of the Peace

Peace be with you

And also with you

OT Lesson

[Numbers 21:4-9](#) (click for link)

The Children's Time

PLEASE DON'T SING Hymn #437 "Jesus Loves Me, This I Know"

PLEASE DON'T SING - Hymn 498 "Lead Me, Guide Me"

Refrain Eb F7 Bb F7 Bb Eb7

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way,

Ab Gm Bb Fm Eb Bb7 Eb

for if you lead me, I can - not stray.

Eb Db7 C7

Lord, let me walk each day with you,

Fm C7 Fm Eb Bb F9 Bb7 Eb Ab Eb Eb

lead me my whole life through.

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat major). It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords, often using triplets. Chord symbols are placed above the vocal line. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

WORDS: Doris Akers (1922-1995), alt.
 MUSIC: Doris Akers (1922-1995); arr. Richard Smallwood (1948-) Used by Permission CCLI #1619690
 Words and Music © 1953, Ren. 1981 Doris Akers (Admin. Unichappell Music Inc. c/o Hal Leonard Corporation)

LEAD ME
 Irregular

Eb Eb9 Db C7 C E Fm Fm7 Bb7 Fm Ab C G
 1 I am weak and I need your strength and power to en-
 2 Help me walk in the paths of right - eous - ness; be my
 3 I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am

Fm Fm Bb Gm Bb Fm Bb Eb Bb7 Eb
 dure with grace my weak - est hour. Help me
 aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press. I am
 blind with - out your light to see. Lord, for-

Bb13 Eb7 Db F Eb7 Fm C7 G Fm
 through the dark - ness your face to see.
 trust - ing you what - e'er may be.
 ev - er may I your ser - vant be.

Eb Bb F9 Bb7 Fm7 Bb Bb7 Eb Ab Eb *to Refrain*
 Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Epistle [Ephesian 2:1-10](#) (click for link)

Gospel [John 3:14-21](#) (click for link)

Sermon “Faithfulness and Love for all the World”

Special Music “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” arr. by Lorie Line

During this week the UCC begins to receive the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. In a world where millions are hungry, thirsty, displaced from their homes, or suffering because of injustice, we can feel so helpless. Remind us that the seeds we sow will grow and produce a bountiful harvest, not because what we give is great, but because God’s grace is sufficient. Each small seed brings an abundance of life; likewise, each small gift brings an abundance of joy into this world. Our special gifts today will support One Great Hour of Sharing, providing aid and relief to our neighbors affected by poverty, war, and natural disasters, locally and globally. Give with thanks and joy, each as you are able, spreading seeds of hope in our world.

Prayer of Dedication

Creator of all that has been, is, and will be, You are the God who sees us. You are the God who sustains us. How can we ever thank you for all that you have granted us? For you have granted us our very lives, creating us in your own divine image, and calling us good.

Thank you for the capacity and the privilege of giving. May the gifts we return to your service, transform hunger into nutritious food; illiteracy into education; thirst into clean, accessible water; disease into healing; displacement into welcome; and despair into hope. We humbly ask you to consecrate our gifts for the transformation of lives and communities so that our abundance may be for their need and their need become our abundance.

To you, God, be the glory! Amen

Pastoral Prayer – Silent Prayer

Benediction

Leader: Deep peace of the running wave to you.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
Deep peace of the shining light to you.
Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.
... Go in peace, serve the Lord.

People: We go to love and to serve, for we are the church! Thanks be to God!

PLEASE DON'T SING #621 "For the Healing of the Nations"

B♭ B♭/D B♭ B♭/F F/E♭ B♭/D E♭ B♭/D Gm F/A F7 B♭

1 For the heal-ing of the na-tions, Lord, we pray with one ac-cord,
 2 Lead your peo-ple in-to free-dom, from de-spair your world re-lease,
 3 All that kills a-bun-dant liv-ing, let it from the earth be banned:
 4 You, Cre-a-tor-God, have writ-ten your great name on hu-man-kind;

B♭ B♭/F B♭/D B♭ Adim C Gm/D D Gm D Gm/B♭ Gm F/C C7 F

for a just and e-qual shar-ing of the things that earth af-fords.
 that, re-deemed from war and ha-tred, all may come and go in peace.
 pride of sta-tus, race, or school-ing, dog-mas that ob-scure your plan.
 for our grow-ing in your like-ness, bring the life of Christ to mind;

F B♭ B♭9 E♭ Cm Dm Cm/E♭ Gm Fsus F7 B♭

To a life of love in ac-tion help us rise and pledge our word.
 Show us how, through care and good-ness, fear will die and hope in-crease.
 In our com-mon quest for jus-tice may we hal-low life's brief span.
 that by our re-sponse and serv-ice earth its des-ti-ny may find.

