

Peacham Congregational Church

56 Church St., Peacham, VT 05862

802-592-3330



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

November 30, 2025

Nicole Klosterman

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude Advent Hymn (Wellington) -- George Weissel (1590-1635):
"Lift up your heads ye mighty gates, Behold the King of Glory waits."

Invitation to Worship

One: As the sun rises on this new season, we turn within
and ask God to renew hope in each one of us.

**Many: For the sake of my relatives and friends, proclaim with joy,
"Let us go to the house of our God and find hope within!"**

One: Though the days are hard, and the news, grim,
We turn to our siblings here asking them to trust God,
as we have so many times in the past.

**Many: For the sake of my relatives and friends, we proclaim with joy,
"Peace be within the walls of this house,
that our hope might spread beyond!"**

One: In our fears and our desperation, in our exhaustion and our pain,
God wraps us in bands of hope, holding us together
so we may continue the struggle for justice and peace.

**Many: For the sake of my relatives and friends, we proclaim with joy,
"I will seek all that is good within the house of God,
and I will carry it with me wherever I go!"**

Opening Hymn: # 114 O Come O Come Emmanuel

Invocation (unison)

**Emmanuel, we come here today to renew ourselves in the generosity of God's hope.
We will climb the mountain hand in hand so that we may learn again of God's promise
to be with us, both in the valley and on the peaks. Let us set down our despair and rest
in the light of God until we are renewed!**

First Reading: Selection from John O'Donohue's poem "In Praise of Fire"

Let us praise the grace and risk of Fire.

In the beginning,
The Word was red,
And the sound was thunder,
And the wound in the unseen

Spilled forth the red weather of being.

In the name of the Fire,
The Flame
And the Light:
Praise the pure presence of fire
That burns from within
Without thought of time.

Lighting the Candle of Hope

Family: Today, we light the candle of Hope. Family: Katherine Siner, Wren and Louisa

Reader 1: We think of Hope as anticipation of something future,
but in truth, Hope can be the incarnation of trust.

Reader 2: We trust in our Wonderful Counselor –
that when we seek guidance, we will find answers.
We trust that when we are exhausted,
our Emmanuel will send someone
to carry our burdens for a while.
We trust our Creator to renew our faith in community,
in the goodness of others,
and in the power of our empathy and action.

**People: We trust in our Beloved God, that, when everything around us
seems too difficult, too broken, too devastating
for us to put to rights on our own,
Hope will appear, and we rush forward,
arms open wide to receive grace.**

Anthem – TBA

Passing of the Peace

Pastor: As Christ welcomed everyone, no matter what their background, no matter what their social status; as Christ welcomed enemies and friends, outcasts and leaders, foreigners and neighbors, let us open our hearts and homes and lives. Let us be Christ to everyone we meet. Peace be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

Pastor: Now share the Peace of Christ with one another. This can be done with a smile, a wave, or a handshake, and the words, Peace be with you.

Joys & Concerns

Prayer of Hope & the Lord's Prayer

Peace before us

Peace before us, peace behind us,
Peace under our feet.
Peace within us, peace over us,
Let all around us be peace.
Light before us, light behind us,

Light under our feet.
Light within us, light over us,
Let all around us be light.
Love before us, love behind us,
Love under our feet.
Love within us, love over us,
Let all around us be love.
Christ before us, Christ behind us,
Christ under our feet.
Christ within us, Christ over us,
Let all around us be Christ.

David Haas (based on a Navaho prayer)

Response

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

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

Offering & Mission (CWS) Invitation to Generosity

Hope is not only fuel that sustains our spirits. Hope lives within the tangible gifts we give each week to support the most vulnerable among us. In our generosity, we act on God's behalf, ensuring the needs of our community are met.

Doxology #46 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.***

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Beloved Creator, we offer these gifts to you in the spirit of Hope. We place our trust in you and in those who faithfully care for your people, that these gifts will be used to protect and uplift those who are in need. Help us to remember our role to act as agents of your grace each and every day.

Amen

Hymn# 224 Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

Message – "We're Expecting"

Closing Hymn # 160 - Go, Tell It on the Mountain

RESPONSIVE

When we leave this place today, let us carry the flame of Hope within us, no matter how small it may seem.

We feed it with the knowledge that God's love is incendiary.

