



Peace United Church of Christ

Rev. Eric Kirkegaard

May 7, 2023

Fifth 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

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

WORSHIP SERVICE

PRELUDE

GREETINGS/PRAYER REQUESTS

*HYMN 706 "I Come With Joy"

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather in this sacred and holy space

All: to become the people that proclaim the Risen Christ.

One: We gather our hearts together from broken spaces, peace-seeking spaces,

All: to experience the healing love of the Risen Christ

One: We gather as one in spirit, even though we are diverse and unique, physically dispersed,

All: We gather as one, because God calls each and every one of us

One: Gather us to one another and to you O Christ as we pray:

All: "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."

CONFESSING WITH THE PSALMIST – based on Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

One: In you, O LORD, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me.

All: Lord, as the seasons change, and the birds proclaim your glory, we also hear a deep lament from our weary souls. We turn again to your ways O God. You have led us through the

**wilderness before and shown us new ways,
right ways, faithful ways...**

One: Incline your ear to me; rescue me quickly. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.

All: We cry out to you and you hear us. Your mercy opens us to possibilities beyond our failings, hope beyond our imagining. You are our rock and refuge, the saving grace that mends our brokenness.

One: You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me, pull me from the trap my enemies set for me, for you are my refuge. Into your hand I commit my spirit. Rescue me, LORD, for you are a faithful God.

All: Lord, it often seems that the traps that are set for us are of our own design. We become our own enemies when we settle into patterns of despair or distrust, when we fail to open our eyes to your call to share in the solution for ourselves and for all of creation.

One: My future is in your hands. Rescue me from those who hunt me down relentlessly.

All: Rescue us from sin. We have failed to love you and live as kingdom people. We sin in thought, word and deed, by what we do and by what we fail to do. We do not love our neighbor as ourselves.

One: Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

All: We open our hearts to your truth, to see in you the way of healing and hope for ourselves and all of creation.

One: Hear the good news that God has proclaimed since the beginning of time: God offers us

wholeness for our souls, gentleness for our pain, food and light for the journey, passion for God's justice. God's gifts of love and grace are without end. Christ has died, Christ has risen, and Christ will come again. Amen.

***A Response Of Halleluja** "Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le, lu-ja"

The Passing of the Peace

Peace be with you

And also with you

Special Music "For the Beauty of the Earth" Shram
Women's Choir

Lesson 1 Peter 2:2-10 (Page 923)

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

Hymn 471 "As the Deer"

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.*

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

O God, 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

LESSON Acts 7:51-60 (Page 819)

SERMON**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Through these gifts, O loving God, we can go where we cannot travel. We can witness where our voices cannot be heard. We can speak in languages which we have never learned. We can love those whom we have never seen. So, bless your realm through our love, represented by our gifts now dedicated to you. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER - SILENT PRAYER**BENEDICTION**

One: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

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

All: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia and Amen!**

*HYMN 709 "Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises"

POSTLUDE

Serving Today: Musicians: Karla Spaits, Chancel Choir
Director: Bill Stangl; Litanist: Joan Adler; Video: David Dorn; Ushers/Greeters: Tim & Nancy Stoffel, Vance & Susan Reif

Today's Altar Flowers are donated by Nancy and Herman Panzer in honor of Herman's 88th birthday on May 3rd and in honor of Barbara (Panzer) & Mark Griffin's wedding anniversary.



Altar Flowers – please consider donating towards the flowers that are on the altar on Sundays. 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!

Lectionary for May 14: Acts 17:22-31 • Psalm 66:8-20 • 1 Peter 3:13-22 • John 14:15-21

NEWS & NOTES**Happy Birthday May 7 – May 13**

May 7 Aaron Singer

May 9 Loretta Eimmermann (97), Mike McCurdy

May 10 Rosemary Frank (93)

May 11 Nancy Stoffel

May 12 Carol Roe, Joyce Terlinden, Justin Zolp

Happy Anniversary – May 7 – May 13

May 7 Marian & Lloyd Herriges (29)

Calendar for the Week of May 7, 2023

5/8 Pastoral Relations 6:30 p.m.

5/9 Lectionary 10 am, Church Consistory 6:30 p.m.

5/10 XYZ Cards

5/11 Grief Group 1:00 p.m.

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. 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.

Food with Friends (formerly Dinner for Eight) – Oops! We have misplaced our sign-up sheet and need to know who is hosting and who is coming for dinner! If you signed up to either host or participate for Food with Friends, please contact Sandi Radeztsky (262-744-9496) or the church office (262-626-4011) so we can update our list! Thank you!

Canoe Trip Meeting – There will be a Canada Canoe Trip planning meeting for all those on the sign-up sheet and anyone else who is interested in this upcoming Church trip. The meeting will be held at church on Thursday evening, May 25th from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

A Mystery Gift – Peace Church received a check from Wells Fargo Clearing Services with no donor name attached to it. If you recently requested that a donation be made to Peace Church via Wells Fargo, please contact the office at office@peace-ucc.org or call 262-626-4011.

PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK

Current prayers will be listed for one week unless otherwise indicated. Requests may be emailed to 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:

For Marian Herriges, who is in need of prayers for healing following her heart valve replacement surgery that occurred on Tuesday, May 2, 2023.

For Herman Panzer, who is at Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee recovering from a recent illness.

For Dean Roe, who has been transferred to Samaritan Health Center in West Bend following surgery he had last week.

For Julann Zemlicka-Retzlaff, who is home recovering from a difficult procedure.

For Karen & John Grundahl's neighbor's daughter, Wendy, who was just diagnosed with leukemia and is facing testing before beginning treatment.

Prayers of Comfort:

For the friends and family of Meghann Reigle, wife of Matthew Reigle, and daughter-in-law of Jeff and Jean Reigle. Meghann passed away on Sunday, April 30, 2023. Funeral service will be held on May 11, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. at Phillip Funeral Home, West Bend.

For Bev Martel, whose aunt, Carol Lischka passed away on April 29, 2023.