

Peacham Congregational Church

56 Church St., Peacham, VT 05862

802-592-3330



“Sermon on the Mount” Laura James in NY, NY (2010) (1)

Interim Pastor, Nicole Klosterman

We are an Open and Affirming Church

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.

www.peachamchurch.org

Order of Worship February 8, 2026

Centering Thought

“The yoke is hard because the teachings of Jesus are radical: enemy love, unconditional forgiveness, extreme generosity. The yoke is easy because it is accessible to all — the studied and the ignorant, the rich and the poor, the religious and the nonreligious. Whether we like it or not, love is available to all people everywhere to be interpreted differently, applied differently, screwed up differently, and manifested differently.” — Rachel Held Evans

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “Gloria from Messe Novus Ordo” Denis Alain Dion

Responsive Call to Worship ⁽²⁾

Shout it out—no holding back!

There is truth that needs to be spoken.

Let the people rise and hear it.

We are listening. We stand ready.

Shout to the weary, the overlooked, the worn-thin:

With courage, we gather. With voices, we speak words of life.

Shout to the systems that press people down,

Their power is not the final word.

A new song is rising—

A song that frees,

A rhythm that restores,

A melody of reparation.

Come, Beloved Community, Come.

bring your resolve, your compassion, your wide-awake faith.

Let us worship the God who calls us

to remove every yoke.

Opening Hymn #250: “Here in This Place (Gather Us In)”

Opening Reflection: “Bearing Witness, Bearing Cold” A poem by Kate Lore

Passing of the Peace

One: The Peace of Jesus Christ be with all of you.

All: And also, with You

One: Now share in a sign of peace with one another.

Joys and Concerns followed by Time of Silence

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

Response

Hear our prayer O God. Hear our prayer O God.

Incline Your ear to us and grant us Your peace. Amen.

Anthem – “Think on Me” Alicia Ann Scott (1810-1900) (arr. Greg Gilpin)

Offering & Mission

Doxology #50: “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Christ, all people here below.

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen

Unison Prayer of Dedication

**Calling Voice Who Leads Us Toward Freedom,
we give thanks for every gift offered today.**

**Bless what we have brought.
Let it move where relief is needed,
where repair can begin,
where dignity can rise.**

**Carry us forward in this work
with gratitude deep enough
to shape the world we are building together. Amen.**

Hymn #406: “Blest Are They”

Scripture: Matthew 5:5 in different translations

Message: Blessed are the Meek...Really?

Closing Hymn #494: “I Sing a Song of Saints of God”

Benediction ⁽³⁾

May the Way, Truth and Life go with you,
the Presence that unsettles what must change
and steadies what must endure.

We go in boldness.

We go in gentleness.

We go in the sacred work of making all things whole.

Amen.

Response #345: "God Be with You Til We Meet Again" (vs. 1)

Postlude: "L'Angelus" C. Gounod (arr. C. Gorlitt)

(1) James, Laura. Sermon on the Mount, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57891> [retrieved February 2, 2026]. Original source: Laura James, <https://www.laurajamesart.com/collections/religious/>.

(2) Today's worship adapted from Remove the Yoke: Service Prayers for Epiphany 5A, written by Rev. Michael Anthony Howard, who serves as the Minister of Faith in Action for the Living Water Association, Ohio NorthEast, of the Heartland Conference, United Church of Christ.

(3) Posted on the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways Archive, <http://www.ucc.org/>. Re-posted on the re:Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/02/benediction-god-is-our-light.html>.

Announcements February 8, 2026

The next quarterly Council meeting will be held after the service on February 22, 2026.

The Annual Meeting will be held after the service on March 8, 2026.

On the third Sunday of each month, coffee hour is an opportunity to share updates and answer questions about what's happening at the Church. Our next conversation will take place next Sunday, February 15, and will include an update on the Children's Center. If you're unable to attend, questions or comments may be shared at peachammeetinghouse.org/contact.

Our 1st quarter mission is Hunger Free Vermont, a statewide organization dedicated to ending hunger and malnutrition for all Vermonters. The organization lobbies policymakers; expands school meals programs; engages local communities in addressing food insecurity among their neighbors; and trains and educates people about food insecurity and how to spot it and help. If you would like to donate, please indicate so on your check in the memo line.