Our Beloved's breath blows through us, allowing the flames to rise and catch and give us strength all the days of our lives.

Amen.

Response #345– God Be with You Til We Meet Again, vs. 1

Postlude "What Child is This?" (Traditional) -- arr: Vince Guaraldi

Service Credits: Raised Above: Service Prayers for the First Sunday of Advent Year A was written by the Maria Mankin. Cover Image Used by permission: Mary's Song © 2016 © Lauren Wright Pittman
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Announcements November 30, 2025

Our 4th quarter mission is Church World Service. If you would like to donate to CWS please indicate on your check in the memo line "CWS".

The Danville Open Door Food Shelf is asking for 2 LB. Block of Cheese.

If you haven't done so already, please don't forget to return your annual pledge envelope. The Business Committee is counting on early returns so they can begin preparing for the 2026 Budget.

We will hold an additional Christmas Eve Service on 12/24 at 4:15 pm – A Contemplative Christmas Vigil. More details will be forthcoming. We will also hold our regular 6:30 pm Family Service.

11/30/25	Nicole Klosterman – 1 st Sunday of Advent Advent participants: Katherine Siner w/Wren & Louisa Coffee Hour: Patty, Anita & Carolyn
12/3/25 6:00 pm	Memory Tree Lighting and soup/sandwich meal
12/4/25	PCH – Annual Meeting in Social Hall
12/5/25	North Country Chorus sings Handel's Messiah
12/6/25	North Country Chorus sings Handel's Messiah
12/7/25	John Morris – 2 nd Sunday of Advent Coffee Hour: Nancy & Brad Toney Advent participants: Deasy & Hovey Families
	3:00 p.m. North Country Chorus – Handel's Messiah
12/13/25	Food Drive

Interim Pastor.....Nicole Klosterman (510)-452-0285

Email: peachamchurchpastor@gmail.com

Nicole's availability for scheduled visits:

Mon 1-2:30

Tues 11-2:30

Fri 8:45-11

Here is a link to schedule a 45 min pastoral care visit with Nicole using days listed above: <https://calendly.com/peachamchurchpastor/30min>

Nicole will be available the **Wednesday before Thanksgiving in the morning from 8-11.**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Unison

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2. O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine
 3. O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things,
 4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un -
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and
 far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show, and
 heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease; fill

Refrain (Harmony)

til the Son of God ap - pear.
 death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 cause us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
 the whole world with heav - en's peace.

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

WORDS: Latin: c. 9th century; sts. 1,2, tr. John M. Neale, 1851; sts. 3,4, tr. Henry S. Coffin, 1916 VENI EMMANUEL
 MUSIC: French melody, 15th century, arr., harm. Thomas Helmore, 1854 LM w. refrain

Anglican Oxford Movement Neale translated this hymn which originated in the seven Great 'O' antiphons that were traditional for vespers during Advent. The refrain was added in the 13th century.

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart 224

1. Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2. I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3. Hast thou not bid us love thee, our true Light?
 4. Teach me to feel that thou art al - ways nigh;
 5. Teach me to love thee as thine an - gels love,

warm it with hope, through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 All, all thine own: soul, heart, and strength, and mind;
 teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear:
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;

stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as thou art,
 no an - gel vis - it - ant, no o - pening skies,
 I see thy cross, my bea - con in the night;
 to check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh;
 the bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed Dove.

and make me love thee as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 O let me seek thee, and O let me find!
 teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
 My heart an al - tar, and thy love the flame.

WORDS: George Croly, 1867, alt.
 MUSIC: Frederick C. Atkinson, 1870

MORECAMBE
 10 10.10 10

Croly was an Irish literary figure also noted for conservative preaching in his London retirement.

GOD PRESENT IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

160

Refrain

Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery-where;

Fine

go, tell it on the moun - tain, that Je - sus Christ is born!

1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -
2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth rang
3. Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born, and

to Refrain

hold through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

WORDS: Stanzas, John W. Work II, 1907; refrain, African - American spiritual
MUSIC: African-American spiritual, arr. John W. Work III, 1940

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN
76.76 w. refrain

John Wesley Work II added the present stanzas to an existing refrain. Work was a leader in the effort to study, preserve and perform African-American slave songs and spirituals.

© 1940 John W. Work III

EPIPHANY