



The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

Isaiah 35:1-2

## **Peace Lutheran Church**

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### **Mission Statement**

*To help all people know, believe and follow Jesus Christ*

**Sunday Worship      9:30 a.m.**

# Welcome to Peace Lutheran Church!

Whether you're a first time visitor or a long-time member, we welcome you to worship this morning! If you are visiting, we look forward to meeting you and hope you will join us again, soon. **We would appreciate your signing our guestbook before you leave.**



## Some Helpful Information

**Please Feel Free To Sit At Anytime During The Worship Service:** During the worship services at Peace Lutheran there are many times when the people stand. Sometimes the standing can be quite lengthy. We do not want to place any undue burden on anyone worshipping with us. Therefore, please feel free to sit whenever you desire. Thank you and Christ's blessings.

**Restrooms** – A restroom is located to the right just as you leave the sanctuary and enter the entrance hall. Restrooms for men and women are also located at the top of the stairs in the Parish Hall. Go into the lounge, turn right and continue up the stairs.

**Fellowship and Refreshments** – Immediately following worship, coffee and other refreshments and treats are served in Luther Lounge (the lounge just off the entrance hall). Come relax with us and enjoy the company as we will certainly enjoy your company.

**Please join us again next week!**

# Third Sunday In Advent

## December 15, 2019

### Introduction

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and prayer, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

Thank you for worshipping at Peace Lutheran Church Today!

**Prayer Before Worship** - O Lord, you know the deserts and the parched places in our lives. We seek your healing power. Lead us on this Advent journey to the place of new birth and to the place of our redemption; for we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen. — Nancy C. Townley, Ministry Matters Website

### Pre-Service Music

### Ringling Of The Bell

### Welcome

### Opening Sentences (Psalm 71:14–18; Philippians 4:4. Please stand)

**Pastor:** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. I will hope continually, and will praise you yet more and more.

**People:** **My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all day long, though their number is past my knowledge.**

Pastor: I will come praising the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD,  
**People: I will praise your righteousness, yours alone.**

Pastor: O God, from my youth you have taught me,  
**People: and I still proclaim Your wondrous deeds.**

Pastor: So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me,  
**People: until I proclaim your might to all the generations to come.**

Pastor: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. In the name of  
the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**People: Amen**

### **Entrance Song – Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee** (LBW #551. Please remain standing)

- 1 Joyful, joyful we adore thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,  
praising thee, thy sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day.
- 2 All thy works with joy surround thee,  
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,  
stars and angels sing around thee,  
center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird, and flowing fountain  
call us to rejoice in thee.

- 3 Thou art giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living,  
ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,  
all who live in love are thine;  
teach us how to love each other,  
lift us to the joy divine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1933

## **Psalm Of The Day – Luke 1:46b-55** (Please remain standing)

Pastor: “My soul magnifies the Lord,

**People: and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,**

Pastor: for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely,  
from now on all generations will call me blessed;

**People: for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.**

Pastor: His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

**People: He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.**

Pastor: He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

**People: he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.**

Pastor: He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

**People: according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”**

(We share the Lord's peace with each other)

# Song Of Response - Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn

(ELW #242. Please be seated)



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for  
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950. Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen. Text and Music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. All rights reserved. Used by permission. OneLicence.net.

## **First Reading - Isaiah 35:1-10** (Please remain seated)

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. <sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." <sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. <sup>8</sup>A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. <sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. <sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

## **Second Reading - James 5:7-10** (Please remain seated)

In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup>Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

## **Gospel - Matthew 11:2-11** (Please remain seated)

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." <sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' <sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

## **Theme Song - Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers** (Tune: LBW #108. Please be seated)

- 1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,  
and let your lights appear;  
the evening is advancing,  
and darker night is near.  
The bridegroom is arising  
and soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;  
at midnight comes the cry.