The Danville Open Door Food Shelf is asking for the following weekly rotation of donations:

- 1st Sunday - Bread
- 2nd Sunday - Butter
- 3rd Sunday - Cheese (8oz. blocks)
- 4th Sunday - Eggs
- [5th Sunday - Cheese]

The "Faithful Response during Troubled Times" scripture study and discussion group will run Thursday, Feb. 5 - March 5, 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. There will be no meeting on Feb. 26. Food will not be provided, but anyone who would like to bring a snack to share is invited to do so. Please do not arrive earlier than 5:15 p.m.

The Peacham Meeting House will host Vermont pianist David Feurzeig on Friday, February 13 at 7:00 p.m. as part of his statewide project, Play Every Town: 252 Community Concerts for a Cooler Climate. The concert is free and open to the public. A suggested \$10 donation will benefit the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT) Resilience Fund. Find more information at PlayEveryTown.com.

Upcoming Schedule:

- Feb. 15 - Nicole Klosterman
- Feb. 18 - Ash Wednesday (no service)
- Feb. 22 - Nicole Klosterman

Information about Peacham Congregational Church

Weekly Worship – Sunday @ 9:30 a.m.

Join us online at peachamchurch.org/watch-us-live-on-sunday

Interim Pastor.....Nicole Klosterman, (802) 227-4956

Email: peachamchurchpastor@gmail.com

Please contact Nicole to schedule a visit or call

Mon: availability varies Tues: 11 am - 2:30 pm

Thurs: availability varies Fri: 9-11 am

Schedule a pastoral care visit with Nicole by visiting:

calendly.com/peachamchurchpastor/30min

Email peachamchurchinformation@gmail.com for general inquiries

Church Admin.....Patty Gardner

Treasurer.....Bruce Westcott

Collector.....Ann Goss

AccompanistBruce Westcott

Sexton.....Jeff Lane

Web Ministry.....Jonathan R. Potter

Church Council President & ModeratorJohn Marshall

Deacons: Susan Chandler, Chris Danielson, Carolyn Deasy,
Patty Gardner, Anita Vann, Rick Witt, Bruce Maclean, Deacon Emeritus

Here in This Place

(Gather Us In)

Unison

1. Here in this place, the new light is stream-ing, now the dark night has
2. We are the young- our lives are a mys-tery; we are the old, who
3. Here we re-ceive new life in your wa-ters; here we re-ceive the
4. Not just in build-ings, small and con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a - way. See in this space our fears and our dream-ings,
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his - tory,
 bread of new birth; here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a - way, here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is God pres-ent, and now is the day.




WORDS and MUSIC: Marty Haugen, 1981, alt.



GATHER US IN
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Marty Haugen is a member of Mayflower United Church of Christ, Minneapolis MN, where he is composer-in-residence.



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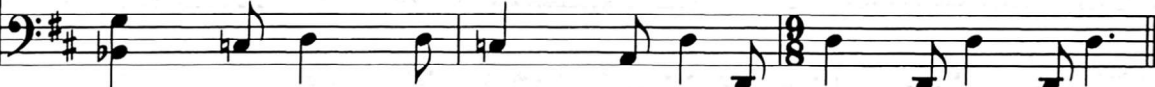
Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en; gath-er us in; our
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er; gath-er us in and

spir - its in - flame. Call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low - ly;
 bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,

we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.



Come into this place of peace
 and let its silence heal your spirit;
 Come into this place of memory
 and let its history warm your soul;
 Come into this place of prophecy and power
 and let its vision change your heart.

— William F. Schultz

Blest Are They

1. Blest are they, the poor in spir - it; theirs is the
 2. Blest are they, the meek and low - ly; they shall in -
 3. Blest are they who show God's mer - cy; mer - cy shall
 4. Blest are they who search for peace; they are the
 5. "Blest are you who suf - fer ha - tred, all for my

king - dom of God. Blest are they who
 her - it the earth. Blest are they who
 be their re - ward. Blest are they, the
 chil - dren of God. Blest are they who
 sake," Je - sus said. Re - joice, be glad, for

dwell in sor - row; they shall be con - soled.
 thirst and hun - ger; they shall have their fill.
 pure of heart; they shall see their God!
 suf - fer in faith; heav - en's joy is theirs.
 yours is the king - dom; shine for all to see.

WORDS: David Haas, 1985, alt.

MUSIC: David Haas, 1985, adapt.

This hymn comes from the modern Roman Catholic folk-hymn movement. The text is a paraphrase of the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12).

