



# **Peace Lutheran Church**

**205 Tennessee Valley Road  
Mill Valley, California 94941  
415-388-2065**

**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!**

# **First Sunday In Advent**

## **December 3, 2017**

### **Introduction**

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come. Thank you for worshipping at Peace Lutheran Church today!

**Prayer Before Worship** - Almighty God, as we begin this season of Advent remind us again that in the midst of our darkness you are bringing us peace, to calm our anxious spirits and hectic lives. Turn our hearts again toward you. Make us ready to receive your Son our Savior. Slow our pace, and give us the blessing of feeling your peace in our spirits. For we ask this in Jesus' precious Name. Amen.

– Nancy C. Townley, Ministry Matters Website

### **Pre-Service Music**

### **Ringling Of The Bell**

### **Welcome**

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

**Pastor:** Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

**People:** **Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!**

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 1-2, LBW #34. Please remain standing)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,<br>and ransom captive Israel,<br>that mourns in lonely exile here<br>until the Son of God appear. <i>Refrain</i> | 2. Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might,<br>who to your tribes on Sinai's height<br>in ancient times once gave the law<br>in cloud, and majesty, and awe. <i>Refrain</i> |
|---|---|

*Refrain*

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

Text: *Psalterium Canticum 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 - O Lord, How Shall I Meet You** (Tune -LBW #108, please be seated)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. O Lord, how shall I meet you,<br>how welcome you aright?<br>Your people long to greet you,<br>my hope, my heart's delight!<br>Oh, kindle, Lord most holy,<br>your lamp within my breast<br>to do in spirit lowly<br>all that may please you best. | 3. I lay in fetters, groaning;<br>you came to set me free.<br>I stood, my shame bemoaning;<br>you came to honor me.<br>A glorious crown you give me,<br>a treasure safe on high<br>that will not fail or leave me<br>as earthly riches fly.                   |
| 4. Love caused your incarnation;<br>love brought you down to me.<br>Your thirst for my salvation<br>procured my liberty.<br>Oh, love beyond all telling,<br>that led you to embrace<br>in love, all love excelling,<br>our lost and fallen race.     | 5. Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted,<br>who sit in deepest gloom,<br>who mourn your joys departed<br>and tremble at your doom.<br>Despair not; he is near you,<br>there, standing at the door,<br>who best can help and cheer you<br>and bids you weep no more. |

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. composite

## **First Reading - Isaiah 64:1-9** (Please remain seated)

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

<sup>1</sup>O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—<sup>2</sup>as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! <sup>3</sup>When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. <sup>4</sup>From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God

besides you, who works for those who wait for him. <sup>5</sup>You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. <sup>6</sup>We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. <sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. <sup>8</sup>Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

## **Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 1:3-9** (Please remain seated)

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—<sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—<sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **Gospel - Mark 13:24-37** (Please stand)

In today's reading, Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

[Jesus said:] <sup>24</sup>"In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. <sup>26</sup>Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. <sup>28</sup>"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see

these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>32</sup>“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup>Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

## Hymn - Savior of the Nations, Come (Tune – LBW #28, please be seated)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1. Savior of the nations, come;<br/>virgin's son, make here your home.<br/>Marvel now, O heav'n and earth:<br/>God has chosen such a birth.</p>     | <p>2. Not by human flesh and blood,<br/>but the mystic Breath of God,<br/>was the Word of God made flesh,<br/>fruit of woman, blossom fresh.</p>             |
| <p>3. Wondrous birth—oh, wondrous child—<br/>from his throne, a virgin mild!<br/>Very God, and Mary's son,<br/>eager now his race to run!</p>          | <p>4. From God's heart the Savior speeds,<br/>back to God his pathway leads;<br/>out to vanquish death's command,<br/>back to reign at God's right hand.</p> |
| <p>5. Now your manger, shining bright,<br/>hallows night with newborn light.<br/>Night cannot this light subdue;<br/>let our faith shine ever new.</p> | <p>6. Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,<br/>virgin's son, incarnate Word!<br/>To the holy Trinity<br/>praise we sing eternally!</p>                         |

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version. Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission

## Message

He Still Comes  
Mark 13:24-77

## **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**

## **Sharing The Gifts of God** (Please be seated as the offerings are received)

## **Prayers Of The People Of God** (Please stand)

**Pastor:** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. - Brief silence - Lord, You have given us the stars as markers of days and seasons, and we thank You for bringing us to the beginning of a new Church Year. Keep us faithful as we move through its observances and celebrations. May we gather often to hear the proclamation of Your Son and receive the gifts You so freely bestow upon us. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** We do not know the time the Son of Man will come, that knowledge belongs only to You, O Lord. Keep us wakeful, watchful and ever ready for His arrival, so that we along with all Your faithful people may be gathered from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Lord of all nations, as we await the full coming of Your promised Kingdom, be with all who make, administer and judge our laws. May they use the authority that You have given them wisely and according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**People:** **hear our prayer.**



