



Peace United Church of Christ

Rev. Eric Kirkegaard

April 9, 2023

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.*

Contact Peace Church: *Peace UCC - P. O. Box 433, Kewaskum, WI 53040
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Church Office: Robin Mock, 262-626-4011 - office@peace-ucc.org
On the web @ www.peace-ucc.org, Peace on Facebook, YouTube at: Peace UCC Kewaskum*

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 OF 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 1: Holy One, we give you thanks for your care throughout all of life.

Voice 2: You showed your care for us as you created us in your own image.

Voice 3: You showed your care for us as you showed your love to Sarah and Abraham for their faithfulness.

Voice 4: You showed your care for us as you led your people out of slavery, through the sea, to freedom.

Voice 5: You showed your care for us as you led your people through the night with a pillar of fire.

Voice 6: 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 7: Christ is our light!

All: Thanks be to God!

HYMN 287

“Were You There?”

Verses 1-4

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

9:30 PRELUDE “Then Came the Morning”

Trombone Ensemble

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 “Goodnes 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

7:00 Special Music “Then Came the Morning”

Trombone Ensemble

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 Matthew 28:1-10 (Page 763)

SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC “Thine is the Glory” - duet arr. Lani Smith

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 – *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 697 “Eat This Bread” as we commune

*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.*

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; Trombone Ensemble: Joe Billmann, Dan Stoffel, Spencer Hikade & Bill Stangl; Chancel Director: Bill Stangl; Litanist: Mugs McFadden; Video: Katelyn Scannell

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

Happy Birthday April 9-15

Apr 9 Robert Breitag
Apr 10 Robbie Manthei
Apr 11 Susan Reif
Apr 13 Shirley Schlice (85), Madison Strom
Apr 14 Josh O’Brien-Flasch
Apr 15 Bob Schrader (84)

Happy Anniversary April 9-15

Apr 12 Scott & Cathy Stern (15)

NEWS & NOTES

Calendar for the Week of April 9, 2023

- 4/11 Lectionary 10 am
 Church Council Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- 4/12 XYZ Cards 8:00 a.m.
- 4/13 Grief Group 1 p.m.
- 4/16 8:00 service – Baptism of Wesley Spaits
 9:30 service - Confirmation

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!

Peace Church Community Meal – Our next Community Meal will take place on May 3, and the first Wednesday of each month. **The next meal will feature Chicken Broccoli Casserole.** 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! **Thank you to all the volunteers who help make these meals such a success!**

Thank you Kevin Stautz! A huge thank you to Kevin Stautz, for contributing to and smoking the pork that was served at the Community Meal this past week. Kevin also donated a nesco full of his delicious broasted chicken for us to serve as well. Everything was delicious!



Habitat for Humanity Trip – July 9th-14th 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. Cost will be \$75 for members or \$100 for non-members. If you have questions please contact Karen Kletti, Clark Pearson, or Pastor Eric.