BLEST ARE THEY

87.85 w. refrain

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Refrain

Re - jice and be glad! Bless-ed are you,

ho - ly are you. Re - jice and be glad!

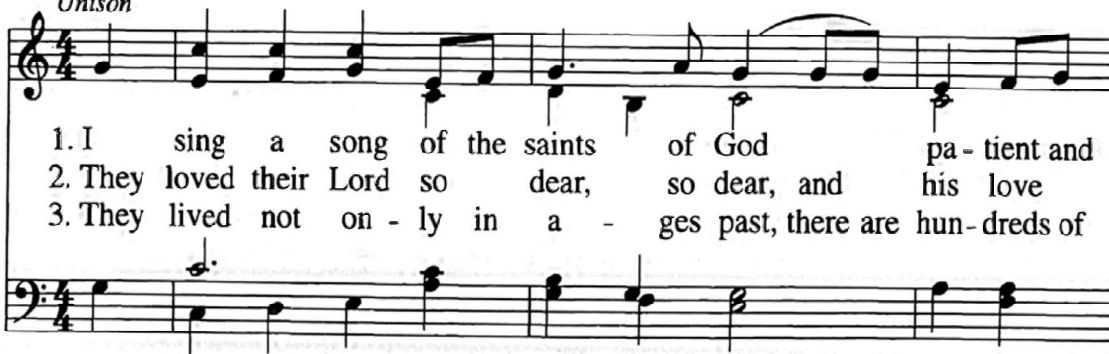
Yours is the king-dom of God. God.

1 - 4 to stanzas final ending

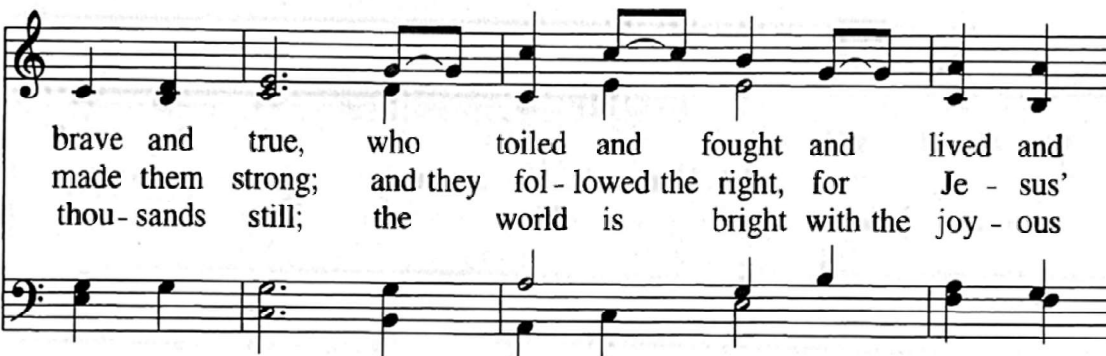
The eyes of all wait upon thee;
 and thou givest them their meat in due season.
 Thou openest thine hand,
 and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.

— Psalm 145:14, 15, KJV

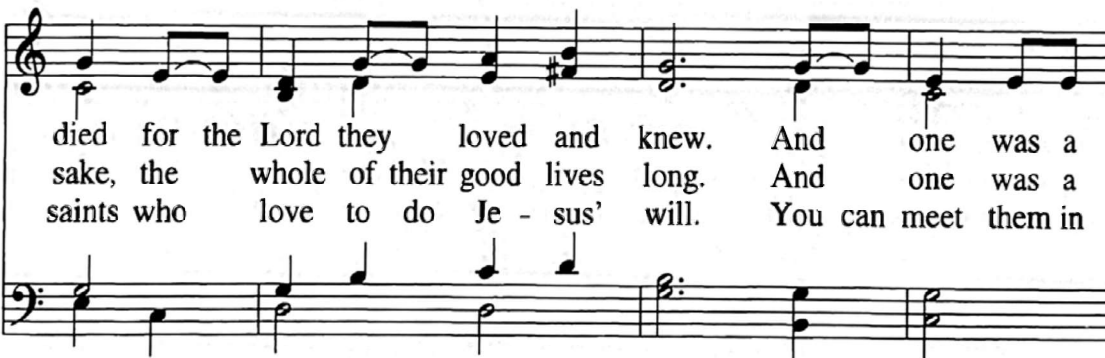
I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