Pastor: O Lord, You are our Father, hide not Your face from us. Look with kindness especially upon all who cry out to You in time of need. According to Your will, give healing to the sick, comfort to those who mourn and perseverance to those who suffer for the sake of Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord, even as we await Your coming in glory, You come to us in the here and now in the bread and wine that is the body and blood of Your Son. May all who approach Your table today receive the Sacrament worthily, so that with sins forgiven and faith strengthened Your people lack no gift as they await the revealing of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We remember with thankfulness all the faithful who have gone before us and are now with You. Preserve and sustain us until the end, so that we will all be presented guiltless before You in the day of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**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: Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

**People: Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!**

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 - 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>Ricky Adams</b>
<b>Organist:</b>	<b>Beth Huber</b>
<b>Coffee Hour:</b>	<b>Vicki McGowan and Dorlane Krausse</b>
<b>Usher:</b>	<b>Peter Pardini</b>
<b>Counter:</b>	<b>Don and Beverly Erbel</b>
<b>Lay Reader:</b>	<b>Sharon Sides</b>

## Activities This Week:

<b>Sunday – December 3</b>	9:30am	Service of the Word
<b>Tuesday – December 5</b>	9:30-12:30am 4:15-5:45	Stage Door (PH) Kids Music Class(LL)
<b>Wednesday – December 6</b>	4:15-5:45 6pm	Kids Music Class(LL) Stage Door (PH)
<b>Saturday – December 9</b>	8:30-9:30am 9:30a-12:30pm 11:00 – 1:00	Pilates (PH) Stage Door (PH) SF Chinese Academy(N)
<b>Sunday – December 10</b>	9:30am  <b>After Worship</b> <b>After Meeting</b>	Service of the Word and Sacrament <b>Congregational Meeting</b> <b>Christmas Decorating</b>

## Announcements For December 3, 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 by Cynthia Smith in memory of her Dad.

**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:

**Tuesday** - Janice Hellman

**Thursday** - Isaiah Clark-Hexter

**Thursday** - Linda Swanson

**Anniversaries** – Blessing to those celebrating a wedding anniversary this week:

**Saturday** - John & Ana Hilda Mosher

## **Important Dates In December**

**December 10** – Congregational Meeting and Sanctuary Decorating

**December 14** – Fireside Holiday Celebration

**December 24** – Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.  
Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m.

**The Giving Tree** - This year we are supporting our friends and neighbors at Fireside.

**We are asking for:**

**32 ~ \$15 Walgreens Gift Cards**

**18 ~ \$15 Target Gift Cards**

### **Monetary Donations**

*(Make checks payable to Peace Lutheran Church, writing Fireside in the "For" section)*

**The last day to donate or bring gift cards: Sunday, December 10**

As you know, we have been partnering with Fireside for many years. They are all so appreciative of what we do for each of them.

Giving these low income seniors and families a gift at Christmas truly brightens their holiday season. For many, this is all they will receive.

Thank you for your generosity.

## **Christmas Open House** - You are invited to a Christmas Open House!

**Who** - Hosted by Gary Glover & Shila Clement

**When** - Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 3 to 6 pm

**Where** - 2450 Spanish Trail Road, Tiburon

**Please RSVP by December 3, 2017**

garylglover@yahoo.com

415 435 4724

**Congregational Meeting-** Please note the annual congregational meeting for Peace Lutheran Church will be Sunday, December 10 immediately following worship.

**Christmas Decorating** – Join us next week for Christmas decorating of the Sanctuary. It is a great time for fellowship and Dahlia's "Feuerzangebowle" (Fruity Hot Rum and Wine drink). Please bring a 'finger food' to share and a drink to share.

**Men's Bible Class** – I have scheduled the Men's Bible Class on Wednesday, December 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the Lounge. We continue our study on Mark, sharing the things going on in our lives and of course finger foods and drinks. Hope to see you there!

**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 3 - December 9, 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 4**

Psalm 79  
Micah 4:1-5  
Revelation 15:1-8

#### **Tuesday – December 5**

Psalm 79  
Micah 4:6-13  
Revelation 18:1-10

#### **Wednesday – December 6**

Psalm 79  
Micah 5:1-5a  
Luke 12:34-38

#### **Thursday – December 7**

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
Hosea 6:1-6  
1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

**Friday – December 8**

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
Jeremiah 4:1-10  
Acts 11:19-26

**Saturday – December 9**

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
Ezekiel 36:24-28  
Mark 11:27-33

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

**Isaiah 40:1-11**  
**Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13**  
**2 Peter 3:8-15a**  
**Mark 1:1-8**

**Commemorations**

**December 3 - Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552:** A native of the Basque region of Spain, Xavier became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. He also helped to found the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

**December 4 - John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749:** A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. One of his works, The Fount of Wisdom, remained influential for centuries.

**December 6 - Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, died around 342:** Little is known about Nicholas, except that he was a bishop in present-day Turkey. According to legend, he was famous for his giving to the poor, and so has become a symbol of anonymous gift-giving.

**December 7 - Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, died 397:** While a governor of northern Italy, Ambrose was elected bishop of Milan on the same day he was baptized. He was a famous preacher, a writer of hymns we still sing today, and helped lead St. Augustine to faith.

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