- 2 The watchers on the mountain  
proclaim the bridegroom near;  
go forth as he approaches  
with alleluias clear.  
The marriage feast is waiting;  
the gates wide open stand.  
Arise, O heirs of glory;  
the bridegroom is at hand.
- 3 The saints, who here in patience  
their cross and suff'rings bore,  
shall live and reign forever  
when sorrow is no more.  
Around the throne of glory  
the Lamb they shall behold;  
in triumph cast before him  
their diadems of gold.
- 4 Our hope and expectation,  
O Jesus, now appear;  
arise, O Sun so longed for,  
o'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted,  
we plead, O Lord, to see  
the day of earth's redemption  
that sets your people free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907

## Message

God's Super Bloom  
Isaiah 35:1-10

## **Response - Oh, What Their Joy** (Tune: LBW #262. Please remain seated)

- 1 Oh, what their joy and their glory must be,  
those endless Sabbaths the blessed ones see!  
Crowns for the valiant, to weary ones rest;  
God shall be all, and in all ever blest.
- 2 In new Jerusalem joy shall be found,  
blessings of peace shall forever abound;  
wish and fulfillment are not severed there,  
nor the thing prayed for come short of the prayer.
- 3 We, where no trouble distraction can bring,  
safely the anthems of Zion shall sing;  
while for your grace, Lord, their voices of praise  
your blessed people shall evermore raise.
- 4 Now let us worship our Lord and our King,  
joyfully raising our voices to sing:  
praise to the Father, and praise to the Son,  
praise to the Spirit, to God, Three in One.

Text: Peter Abelard, 1079-1142; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

## **Sharing The Gifts Of God** (Please remain seated while the offerings are received)

### **Confession Of Faith - Apostles Creed** (Please stand and confess together)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

## **Prayer Of The Church** (Isaiah 35:1–4, 8, 10; James 5:7. Please remain standing)

**Pastor:** In our rejoicing, let us go to the source of all joy and peace, mercy and love, praying to our Lord on behalf of the Church around the world and all people in their various needs. – Silent prayer - For people near and dear and those distant for whom life seems to be a wilderness, that God would provide pastors and teachers to remind them of their Baptism and bring them joy in the promises of God, so that their “desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus,” let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** **Lord, have mercy**

**Pastor:** For our communities and country and for all the nations of the world, wherever people live amid joyless conflict and endless reprisals, that they find a measure of joy, believing that “your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God,” let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** **Lord, have mercy**

**Pastor:** For those dealing with long-term ills of mind or body, that healthcare professionals and volunteers bring them joy as they “strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees,” let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** **Lord, have mercy**

**Pastor:** For people who have no true joy because they do not have the Gospel, that God would inspire artists and craftspeople, musicians and poets to share the good news, so that “they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away,” let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** **Lord, have mercy**

**Pastor:** For the forgotten in prison and the unseen among us, all whose treatment by society has given them cause to stop waiting for answers to prayer, that God would surround them with caring, devout family and friends, so that they in patient joy look forward as “the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth,” let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** **Lord, have mercy**

Pastor: For those whose days are joyless, having succumbed to the criticisms of their acquaintances, the fallen morality of their society, and the consequences of their own mistakes, that God would open their eyes to Christ's gracious, forgiving presence in the proclamation of the Gospel and under bread and wine in the Sacrament of the Altar, so that they have joy restored and "see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God," let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy**

Pastor: For the Church wherever it is opposed or persecuted, that God remind His faithful people of our Savior's gift of His own righteousness and lift their eyes to joyfully behold the path to heaven that "shall be called the Way of Holiness," let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy**

**Additional Prayers:**

Pastor: let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy**

Pastor: These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen**

## **The Lord's Prayer** (We pray together. Please remain standing)

**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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass 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 and ever. Amen.**

## **The Prayer For Peace** (Please remain standing)

Pastor: Let us pray. . .O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works,

**People: give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments**

**and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies,  
may live in peace and quietness;**

**Pastor:** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with  
You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** **Amen.**

### **Benediction** (Please remain standing)

**Pastor:** Go out into the world in peace; have courage; hold to what is good;  
return no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the  
weak; help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve the Lord,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And may God, the Father,  
the Son and the Holy Spirit Bless each of you.