Unison


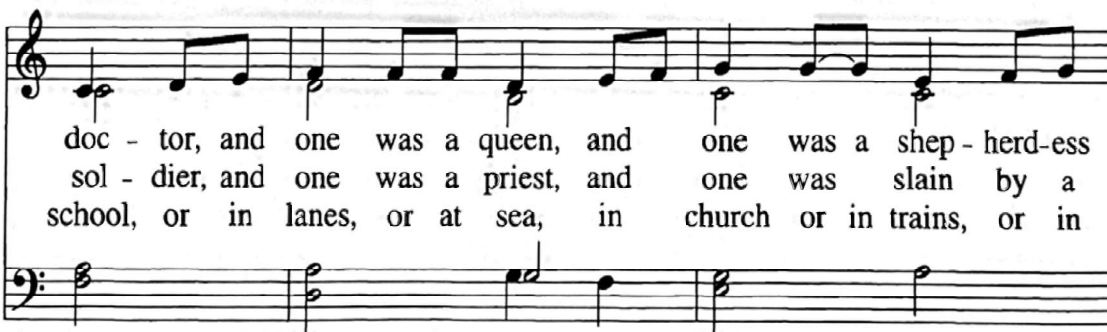
1. I sing a song of the saints of God pa-tient and
 2. They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, and his love
 3. They lived not on-ly in a- ges past, there are hun-dreds of



brave and true, who toiled and fought and lived and
 made them strong; and they fol-lowed the right, for Je-sus'
 thou-sands still; the world is bright with the joy-ous



died for the Lord they loved and knew. And one was a
 sake, the whole of their good lives long. And one was a
 saints who love to do Je-sus' will. You can meet them in



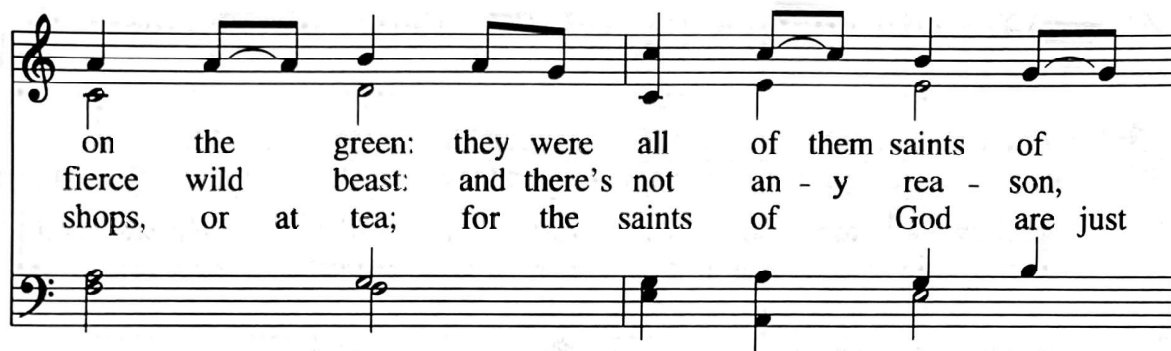
doc-tor, and one was a queen, and one was a shep-herd-ess
 sol-dier, and one was a priest, and one was slain by a
 school, or in lanes, or at sea, in church or in trains, or in

WORDS: Lesbia Scott, 1929, alt.
 MUSIC: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1940

GRAND ISLE
 Irr.

Englishwoman Lesbia Scott wrote this hymn to show her children we can meet
 saints every day and be saints to others. John H. Hopkins, Jr. is nephew and name-
 sake of the author/composer of 'We Three Kings of Orient Are.'

Words © 1929 Lesbia Scott,
 by permission of Morehouse Publishing



on the green: they were all of them saints of
 fierce wild beast: and there's not an - y rea - son,
 shops, or at tea; for the saints of God are just



God, and I mean, God help - ing, to be one too.
 no, not the least, why I should-n't be one too.
 folk like me, and I mean to be one too.

Let us now praise famous ones, and our forbears that begat us.
 Such as did bear rule in their lifetime,
 and were renowned for their power.
 Leaders of the people by their counsels and by their knowledge.
 Such as found out musical tunes, and recited verses in writing.
 All these were honored in their generation,
 and were the glory of their times.

And some there be which have no memorial.
 Who are perished as though they had never been.
 Their bodies are buried in peace.
 But their names liveth forevermore.

— Ecclesiasticus 44, paraphrased
 by William Walsham How, adapted