



Peace United Church of Christ  
Rev. Eric Kirkegaard  
April 6, 2023  
Maundy Thursday

*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, Oneship, 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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*“Maundy” comes from the Latin word meaning mandate or commandment. Tonight, we remember and celebrate the new commandment which Jesus shared with his disciples during their last Passover meal together, to “do this in remembrance of me” and to “love one another even as I have loved you.”*

## **WORSHIP SERVICE**

### **Prelude**

Greetings - Prayer Requests – A Time of Centering

*Yesterday at sunset our Jewish brothers and sisters gathered to begin the seven days of the Passover holiday. This week they remember the story of God's salvation that has been handed down through the generations. The gospels share with us a different story of how Jesus gathered with his disciples in that Upper Room to celebrate this same story of salvation. The Passover Seder that Jesus celebrated in the first century is not necessarily reflected in the rabbinic sources that emerge almost two centuries later.*

*Still, this evening we incorporate a portion of the modern Passover Seder liturgy as we recall the stories and consider how they connect to the central message of Jesus' meal with his disciples in that Upper Room.*

### **Welcome**

*Tonight we will begin our worship with the first half of “Holden Evening Prayer.” This is a service of song and prayer in which all present are participants. Please join in singing wherever “**all**” is written in the music.*

Service of Light through Singing of the Psalm (pg. 2 to pg.8)

One: Barukh attah Adonai Elohaynu melekh ha-olam...

**Praise to You, Adonai, our God - Sovereign of the Universe, who has kept us alive and sustained us and allowed us to reach this season.**

We pray:

**May all who are enslaved throughout the world, come to know freedom. May all who are free, appreciate the blessings of abundance. And may all of us dwell in the house of God and give thanks for our good fortune as we remember the Passover.**

Hebrew Bible Exodus 12:1-6, 11-14

Recalling the Story (*Maggid*): from “*A Brief Seder*”

The central part of the Passover Seder is the telling of the story. It begins with the words: We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt. But the Lord our God took us out from there with a mighty hand and an out-stretched arm.

**Come and hear the story of our people, the story we relive on Seder night.**

How our ancestors went forth from the straits of Egypt (*Mitzrayim*) to the open places of rejoicing and faith.

**This story belongs to you and me. An age-old story, it becomes our own when we tell it on Seder night.**

A wandering Aramean was my father. He went down to Egypt few in number. There he became a great nation, mighty and numerous. (*Deut. 26:5*)

**In Egypt we discovered our distinctiveness. Few in number, we learned that greatness is more than numbers.**

“The Egyptians treated us harshly and oppressed us, they imposed hard labor on us.” (*Deut. 26:6*)

**Their harshness wounded us with false accusations, with venom and hate and distrust.**

We cried out to Adonai, the God of our ancestors, He heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil and our oppression.”

What did Adonai see in Egypt?

**He saw families torn asunder, and children made to suffer. God saw the cruelty of Egypt and the helplessness of Israel.**

“So Adonai brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand, with an out-stretched arm, with awe and signs and wonders.” (*Deut. 26:8*)

**Egypt and Israel felt God's presence in every corner of the land. His signs filled the earth and the sky, his wonders could be seen in every Israelite's eye.**

With a mighty hand he demanded justice for the oppressed. With plagues and wonders he taught the Egyptians the lesson of his power.

Together, we remember the 10 plagues: **blood**, frogs, **fleas**, wild animals, **pestilence**, boils, **hail**, locusts, **darkness**, the killing of the firstborn.

While we celebrate the freeing of the Israelites from slavery, God has instructed us to take no pleasure in the suffering of the Egyptians.

**So may God's signs be present today to teach us of Your justice and Your mighty acts.**

*Dayenu! (it would have been enough, and we are grateful)*  
We rejoice in our deliverance by saying *Dayenu*.  
Had God done only a little bit for us, it would have been enough! We join in proclaiming *Dayenu!* (please join in singing!)

***Da da-ye-nu\_\_ da da-ye-nu\_\_  
da da-ye-nu da-ye-nu da-ye-nu***

If God had taken us out of Egypt,  
**It would have been enough!**

If God had brought us to Mount Sinai but not given us the Torah,

**it would have been enough!**

If God had given us the Torah but not brought us into the land of Israel,

**it would have been enough!**

If God had brought us into the land of Israel but not allowed us to build the Temple,

**it would have been enough!**

***Refrain – Da da-ye-nu***

Reflection

Pastor Eric

Christian Gospel

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

**Hymn 273** “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

Vss 1&2

Reflection

Vikar Jakob

Responding in Prayer

Father, on this, the night he was betrayed,  
your Son, Jesus Christ, embodied the story of your salvation.  
Serving in love and humility, he washed his disciples' feet.  
We commit ourselves to follow his example of love and  
service.

Lord, hear us

**and humble us.**

On this night, he prayed for his disciples to be one.

We pray for the unity of your Church...

Lord, hear us

**and unite us.**

On this night, he prayed for those who were to believe  
through the ministry of those who were to follow.

We pray for the mission of your Church...

Lord, hear us

**and renew our zeal.**

On this night, he commanded them to love,  
but suffered rejection himself.

We pray for the rejected and unloved...

Lord, hear us

**and fill us with your love.**

On this night, he reminded them that if the world hated them,  
it hated him first.

We pray for those who are persecuted for their faith...

Lord, hear us

**and give us your peace.**

**Remembering and Blessing one Another**

***“Remember, God loves you! Pass it on!”***

**Hymn 273** “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

Vss. 3&4

Scripture

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

## Prayer

Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment: To love one another as he had loved them.

**By your Holy Spirit, write this commandment on our hearts. Let this Sacrament of your body and blood, bread and cup, so work in us that the way we live will proclaim the love and grace you have shared with each of us; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Sharing the Lord's Supper

Remembering our Story

“Jesus took the Bread” by Ruth Duck

Communion Music “In Remembrance” Beryl Redd

Chancel Choir

## Closing Prayer

My brothers and sisters, God's salvation has been abundantly offered throughout the ages. In Christ, God reveals his love by becoming a humble servant. Let us draw near to God and confess our sin in the truth of his Spirit.

*(A time of silence for individual reflection.)*

God of love and mercy, you know the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts; you know our coming in and our going out. We confess to you all our sins – those things done and left undone.

We have not loved you with all our heart and mind and strength and soul. Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We have not loved one another as you have loved us. Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

We have not served others as you have served us. Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy**

We have not honored and cared for your creation or sought your ways of peace. Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

We have not fully received the saving grace of your word and life. Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Hear our cry, O Lord. Accept our repentance. Cleanse us, restore us, and lead us, that we may love and serve in newness of life.**

*(A Time of Silence)*

Hear our prayer, O God, as we eagerly await the day of resurrection and rebirth, while trusting in your redeeming love, together we pray as you have taught us:

**“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.”**

Postlude

*There is no benediction offered today, as our worship continues through Easter Morning.*

## **SERVING TODAY**

Our Worship Team:

Musicians: Sherry McElhatton, Ellie Baldus,

Lia Piittmann; Video: Katelyn Scannell;

Sexton: Roger Lindgren