



## **Peace Lutheran Church**

**205 Tennessee Valley Road  
Mill Valley, California 94941  
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**Bulletin – [www.bulletin.plcmarin.org](http://www.bulletin.plcmarin.org)**

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**Pastor Ricky Adams**

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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 17, 2017**

### **Introduction**

“The good old days.” “They don’t make them like they used to.” Oftentimes, we look to the past with a feeling of nostalgia. We think that things were better or safer or greater “back then.” Perhaps we have this feeling with good reason; after all, the future can be scary! What’s going to happen in the Middle East? Where is the economy headed? What kind of world will my children live in? Yet, in today’s Gospel, John assures his listeners of greater things to come. His message is one of hope in the coming Savior. In Christ, we, too, have greater things to come—including resurrection and life with Him forever. That’s reason for rejoicing, now and always! Thank you for worshipping at Peace Lutheran Church today!

**Prayer Before Worship** - Lord of Love and Light, shine through our darkness, bringing us hope. Open our hearts for the journey, our eyes for the light, our spirits for the peace which you bring. Fill our mouths with laughter and speech with shouts of joy that we shall reveal the love with which you surround us. We offer this prayer in the name of the One who is coming into the world bringing your hope, love, peace, and joy, Jesus Christ. AMEN. – Nancy C. Townley, Ministry Matters Website

### **Pre-Service Music**

### **Ringling Of The Bell**

### **Welcome**

### **Lighting Of The Advent Candle** (Please stand)

Pastor: Rejoice always,  
People: **pray without ceasing,**

Pastor: give thanks in all circumstances;  
**People: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.**

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,  
**People: the light no darkness can overcome.**

Pastor: Let Your light scatter the darkness  
**People: and illumine Your Church.**

(Candle is lit)

**Hymn - Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel** (Stanzas 5-6, ELW #257. Please remain standing)

5. O come, O Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

6. O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

*Refrain*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

Text: *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

## Confession and Forgiveness

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.)

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who comes to wake us from  
sleep, who leads us into the light of grace.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God  
and neighbor. - Silence for reflection and self-examination. - God of all time,

**People: we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign  
among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor  
of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom  
to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure  
until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**

Pastor: Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In ✝ Jesus Christ  
your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this  
good news!

People: Amen.

(We greet each other with the Peace of the Lord)

## Hymn – Let All Together Praise Our God (Tune -ELW #287, please be seated)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Let all together praise our God<br>before the highest throne;<br>today God opens heav'n again<br>and sends the only Son,<br>and sends the only Son.                          | 2. From God's right hand the Son descends,<br>is born an infant small,<br>and lies in poverty, his bed<br>a manger in a stall,<br>a manger in a stall. |
| 3. O tender Child, you veil in flesh<br>the splendor of your might;<br>a servant's garb now wraps the one<br>who clothed the sky with light,<br>who clothed the sky with light. | 4. Your mother feeds you tenderly,<br>sings you a lullaby,<br>while angels, hailing David's heir,<br>your glory magnify,<br>your glory magnify.        |
| 5. A wonderful exchange you make:<br>you take our flesh and blood,<br>and in return give us to share<br>the shining realm of God,<br>the shining realm of God.                  | 6. Unlock the door again today<br>that leads to paradise;<br>the angel bars the way no more.<br>To God let praises rise,<br>to God let praises rise!   |

Text: Nikolaus Herman, 1480-1561; tr. hymnal version. Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

## First Reading - Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (Please remain seated)

Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of the Lord, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.

<sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to

display his glory. <sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. ... <sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. <sup>9</sup>Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. <sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

## **Second Reading - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24** (Please remain seated)

Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil. <sup>23</sup>May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

## **Gospel – Matthew 1:1-17** (Please stand)

The assigned Gospel reading for today is from John 1. However, these first verse from Matthew reflect the reading of Isaiah 61. Both, in their own way, reflect the concept of the "Year of Jubilee" which was celebrated according to Leviticus 25. Both passages reflect the joy God desires for His people.

