



He is Risen

**Peace United Church of Christ**  
Rev. Eric Kirkegaard - Pastor  
Vikar Jakob Kröner – Associate Pastor  
March 31, 2024  
Easter Sunday



*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.

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**7:00 SUNRISE SERVICE GATHERING**

One: O living God, this morning begins in darkness, the day dawns in quiet. Come, God, arise! Bring forth the sun from its slumber, and Jesus from the tomb. Break forth the Holy Light, your Blessed Child. Greet us on this morning of mystery and hope. Amen.

**KINDLING A NEW FLAME**

One: Christ is our Light.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

One: Christ is our Light.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**PRAYER**

*A time of silence*

Voice one: Holy One, we give you thanks for your care throughout all of life.

Voice two: You showed your care for us as you created us in your own image.

Voice three: You showed your care for us as you showed your love to Sarah and Abraham for their faithfulness.

Voice four: You showed your care for us as you led your people out of slavery, through the sea, to freedom.

Voice five: You showed your care for us as you led your people through the night with a pillar of fire.

Voice six: You showed your care for us as you gave us the light of Christ, our Morning Star, to be a light to all creation.

Voice seven: Christ is our light!

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**HYMN 283**

"Were You There?"

Verses 1-4

verse 4: "Were you there when He rose up from the grave?"

**GREETINGS** – Announcements – Prayer Requests

**THE CALL TO WORSHIP** – from Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

One: Christ is Risen!

**All: He is Risen Indeed!**

One: “O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

**All: Let Israel say, “His steadfast love endures forever.”**

One: The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.

**All: There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: “The right hand of the LORD does valiantly; the right hand of the LORD is exalted;**

One: the right hand of the LORD does valiantly.” I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD.

**All: The LORD has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death.**

One: Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

**All: This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.**

One: I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

**All: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.**

One: This is the LORD’S doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

**All: This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”**

**All: Glory to God in the Highest for today is a new creation. Alleluia, Christ is Risen!**

## **HYMN 288** “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

### **CONFESSING AND RECEIVING FORGIVENESS**

Yearning for mercy, we confess before our God:

**God of radical grace, we admit that we wall you off from our lives, bury your love in the shadows, and deny the power of your transforming spirit. Risen Christ, we fail to let your light and hope shine into every moment and every action. We fail to love you with our whole being or to love our neighbors as ourselves. We sin against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we do, and by what we leave undone. Save us from ourselves O Lord!**

**God of mercy, roll away the stones from the dead places in our lives and proclaim a new day! Raise up what has been buried within us, call our souls by name, and lead us to your eternal love. 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.”***

Hear the good news, Christ is Risen! God rolls aside the barriers we would create and offers us the fullness of his grace and mercy. God raises up a sign to the world that love is real, the resurrection is now, and new life is for each of us. Alleluia, praise God for the good news of Easter.

## **HYMN 296** “Goodness Is Stronger than Evil”

### **THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

By dying, Christ destroyed our death;  
in rising, he restores our life;  
in giving us his Spirit, he grants us peace.

Peace be with you  
**And also with you**

9:30 “The Hallelujah Chorus”

Handel

*The congregation is invited to come up and participate.*

**THE CHILDREN'S TIME** - As the children come forward, please sing Hymn 226 "Jesus Loves Me" vs. 1

**LESSON** Acts 10:34-43 (Page 840)

**GOSPEL LESSON** Mark 16:1-8 (Page 780)

**SERMON** "Keep Your Eyes Open"

**SPECIAL MUSIC** "Halleluia" Cohen - arr. Rickly

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Beautiful Lord, Risen Savior, we lift our voices to you in praise and thanksgiving. Help us to remember and to celebrate how you offered your very life for us. Guide us in living our lives for you – lives of justice, lives of love, and lives of abundant generosity! Amen.**

## **PASTORAL PRAYER - SILENT PRAYER**

## **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**THE INVITATION** – *(Everyone is welcome to share communion with us regardless of denomination or creed. This is Christ's table where all are invited to come and share God's love. If you desire a Gluten-free wafer please identify yourself to a server. All cups contain grape juice.)*

## **PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

Response 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 Señor.***

## **PREPARATION OF THE TABLE – Remembering Our Story**

Sharing the Elements

**Hymn 697 "Eat This Bread"** as we pass the bread

*Eat this bread, drink this cup,  
come to me and never be hungry.*

*Eat this bread, drink this cup,  
trust in me and you will not thirst.*

**Hymn 482 “Sanctuary”** as we pass the cups  
*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,  
pure and holy, tried and true;  
with thanksgiving, I’ll be a living  
sanctuary for you.*

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**Beloved Lord, in this simple meal you come to us again. You share yourself and your sustaining Spirit with our hungering 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**

## **BENEDICTION**

**One:** Go forth into the world to love and serve our risen Lord in all that you do.

**All:** **We go in the name and service of Jesus Christ.**

**One:** Thanks be to God.

**All:** **Alleluia and Amen!**

## **294 “Christ Arose!”**

**POSTLUDE** “Hallelujah Chorus” – duet arr. Lani Smith

**Serving Today:** Musicians: Sherry McElhatton, Karla Spaits, Mia Dornacker, Lia Piittmann; Video: Katelyn Scannell

**Lectionary for April 7** Acts 4:32-35 • Psalm 133 • 1 John 1:1-2:2 • John 20:19-31

## **Happy Birthday March 31 – April 6**

Apr 1 Shirley Reinders (87)

Apr 4 Samuel Marseille, Jennifer Preder

Apr 5 Ronald Rusch (89)

Apr 6 Matt Schemelin

## **Happy Anniversary April 9-15**

Apr 4 Brad & Heidi Rodenkirch (32)

## Calendar for the Week of March 31, 2024

- 4/2 Lectionary 10 am, Adult Faith Formation 7 pm  
4/3 XYZ Cards 8 am, Book Club 9:30 am  
Community Meal 4:30-6 pm  
4/4 Prayer Shawl 1 pm

Thank you to the congregation of Peace Church for supporting the Easter Plants that are on the altar today! If you know of someone who would like an Easter Plant to brighten their Easter Sunday, please come up after the 9:30 service to pick a plant and deliver it!



**Easy Online Giving!** Just point your phone's camera at the QR Code and follow the link to electronically give to a number of Peace Church funds.

**Peace Church Community Meal** – Our next Community Meal will take place on April 3rd, and the first Wednesday of each month. **The next meal will feature brats, burgers, and hot dogs.** All are welcome! Please contact the church office if you have any questions or wish to help. We are always looking for volunteers and desserts!

**Family Promise** – Peace Church's Family Promise fund needs assistance. Our next week to provide meals to the families that are staying at Family Promise is June 3 – 9. Please consider donating to help support this wonderful organization. The provided QR Code will take you directly to Peace Church's online giving for Family Promise donations. Thank you!



### **Prayers of the Family of God**

For Doug Christensen, who is recovering from surgery he had on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

For Paul Behring, who is healing from surgery he had on March 27<sup>th</sup>.