

## **Peacham Congregational Church**

56 Church St., Peacham, VT 05862

802-592-3330



Nativity

**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](http://www.peachamchurch.org)

# Order of Worship

December 21, 2025

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude - "O Sanctissima" -- a traditional Sicilian song, arranged by C. Gurlitt

Invitation to Worship:

One: To love is the greatest gift.

It is a surrender to God's holy power.

Many: **God loves us, despite our mistakes.**

**We pray for the boldness to hope!**

One: To be loved by God is the right of every living being.

God's love is the sun and the rain; it is the beginning and the end of all.

Many: **God loves us, even when we hurt one another.**

**We pray for the strength to bring reconciliation and peace.**

One: God's love is given freely.

God demands nothing from us, yet knows we are capable of goodness.

Many: **God loves us in the midst of crisis and sorrow.**

**We pray to share a vision of joy.**

One: Love is a sacred vow God has made to us –

a rainbow in the sky and a baby in the manger.

Many: **God loves us just as we are,**

**and we give thanks and whisper amen.**

**Opening Hymn: # 404 – Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**

Unison Invocation

**Emmanuel, we come today with arms wide open, ready to meet your precious son. Your love for us is so full that you sent a fragile babe to share your holy word, knowing that he would face human pain. Open us, God! Prepare us for his coming, that we may be messengers of your abundant love, and act to ease the suffering of all.**

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

As short as the time

From spark to flame,

So brief may the distance be

Between heart and being.

May we discover

Beneath our fear

Embers of anger

To kindle justice.

May courage

Cause our lives to flame,

In the name of the Fire,

And the Flame

And the Light.

## **Lighting the Candle of Love**

Family: The Surat Family

Today we light the Candle of Love.

Reader 1:

Over the past few weeks,  
we have sparked the light  
of hope, peace, and joy.  
Now, we come to love,  
which binds all of these together.

Reader 2:

Each strand is braided  
gently into an image of God  
who protects, encourages, and endures.

Reader 1:

Just as we await the birth  
of our savior in the manger,  
God waits on us, watches over us,  
and sends us out into the world  
to do as Jesus did –

Reader 2:

to care for our neighbors,  
to give freely to those in need,  
to call out tyranny,  
to face down injustice –  
knowing that God is with us.

**People:**

**We are loved.**

**We are love.**

Anthem – Carol of the Bells – Words by Peter Wilhousky, Music M. Leontovitch  
- Arr. Patrick Lievebergen

## **Passing of the Peace**

Leader: Christ said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." In the Spirit of Christ, Peace be with you.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

Leader: Now share in the Peace of Christ with one another.

## **Joys & Concerns**

**Moment of Silence, Pastoral Prayer & the Lord's Prayer (Debts/Debtors)**

**Congregational Response #278 – "Hear Our Prayer, O God"**

***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**

**Invitation to Generosity**

God has told us love flows from the hand we extend in connection, in support, and in giving. Whatever we have to offer, let us bring forth the true joy of this season and give as much as we are able.

**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**

**Love and Light of the world, we give you thanks for these gifts. We give you thanks for the ability to share your divine love in a tangible form with our siblings around the world.  
Amen**

**Hymn # 114 O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

**Scripture Reading - Isaiah 7:10-16**

Message: "Let It Be Deep"

**Hymn # 129 Of Eternal Love Begotten**

**Responsive Benediction**

Let us go out into the world with the extravagance of God's love in our hearts! Let us savor the moments of joy, whether from the excitement of the season or the peace of a deeply feeling spirit.

**We are messengers of hope in a waiting world.**

**Amen**

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

Postlude – "Christmas Time is Here" -- Mendelson & Guaraldi (1966)

Anonymous. Nativity, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-image/ink.pl?RC=56354> [retrieved December 15, 2025]. Original source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/genvessel/537858093>

# Announcements

**December 21, 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 **Bread**. Next week: **eggs**.

We will hold two Christmas Eve Service:

4:15 pm – A Contemplative Christmas Vigil.