Used by Permission CCLI #1619690
 REGENT SQUARE
 8.7.8.7.8.7.

SERVING TODAY

Our Worship Team:

Karla Spaits
Sherry McElhatton
Elsa Kirkegaard

Sound: Josh Spaits
Video: Eric Heidenreiter
Sexton: Roger Lindgren

Ministers: ALL OF YOU!

Lectionary for Sunday, March 21 8 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. at **Peace Church**:
Fifth Sunday in Lent - Jeremiah 31:31-34 • Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16
• Hebrews 5:5-10 • John 12:20-33

CALENDAR – WEEK OF MARCH 14, 2021

Lectionary group at Peace Church – Contact the church if you are interested. Each week we will study the scripture for the upcoming Sunday. The group will meet on March 16th at 10:00 a.m.

9TH Grade Confirmation – Class will meet on Wednesday, March 17th from 4:00 – 5:15 p.m. via Zoom.

Adult Faith Formation, Book of Ruth: First, third, and fifth Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. – This group will meet on March 16th. We will be continuing our study of the Book of Ruth.

Join in person in fellowship hall or connect by zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/91928904117?pwd=SFIDNzF0ZmwrNINydCtpQXFPWE9EQT09>

Meeting ID: 919 2890 4117

Passcode: 655329

Worship at Peace Church

We have regathered at church with capacity limits of 25% of capacity (50 worshippers in the sanctuary, worship leaders are in addition to that number). With our increased capacity, we are discontinuing the sign-up for services – we'll keep an eye on how well that works.

We are continuing to require masks that cover the mouth and nose at all times, for people to practice social distancing, hand washing/sanitizing, and all those other mitigation measures to which we have all become accustomed.

Sunday mornings we will continue to offer worship at 8:00 and 10:00 - though after a couple of weeks we consider combining services if our attendance numbers continue to be as low as they have been.

We will continue streaming all worship services to YouTube – We are planning on that being a part of our reality from now on.

We know that we are not yet out of the woods, and we would encourage everyone to please continue to act with care and caution. We have been trying to take all practical steps toward mitigation of the pandemic as a Congregation, and now is certainly not the time to stop trying to be a part of the solution. Get vaccinated when you are able, do your part in thinking about how your choices impact all of our community. Our commitment is to continue seeking to love our neighbors as ourselves!

If you have questions, please call Pastor Eric or the church office or e-mail pastor@peace-ucc.org or office@peace-ucc.org

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 [GIVE](#) 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.

Thank you all...and God Bless.

Lent Services – It is strange to realize that we have been living in our present reality as “church” for almost a year. It was just as we had begun Lent that we needed to shift to worshipping Online. We are going to try a couple of different things to feed our souls and center us through this year's Lenten Season.

- **Midweek Lenten services - Holden Evening Prayer** – For many years we have cherished this musical setting of a vespers service. Because this is a sung service, we will be recording the service in advance and then posting it online each week to be available for viewing by 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. We are planning to have reflections from this year's confirmation students included in each of these services.
- **Palm Sunday** – There will be Palm Sunday services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. with the 50 persons per service limit in place. In addition, we will host a Palm Branch drive-thru on Thursday, March 25th from 10:00 a.m. – noon and again from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Pull up to the parking lot entrance of the church and receive your palm.
- **Easter Sunday** – Peace Church will offer three services on Easter Sunday – April 4th. A sunrise service will start at 6:30 a.m., followed by an 8:00 a.m. service and a 10:00 a.m. service. No sign-up necessary. A limit of 50 persons per service is in place. An online Easter service will be available on Peace Church's YouTube site.

Easter Lilies We will not be having a huge Easter lily sale, but will order some lilies for the sanctuary. **If you would like to donate towards the cost of the lilies, please send a check to Peace Church re: LILIES.** Thank you!

Host Family Needed!

Natalia, 16, from Bolivia, will be attending Kewaskum HS in September, and she is in need of a host family. She loves to sing in the choir, enjoys volleyball, tennis, skating, swimming, biking, bowling, and movies. Natalia loves cats, and dogs, and would love any type of family, single parent, kids, or no, and is a good student. She will pay all expenses, has medical insurance, and speaks English, as well as Spanish. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact:

Carrie Schulz, Nacel Open Door Coordinator
262-544-1183 office 414-899-3890 cell

Sunday School

Attention Pre-K – 4th Grade Sunday School students: Please join your fellow students and teachers for a Sunday School meeting via Zoom on Sunday, March 21 at 10:00 a.m. This gathering will include conversation, a skit and video about Palm Sunday and Resurrection Eggs. Watch your email for the Zoom Invite!

