



**Peace United Church of Christ**  
Rev. Eric Kirkegaard  
April 16, 2023  
Second Sunday of Easter

*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)  
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

## WORSHIP SERVICE

**PRELUDE**                    “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”                    Line

### **GREETINGS/PRAYER REQUESTS**

**\*HYMN 319**                    “Shine, Jesus, Shine”

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

**One:**            On the first day of the week, Jesus came and stood among them.

**All:**            **The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.**

**One:**            Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**All:**            **We have been given new birth through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.**

**One:**            In thanksgiving and praise let us worship God.

**All:**            **Alleluia!**

### **REJOICING WITH THE PSALMIST – Psalm 16**

**One:**            Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

**All:**            **I say to the Lord, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.” As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight.**

**One:**            Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips.

**All:**            **The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.**

**One:**            The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage. I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also, my heart instructs me.

**All:**            **I keep the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore, my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.**

**One:**            For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit. You show me the path of life.

**All:**            **In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your hand are pleasures forevermore.**

## **CONFESSING AND RECEIVING FORGIVENESS**

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

**Almighty God, we have celebrated Easter. We have sung our hallelujahs in very different settings this year. We have listened again to the familiar and amazing story of our Lord's resurrection. Help us to maintain the awareness of the great gift of new life that is ours to claim on Easter, and every day. Let the hope and joy of this season give us assurance and confidence to live as those who claim the presence of your Spirit. God, we strive for a proclamation of new life even as we know that we fall short of your ways. We confess that we sin against you in thought word and deed, by what we do, and by what we fail to do. We fail to love God with all our heart and soul and mind, and we fail to love our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us Lord and guide us in your ways.**

God loves you, and God's proclamation of resurrection is that nothing can separate you from that love. Live resurrection faith! And may our words and actions give powerful witness to our claim that Jesus Christ lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

### **\*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**

#### **CHANCEL CHOIR**

"Prayer"

Besig

*(Dedicated to the Peace Church Confirmands)*

#### **LESSON**

Psalm 23

(Page 415 )

The Children's Time - As the children come forward, please sing Hymn 226 "**Jesus Loves Me**" vs. 1

### **(8:00 service) THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

This morning we receive into the Christian family:

*Wesley Elijah Spaits, son of Karla & Joshua Spaits*

**\*All:** We receive this child in Christ's name as we have been received, promising to support Wesley with constant love, wholesome example, Christian teaching and faithful prayer. We promise to his parents our friendship in Christ, gladly sharing in the burdens and joys of Christian nurture.

**HYMN 680**

**“Borning Cry”**

**LESSON**

1 Peter 1:3-9

(Page 922 )

**GOSPEL LESSON**

John 20:19-31

(Page 828 )

**SERMON**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** “Hallelujah” (Easter Version)

Rickley

*(Lia Piittmann & Mia Dornacker – soloists)*

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Ever-living God let the resurrection light unleash your love within us and within our world.**

**Blessed by your gift, help us share in your ministry of transformation. Take the offerings of our hearts and hands and bless them with the power to witness to your good news. Bless us in being creative and courageous in serving you and sharing your grace with all. Amen.**

(9:30 service) **THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION**

**THE INVITATION**

**THE QUESTIONS TO THE CONFIRMANDS**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

Do you believe in God?

**I believe in God.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

We join in proclaiming together what we believe:

***We believe in you, O God, Eternal spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify;***

***You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.***

***You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.***

***You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.***

***In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.***

***You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.***

***You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.***

***You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.***

***Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.***

*(The congregation may be seated.)*

**PRAYER OF THE CANDIDATES** (Pastor and Candidates)

*O God, my God, known to me in Jesus Christ, I give myself to you as your own, to love and serve you faithfully all the days of my life. Amen*

## **PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION** *(Congregation in unison)*

***Almighty God, who in baptism received these your servants into the church, forgave their sins, and promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen them for their ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen***

**THE ACT OF CONFIRMATION** – *Family and others who have played a significant role in the confirmands life, please come forward for the laying of hands and blessing during the rite of Confirmation.*

### **CONFIRMATION PRAYER**

### **ADDRESS TO THE CONFIRMANDS**

### **QUESTION ABOUT PARTICIPATION**

### **GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE**

### **THE WELCOME** *(congregation in unison)*

**We welcome you with joy into the family of Christ's disciples. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in the knowledge and love of God, and be faithful witnesses to our risen Savior. Alleluia and Amen.**

### **THE CHARGE TO THE CONFIRMANDS**

#### **\* THE BLESSING** *(in unison)*

**May God call you to action, to community, and to love. May Jesus accompany you with confidence, compassion and healing. May the Spirit fill you with fire and with faith.**

### **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**THE INVITATION** – *all God's children are welcome to receive 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 an usher.*

### **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 482 “Sanctuary”** as we commune

***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**

**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**

**One:** Go in peace, serve the Lord.

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

**One:** Thanks be to God.

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

**\*HYMN 287** “Lift High the Cross”

**POSTLUDE**

**Confirmation Class:** Mia Dornacker, Cole Lemke, Claire Lemke, Grace Loser, Elizabeth Schmidt



**Serving Today:** Musicians: Sherry McElhatton, Mia Dornacker, Lia Piittmann; Chancel Choir Director: Bill Stangl; Litanist: Vikar Jakob Kröner; Video: David Dorn; Ushers/Greeters: CE Board

**Altar Flowers** are in memory of Carol Gohacki, mother of Lisa Atwater.

**Lectionary for April 23:** Acts 2:14a, 36-41 • Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 • 1 Peter 1:17-23 • Luke 24:13-35

## NEWS & NOTES

### **Happy Birthday April 16 - 22**

- Apr 16 Kenady Kivell
- Apr 17 Hudson Gitter, Bonita Skrentny (80)
- Apr 19 Tore Schemelin
- Apr 20 Sydney Donath

### **Calendar for the Week of April 16, 2023**

- 4/18 Lectionary 10 am, Adult Faith Formation 7 pm
- 4/19 XYZ Cards  
Banned Books Group – 1:30 p.m.
- 4/20 Donald Sedgwick Memorial Service: 10-11 am  
visitation, 11:00 am service.

### **Peace Church Photo Directory**

Peace Church will be putting together a church member photo directory. Pictures will be taken on Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. and on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Time slots will be 10 minutes. The photographers will be taking a variety of shots for you to choose from if you would like to purchase any of the images. The backdrop will be brown tones. Please email or call the church office to schedule your appointment. ([office@peace-ucc.org](mailto:office@peace-ucc.org) or 262-626-4011)

**Altar Flowers** – please consider donating towards the flowers that are on the altar every Sunday. You may request that your donation be in memory or in honor of someone. Contact the church office via email or phone to make your request. Thank you!

**Habitat for Humanity Trip – July 9<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>** This year we are planning an inter-generational Habitat Trip to Red Wing Minnesota. Anyone who has completed their freshman year in high school or beyond (even well beyond) is welcome to come and lend a hand in seeking to provide decent housing for all of God's children. The affiliate is asking for a minimum of 7 people, but we are hoping for many more than that. The cost will be \$75 for members or \$100 for non-members. If you have questions please contact Karen Kletti, Clark Pearson, or Pastor Eric.

## **PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK**

*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:**

Idelle Breitbach had a heart device – a Watchman - implanted on Wednesday, to help prevent blood clots. She continues to recover at Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee.

Marian Herriges will be having heart surgery to replace her aortic valve (TAVR) on Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee.

Nancy Hovland as she remains hospitalized in the ICU in Madison.

Kandy Lindgren, who is recovering from foot surgery.