6:30 pm Family Service with Peacham Children singing and the Community Choir, as well as the church choir. A time for the children; the Christmas Story told by Scripture and Carols, ending with candlelight and singing Silent Night.

12/21/25	Nicole Klosterman – 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Coffee Hour – Susan Chandler
12/28/25	Advent participants – The Surat Family Nicole Klosterman Coffee Hour –

**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

Weds - unavailable

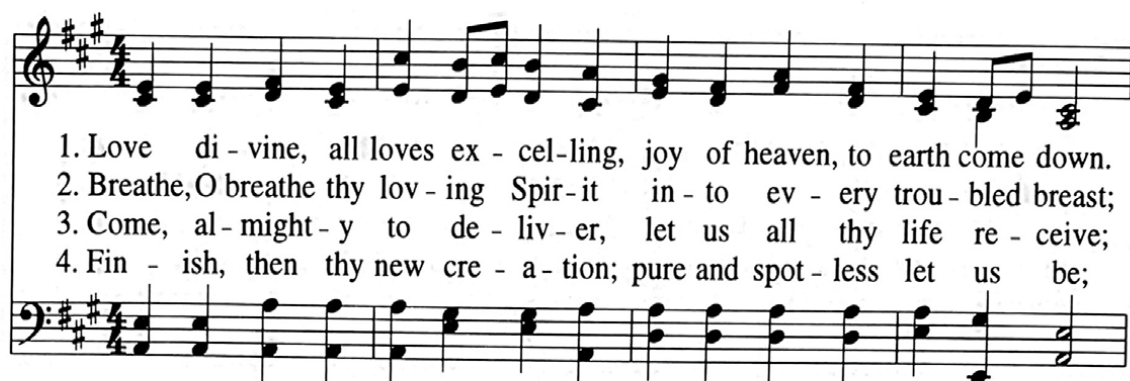
Thurs - availability varies

Fri 9-11 am

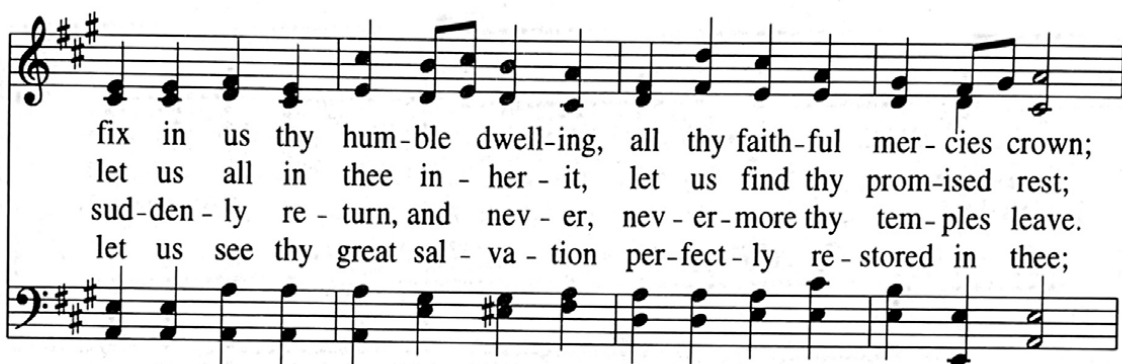
**Here is a link to schedule a pastoral care visit with**