**People:** **Amen**

### **Dismissal** (Please remain standing)

**Pastor:** Go in peace. Live in love, as Christ loved us.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

### **Closing Song** - Joy to the World (LBW #39. Please remain standing)

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

- 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

## **Announcements**

## **Recessional**

## **Serving The Lord With Gladness**

<b>Pastor:</b>	<b>Pastor Ricky Adams</b>
<b>Pianist:</b>	<b>Janet Reese</b>
<b>Coffee Hour:</b>	<b>Mary Ann Griller</b>
<b>Counter:</b>	<b>Jim Sides</b>
<b>Usher:</b>	<b>Sharon and Jim Sides</b>
<b>Lay Reader:</b>	<b>Rick Kenney</b>

## **Activities This Week:**

**Sunday – December 15**

**9:30 am**  
9:30 am-1:30 pm

**Service of the Word**  
Ronella's Gathering (PH)

**Tuesday – December 17**

9:30am -12: 30 pm  
6:30-8:30 pm

Stage Door (PH)  
Women's Bible Class (LL)

<b>Wednesday – December 18</b>	<b>10:00 – 11:00 am</b> 2:45-6:15 pm 6:00 pm	<b>Yoga (LL)</b> Patricia Miner (S) Stage Door (PH)
<b>Saturday – December 21</b>	8:30-9:30am 9:30a-12:30pm	Pilates (PH) Stage Door (PH)
<b>Sunday – December 22</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Service of the Word And Sacrament</b>

**Information About Peace Lutheran Church** - If you desire to know more about Peace Lutheran Church such as teachings; affiliations, membership or other questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Adams.

Office Phone – (415) 388-2065  
Home Phone – (415) 388-7190  
Email – [pastor@plcmarin.org](mailto:pastor@plcmarin.org)

**Flowers** – Flowers today are given to the glory of God.

**Anniversaries** – Blessings to those celebrating anniversaries this week!

**Monday - Dave & Betty Erickson**

**Birthdays** – Blessings to those celebrating birthdays this week.

**Saturday – Marlene Halden**

**Christmas Eve Worship** – Remember Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship on December 24 at 7:00 p.m. We hope to see you there!

**Servers** – Every Sunday there are several people that help serve during the worship service and coffee hour. Peace Lutheran needs your help. We need people to prepare Coffee hour and serve during that time. We need Ushers. We need lay readers who read the second lesson during worship. Please consider these needs and sign up to serve in the way you choose. Thank you.

**Flowers** – If you would like to donate flowers for worship in memory of a person or observing a personal event, please contact pastor via email at [pastor@plcmarin.org](mailto:pastor@plcmarin.org)

**Sunday Bulletins** - for Peace Lutheran church are available online for use during the worship service. The link is <http://bulletin.plcmarin.org>

**Like us on Facebook** at Peace Lutheran Church Mill Valley or @peacelutheranmill. Pastor Adams post a weekly blog on Facebook and Peace Lutheran's website at [www.plcmarin.org](http://www.plcmarin.org)

## **Weekly Devotional Helps**

### **December 15 - December 21, 2019**

#### **Morning Prayer**

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

#### **Evening Prayer**

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

#### **Prayer For The Sick**

By your power, great God, our Lord Jesus healed the sick and gave new hope to the hopeless. Though we cannot command or possess your power, we pray for those who want to be healed. Mend their wounds, soothe fevered brows, and make broken people whole again. Help us to welcome every healing as a sign that, though death is against us, you are for us, and have promised renewed and risen life in Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.



## Scripture Readings Through The Week

### **Monday – December 16**

Psalm 42  
Isaiah 29:17-24  
Acts 5:12-16

### **Tuesday – December 17**

Psalm 42  
Ezekiel 47:1-12  
Jude 17-25

### **Wednesday – December 18**

Psalm 42  
Zechariah 8:1-17  
Matthew 8:14-17, 28-34

### **Thursday – December 19**

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
2 Samuel 7:1-17  
Galatians 3:23-29

### **Friday – December 20**

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
2 Samuel 7:18-22  
Galatians 4:1-7

### **Saturday – December 21**

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
2 Samuel 7:23-29  
John 3:31-36

## Scripture Readings For Next Sunday

### **Fourth Sunday Of Advent**

**Isaiah 7:10-16**  
**Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**  
**Romans 1:1-7**  
**Matthew 1:18-25**

## Commemorations

### **December 20 - Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, died**

**1552:** Born to an impoverished nobleman, Katie eventually took vows as a nun, but around age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. Six children were born to Katie and Martin.