Birthday Envelope

Have you ever wondered what the Birthday Envelope is doing with our offering envelopes? No, it's not a reminder to buy a cake for someone special. But it is a reminder that the birthday envelope offerings go to our SCHOLARSHIP fund. As you may know, scholarships are awarded to all who desire financial aid from Peace Church and wish to continue their education. Scholarships are renewable each year. So give generously!! Lost your birthday envelope? There is a scholarship section on the regular giving envelope, too.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday March 14 - 20

March 14 Mia Dornacker
March 15 Kathy Hughes, Melinda Sargent
March 16 Cheryl Novotny, Jim Roe, Diane Stangl, Donna Steinhardt
March 18 Logan O'Brien-Flasch, Robert Schreffler, Sr.
 Trent Webster
March 19 Nicole Brei
March 20 Michael Schmidt, Sr.(85)

PRAYER LIST

Please let us know of any updates to the Prayer Lists

Those in Need of Healing: all shut-ins and those experiencing pain or loss

Members:

Harvey Brodzeller	Dennis Novotny
Judy Christensen	Jerry O'Connor
Marilyn McIntosh	Michael Schmidt

Friends & Family:

Patricia Hohl	Bill Schuster (D. Stangl)
Debbie (Hallen)	Betty Sook (J. Christensen)
Alan Kuehl (J. Manthei)	

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

Those Dealing with Cancer:

Members: Laurie Struck, Carol Butzlaff, Dean Roe, Jim Roe, Joan Schleif, Heidi Rodenkirch

Friends & Family:

Betty (J. Michaels)	Nephew of Beck Ehmer
Gary & Evelyn Beaupre	Kerri Estep (Atwater)
Jean Cornell (Herriges)	Nancy Gruebling (Kletti)

Paula Hader (Adler)
Vern Ludwig (Roe)
Sheri Theep (Van Beek)
Jan (D. Stangl)
Sue Mitchell (Rhoads)
Paige More (Pearson)

Sharon Rosbeck (Herriges)
Dennis Liepert (J. Michaels)
Karl Schleunes (K. Grundahl)
Sandra Senn (P. Behring)
Susan Tolonen (Lindgren)
Russell Will (Will)

Prayers of Comfort:

To Bill & Diane Stangl and family on the passing of Bill's mother, Louise, on Wednesday, March 3, 2021.

To Mary Gosa and family on the death of Gerry Gosa on Friday, March 6, 2021.

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)

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



*“For we are co-workers in God’s service;
you are God’s field, God’s building.”
1 Corinthians 3:9*

One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Church’s Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God’s message of love and hope to people in crisis. This year’s theme is **“Let Love Flow”**. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief and rehabilitation, and advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. OGHS also supports domestic ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering reaches those near and far, sometimes changing the lives of people in distress in our own communities, and at other times impacting the lives of those we may never meet but who are in desperate need of our compassion and generosity. Gifts given through this special offering empower people in poverty to learn a trade, raise their own food, and grow in faith. United in Christ, we help to provide access to healthy food, good education, excellent health care, job training, schools, clean water, and shelter after devastating storms and disasters. Each time a gift is given, a connection is made that builds a bridge, letting people know we are here and we care. Each resource shared, answers God’s call to love our neighbor.

We are there providing well pumps for clean water, seeds and training for sustainable agriculture, and rice and oil to provide nourishment and cooking supplies. We are there through medical kits, school supplies, temporary shelters, and safe housing projects where needed most. We are there offering hope and helping to spread love, justice, and peace in the world.

In 1 Corinthians 3, Paul writes, “we are all co-workers in God’s service.” Some of us plant and some of us water, but God gives the growth. Through the ministries supported by One Great Hour of Sharing, we have the opportunity to be part of the hopeful future God is already bringing forth. Imagine what the future could be like when we join together across distance, culture and generations to invest in the growth God promises to bring.

We will be dedicating our One Great Hour of Sharing offerings on Sunday, March 21. Please use the “Other” line found on your weekly envelopes and write in One Great Hour of Sharing.

In our generosity, we recognize that we are all part of God’s family. In sharing our gifts, we join together as both donors and recipients of generous investment in the growth God will bring. We celebrate the profound joy of living “for the love of what we may never see.” **Let us invest in futures by giving generously to One Great Hour of Sharing!**