An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham. ... <sup>2</sup>Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, <sup>3</sup>and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, <sup>4</sup>and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, <sup>5</sup>and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, <sup>6</sup>and Jesse the

father of King David. ... And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, <sup>7</sup> and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, <sup>8</sup> and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, <sup>9</sup> and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, <sup>10</sup> and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, <sup>11</sup> and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. ... <sup>12</sup> And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, <sup>13</sup> and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, <sup>14</sup> and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, <sup>15</sup> and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, <sup>16</sup> and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah. ... <sup>17</sup> So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

## Hymn – Joy to the World (LBW #39, please remain seated)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!<br/>           Let earth receive her king;<br/>           let ev'ry heart prepare him room<br/>           and heav'n and nature sing,<br/>           and heav'n and nature sing,<br/>           and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.</p> | <p>2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!<br/>           Let all their songs employ,<br/>           while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains<br/>           repeat the sounding joy,<br/>           repeat the sounding joy,<br/>           repeat, repeat the sounding joy.</p> |
| <p>3. No more let sin and sorrow grow<br/>           nor thorns infest the ground;<br/>           he comes to make his blessings flow<br/>           far as the curse is found,<br/>           far as the curse is found,<br/>           far as, far as the curse is found.</p>       | <p>4. He rules the world with truth and grace<br/>           and makes the nations prove<br/>           the glories of his righteousness<br/>           and wonders of his love,<br/>           and wonders of his love,<br/>           and wonders, wonders of his love.</p>              |

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

## Message

### The Year Of The LORD's Favor Matthew 1:1-17

#### **Song** - Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers (LBW #25, please remain seated)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Rejoice, rejoice, believers,<br>and let your lights appear;<br>the evening is advancing,<br>and darker night is near.<br>The bridegroom is arising<br>and soon is drawing nigh.<br>Up, pray and watch and wrestle;<br>at midnight comes the cry.     | 2. The watchers on the mountain<br>proclaim the bridegroom near;<br>go forth as he approaches<br>with alleluias clear.<br>The marriage feast is waiting;<br>the gates wide open stand.<br>Arise, O heirs of glory;<br>the bridegroom is at hand.  |
| 3. The saints, who here in patience<br>their cross and suff'rings bore,<br>shall live and reign forever<br>when sorrow is no more.<br>Around the throne of glory<br>the Lamb they shall behold;<br>in triumph cast before him<br>their diadems of gold. | 4. Our hope and expectation,<br>O Jesus, now appear;<br>arise, O Sun so longed for,<br>o'er this benighted sphere.<br>With hearts and hands uplifted,<br>we plead, O Lord, to see<br>the day of earth's redemption<br>that sets your people free! |

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

#### **Sharing The Gifts of God** (Please be seated as 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**



## Prayers Of The People Of God (Please remain standing)

**Pastor:** Let us come before our Lord in prayer, asking Him to hear our prayer and grant us joy. — Silent prayer - Lord of joy, during this season of Advent, prepare our hearts that we would be made ready to receive Your Son as He comes in His incarnation and birth, but also in His Word. Make us ever ready for His final coming on the Last Day. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer and grant us joy.**

**Pastor:** Lord of joy, You have called Your Church to bear witness to Christ's redeeming work. Grant that we boldly proclaim the Good News of the One who brings joy to the world through His life, death, and resurrection, that all who hear it may receive the gift of salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer and grant us joy.**

**Pastor:** Lord of joy, You have instructed us to pray for workers in Your harvest field. Raise up faithful and loving teachers of Your Word so that Christ may be proclaimed near and far. Make us Your instruments to encourage and equip individuals for work in Your Church. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer and grant us joy.**

**Pastor:** Lord of joy, we ask that You stretch forth Your almighty arm to protect the men and women who serve in the Armed Forces of our land. Support them, granting them courage and loyalty. Strengthen them to serve with integrity and honor. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer and grant us joy.**

**Pastor:** Lord of joy, You are the creator and sustainer of all things. According to Your will, grant healing to those who suffer in body and mind. Look with favor upon Your servants, and if it is Your will, restore them to health, or give them grace to accept tribulation, knowing that Your grace is sufficient for them. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer and grant us joy.**

Additional prayers:

**Pastor:** Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer and grant us joy.**

Pastor: Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy and Your promise to hear us for the sake of the One in whose name we come, Your Son, Jesus Christ.