**Nicole:** <https://calendly.com/peachamchurchpastor/30min>

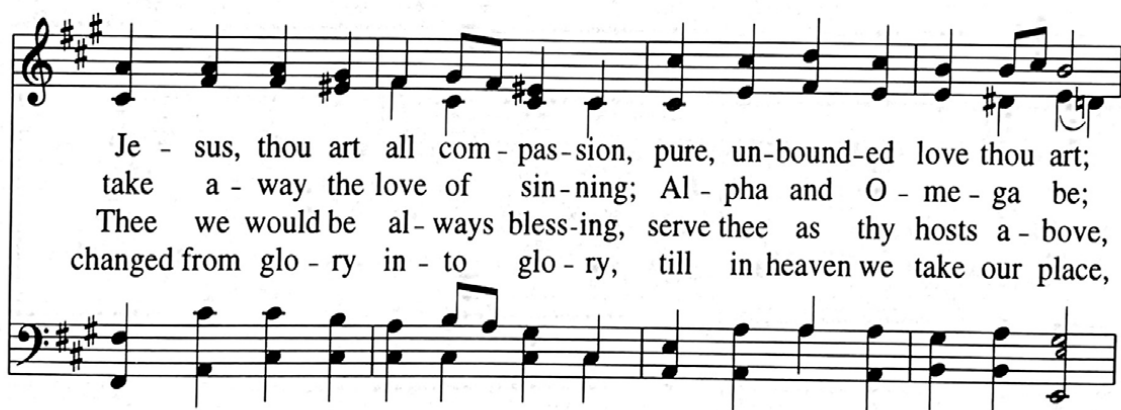
## Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



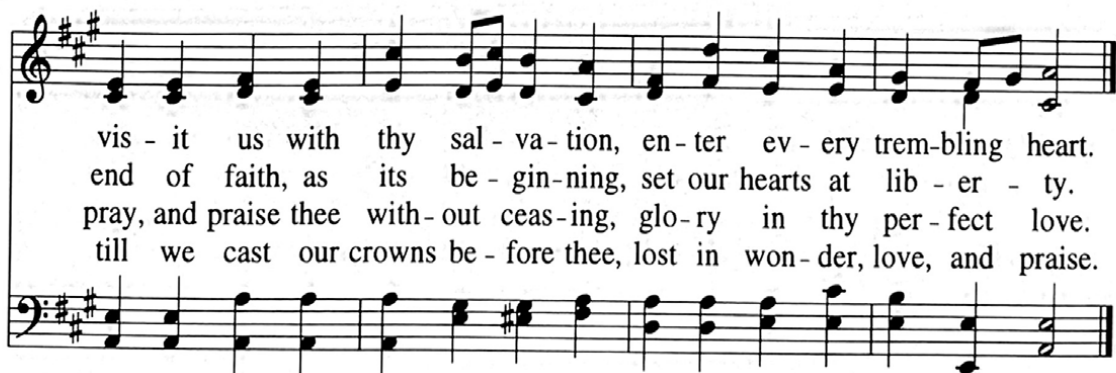
1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel-ling, joy of heaven, to earth come down.  
 2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;  
 3. Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy life re - ceive;  
 4. Fin - ish, then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less let us be;



fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown;  
 let us all in thee in - her - it, let us find thy prom - ised rest;  
 sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.  
 let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee;



Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;  
 take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;  
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,  
 changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,



vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
 end of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 pray, and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1747, alt.  
 MUSIC: John Zundel, 1855

BEECHER  
 87.87D

This hymn is sung by every major denomination. Charles Wesley, brother of John, wrote the text as a spiritual parody of a Dryden poem.

## 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.



## Of Eternal Love Begotten

*Unison*

1. Of e - ter - nal love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be -  
 2. O ye heights of heaven sing prais - es; an - gel hosts sweet  
 3. Christ, to thee with God Cre - a - tor, and O Ho - ly

gan to be, Christ is Al - pha and O - me - ga, he the  
 an - thems sing! And on earth let all the faith - ful now their  
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing and un -

source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that have been,  
 joy - ous car - ols ring, ev - 'ry tongue Christ's name con - fess - ing,  
 wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion,

and that fu - ture years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!  
 count - less voic - es an - swer - ing, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!  
 and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

WORDS: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (4th century); sts. 1,3, tr. John Mason Neale, 1854, *DIVINUM MYSTERIUM*  
 and Henry W. Baker, 1859, alt.; st. 2, tr. R. F. Davis, 1906, alt. 87.87.877  
 MUSIC: Plainsong, Mode V (13th century); harm. C. Winfred Douglas, *The Hymnal*, 1940

Prudentius was a Spanish lawyer and magistrate who became a Christian at age fifty-seven, withdrawing to a monastery for a life of meditation and writing.

Harm. © 1981 Church Pension Fund