

Peace United Church of Christ
208 E Maurer Street
Shawano, WI 54166



Saturday - December 24, 2022 – 6:00 PM

Pastor & Teacher: Uriah Williams
Choir Director: Nathan Falk
Ministers: All the People

Liturgist: Bob Gehm
Organist: Vicki Wagner
Special Music: Marcus Whitehouse
Jacob Grignon

CHURCH OFFICE: Shelley Marohl, Office Manager (715) 526-2916

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WEBSITE: www.peaceshawano.org

Peace United Church of Christ
Order of Worship
December 24, 2022

PRELUDE

Marcus/Jacob

CHOIR PROCESSION “O Come All Ye Faithful” #89 (Red hymnal, vs. 1-3)

ANNOUNCEMENTS/INTRODUCTION

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE: UCC Liturgy

Liturgist: Rejoice, people of God! The light has come into the world. O God, now we light the candle of your nativity! (With 4 Advent candles lit, Liturgist lights the Christ candle) Pastor: With the company of heaven and with sounds of great joy, you come to us. This is the time of light and resplendent joy. God has been born among us.

Liturgist: The prophet Isaiah proclaimed a time when those who walked in the shadows would see a great light. A light would shine, and a child would be born to us. The evangelist Luke painted the nativity sky and repeated the heavenly song of the angels, “Glory, peace on earth and goodwill!” John declared that this great light is Christ, the Word made flesh. This great light lives among us. By it we behold God’s glory—full of grace and truth. At Christ’s nativity, we now rejoice.

People: **God, our Life and Light, thank you for coming this night to us. Thank you for touching all heaven and earth with your splendor. In every corner of the world, shine this night with your peace. In every corner of our hearts, shine this night with your grace. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Hurry, Hurry to Bethlehem”

Celebration Choir

OPENING PRAYER

MESSAGE

“A Story, A Story: Let it Come, Let it Go”

Lights go down for remainder of service.

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST: John 1:1-5

HYMN:

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” #86 (Red Hymnal, vs. 1 & 4)

AN ANGEL VISITS MARY: Luke 1:26-33

HYMN “It Came Upon A Midnight Clear” #131 NCH (vs. 1 & 4)

JOSEPH’S DREAM: Matthew 1:18-23

THE BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOR: Luke 2:1-7

HYMN “O Little Town of Bethlehem” #99 (Red Hymnal, vs. 1-2)

THE GOOD NEWS PROCLAIMED TO THE SHEPHERDS: Luke 2:8-14

SHEPHERDS PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS: Luke 2:15-20

HYMN “The First Noel” #100 (Red Hymnal, vs 1-2)

THE WISE MEN VISIT HEROD: Matthew 2:1-9

HYMN “What Child is This” #148 NCH (vs. 1 & 3)

THE WISE MEN VISIT THE STABLE: Matthew 2:10-12

SPECIAL MUSIC “Candlelight Carol” Celebration Choir

SERVICE OF COMMUNION *Based on Liturgy written by Rev. Carol Holbrook Prickett of the PC(USA) tradition.*

THE INVITATION

Tonight, heaven and earth meet. Tonight, a backyard shed is holy ground. Tonight, strangers gather as family. And so we come here, to the feast table of God, as Christ’s invited friends, chosen and beloved. If you have been here often, if the memory of this table stretches back through all your Christmases, you are welcome. If you have been here rarely, if reverence for bread and juice is strange to you, you are welcome. If you have much faith, or little, or wouldn’t know where to begin even if you wanted to believe, you are welcome here. For Christ does not hold himself back from us, but boldly enters every heart. Christ welcomes you to this table. That is all you need to know.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us pray: Lord God, tonight of all nights we remember your son. We celebrate his infancy tonight. We remember the innocence of children. We remember how quickly the years go by. On this night of celebration and life, we remember this child we are celebrating will only a few short years later sacrifice himself upon the cross for our sins. We remember his actions and teachings of love that lead to this moment. But tonight, we remember most of all his birth. We remember the angels, the shepherds, and the kings who paid homage to him. We remember our savior tonight as an infant, and we do so by saying a prayer he would teach us, which goes:

THE LORD'S PRAYER UNISON

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Tonight, we celebrate Christ, the Bread of Heaven, who, on the night before he was arrested for daring to love more boldly than others thought proper, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me. And so, whenever we eat this bread and drink of this cup, we too proclaim the boldness of God's love, that will always come to us again.

The feast is ready. All are welcome.

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Bread of heaven, let us not be unchanged by tonight. Let us not pass by the stable in silence; let us not leave the table empty. Dwell in our hearts, and shine in our lives, that we might know your deep, deep peace, and share it with the world. Fill us with your love, that we might walk hand in hand with you all our days. We pray in the holy name of the Christ-child, born for us this night. Amen.

GENEROUS GIVING REMINDER

HYMN

“Away in the Manger”

#93 (Red Hymnal)

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Pastor reads John 1:1-18, choir comes forward to begin lighting candles.

HYMN

“Silent Night”

#95 (Red Hymnal, last verse acapella)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Marcus/Jacob

CHURCH OFFICE CHRISTMAS HOURS: church office will be closed Dec. 26 & 27th.

Our Christmas Eve bulletin is sponsored:



~ In loving memory of Carl, Adeline and Roger Mueller by Bob & Luanne Mueller.

~ In loving memory of Donald Dreier – husband, father and grandfather. Jana, Tim, Paige, Avery, Riley and Anna Dreier; Jessica, Bart and Cole Huntington; Jenny, Ray, Aaron and Samantha St. Louis.

~ In loving memory of Nancy Schultz, Kathy Sperberg, Alfred & Barbara Schultz and Milton and Viola Brandt by The Henry Schultz Family.

~ In loving memory of sons Todd and Baby Boy, Mom & Dad; Gordon & Hazel Shannon and Chet & Merna Bohm and brothers Bruce & Ronnie Shannon & Donnie Bohm by Dennis & Carol Bohm.