People: **Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer** (Prayed 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.**

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

Pastor: Rejoice always,

People: **pray without ceasing,**

Pastor: give thanks in all circumstances;

People: **for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

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

Pastor: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Closing Hymn - It Came upon the Midnight Clear (LBW #54, please remain standing)**

1. It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
from heav'n's all-gracious king."  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heav'nly music floats  
o'er all the weary world.  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
they bend on hov'ring wing,  
and ever o'er its babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.
3. And you, beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way  
with painful steps and slow:  
look now, for glad and golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing;  
oh, rest beside the weary road  
and hear the angels sing!
4. For lo! The days are hast'ning on,  
by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendors fling,  
and all the world give back the song  
which now the angels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876

## **Announcements**

## **Recessional**

## **Serving The Lord With Gladness**

<b>Pastor:</b>	<b>Ricky Adams</b>
<b>Organist:</b>	<b>Janet Reese</b>
<b>Coffee Hour:</b>	<b>Laureen Schneeberger and Cynthia Smith</b>
<b>Usher:</b>	<b>Vicki McGowan</b>
<b>Counter:</b>	<b>Vicki McGowan</b>
<b>Lay Reader:</b>	<b>Rick Kenney</b>

## Activities This Week:

<b>Sunday – December 17</b>	9:30am	Service of the Word
<b>Tuesday – December 19</b>	9:30-12:30am	Stage Door (PH)
<b>Wednesday – December 20</b>	<b>10:30</b> 6pm	<b>Worship Committee</b> Stage Door (PH)
<b>Saturday – December 23</b>	8:30-9:30am 9:30a-12:30pm	Pilates (PH) Stage Door (PH)
<b>Sunday – December 24</b>	9:30am  <b>7:00 p.m.</b>	Service of the Word and Sacrament <b>Christmas Eve Worship</b>

## Announcements For December 17, 2017

**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

**Refreshments** - will be served in Luther Lounge and surrounding areas following worship today. Guests and members stay and meet one another again or for the first time.

**Birthdays** – Christ's blessing to those celebrating birthdays this week:

**Wednesday** - Nicole Brenes

**Thursday** - Marlene Halden

**Saturday** - Shila Clement

**Christmas Eve Worship** – Join us and invite your friends as we celebrate Christmas Eve with the theme the Brightest Light Candlelight Service! Worship begins at 7:00 p.m.

**Janet Rosevear** – We want to express our condolences to the family of Jnaet Rosevear who passed away. Services are pending.

**Poinsettias** – I have placed a poinsettias sign up sheet in the entry way (Narthex). Please sign up for one to take home Christmas Eve.

**Facebook** - Like us on Facebook at Peace Lutheran Church Mill Valley or @peacelutheranmill

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

# **Weekly Devotional Helps**

## **December 17 - December 23, 2017**

### **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 18**

Psalm 125  
1 Kings 18:1-18  
Ephesians 6:10-17

### **Tuesday – December 19**

Psalm 125  
2 Kings 2:9-22  
Acts 3:17-4:4

### **Wednesday – December 20**

Psalm 125  
Malachi 3:16-4:6  
Mark 9:9-13

### **Thursday – December 21**

Luke 1:46b-55  
2 Samuel 6:1-11  
Hebrews 1:1-4

**Friday – December 22**

Luke 1:46b-55  
2 Samuel 16:12-19  
Hebrews 1:5-14

**Saturday – December 23**

Luke 1:46b-55  
Judges 13:2-24  
John 7:40-52

**Scripture Readings For Next Sunday****Fourth Sunday In Advent**

**2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16**  
**Luke 1:46b-55**  
**Romans 16:25-27**  
**Luke 1:26-38**

**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.

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