

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
March 1, 2026
Rev. Jay Sprout, Guest Minister

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: Lenten Prelude

Responsive Call to Worship ⁽²⁾

Leader: Friends, we gather once more with our community of faith. We hear Jesus telling us how our righteousness must exceed what tradition had said was sufficient.

Congregation: These are not easy teachings, taking us beyond familiar horizons of belief and action.

Leader: Come, then, let us journey on this road of new insight together, willing to enter God's grand vision for a renewed and just world.

Congregation: May God whose love knows no limits, stir within us a deepening thirst for the righteousness that Jesus embodied; a way of being in right relationship with God and our neighbor. Let us worship God.

Opening Hymn #250: "Here in This Place"

Passing of the Peace

Leader: 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.

Leader: 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 and Concerns

Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer *(New Zealand Book of Common Prayer, adapted)*

Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your realm of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer Response

**Hear our prayer O God. Hear our prayer O God.
Incline Your ear to us and grant us Your peace. Amen.**

Anthem: "Lift Thine Eyes" Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy (1809-1847)

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

Gracious God, when we open our hearts, you fill our lives with love. When we open our minds, you touch us with your word. When we open our doors, you bless this church with community. So, with open hands, we give these gifts in gratitude for your work in our midst. Amen

Hymn #518: "Turn Back"

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 5: 17; 38-48

Message: "Confronting Violence, Nonviolently"

Invitation to the Lord's Table

As we come to this table, we are reminded that this is the table of Jesus Christ, a banquet prepared for everyone. All who seek to be nourished and sustained in the journey of faith, all who seek wholeness and compassionate paths to peace and justice, are welcome here.

Sung Invitation (responsive): "Morning Has Broken"

Leader: May God be with you!

Congregation: And with you also!

Leader: Lift hearts and voices gladly to God.

Congregation: We come together at the Lord's table, to taste salvation, fresh from the Word.

Communion Prayer "Morning Has Broken"

God of Creation, Lord of all beauty, all creatures join in singing your love;
Holy Compassion, Joy of our mornings, fill us with grace which comes from above.

Christ of the outcast, Comfort of mourners, Neighbor to strangers, Love without end;
Bearer of burdens, Grace ever with us, bless with your presence, Brother and Friend.

Spirit of kindness, Breath of forgiveness, Faithful Companion, just as Christ said;
All of God's children, gathered together, drink of salvation, feast on your bread.

Song of Adoration: "Holy, Holy, Holy"

Holy, holy, holy, God beyond our seeing,
thoughts and ways above the sky, and deeper than the sea.

God so far beyond us, yet closer than breathing:
come now among us at our holy feast!

Words of Institution "On the Night"

Communion is served

Unison Prayer of Dedication

Wondrous God, we give thanks for this holy meal shared in your spirit of love. May this bread and cup be more than a foretaste. May it be an ever-present reminder of Jesus' call to live out our holy story of grace. May this feast fill us with renewed courage, commitment, and compassion to put fear aside, risk the improbable, and transform the world.

Closing Hymn #427: "My Life Flows on in Endless Song"

Benediction

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

Postlude: "Now Thank We All Our God" Chorale arr. By E.J. Lorenz

Announcements

March 1, 2026

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

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 Peacham Congregational Church collects food for the Danville Food Shelf every Sunday morning from 9-11 a.m. Food is collected in a basket at the back of the Sanctuary. Until Easter Sunday, April 5, this will be the only place to bring food donations. Starting April 5, when danger of freezing is past, donations of non-perishable food can be placed in the green bins on the covered walkway outside the kitchen door. Please note that the Food Shelf cannot use food that is beyond the expiration date or that has been opened.

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 through Thursday, March 12, 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. 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 Congregational Church and Meetinghouse will host a special organ concert on Sunday, March 8 at 3:00 p.m., featuring classically trained organist and pianist Shaun Booher. A suggested donation of \$10 will benefit the Peacham Meetinghouse Third Century Fund, supporting ongoing capital improvements to this treasured landmark. This performance is dedicated to the memory of Barry Lawson (1943-2025), a beloved community leader who championed the preservation of the Meetinghouse, its historic legacy, and its central role in the Peacham community and greater Northeast Kingdom.

Upcoming Schedule:

- March 8 - Ed Nilson
- March 15 - Nicole Klosterman
- March 22 - David Bullock
- March 29 - Nicole Klosterman (Palm Sunday)
- April 5 - Jay Sprout (Easter with Communion)

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

For general inquiries, email peachamchurchinformation@gmail.com

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
 10 9.10 10 D

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

1. Turn back, turn back, for - swear your fool - ish ways. Old now is
 2. Earth might be fair, its peo - ple glad and wise. Age af - ter
 3. Earth shall be fair, and all its peo - ple one, nor till that

earth, and none may count its days; yet all who live, whose
 age our trag - ic em - pires rise, built while we dream, and
 hour shall God's whole will be done. Now, e - ven now, once

heads are crowned with flame, still will not hear their in - ner God pro -
 in that dream - ing weep: would we but wake from out our haunt - ed
 more from earth to sky, peals forth in joy our old un - daunt - ed

claim - "Turn back, turn back, for - swear your fool - ish ways."
 sleep, earth might be fair, and peo - ple glad and wise.
 cry - "Earth shall be fair, and all its peo - ple one."

WORDS: Clifford Bax, 1916, alt.
 MUSIC: *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

OLD 124th
 10 10.10 10 10

Bax was an English playwright and poet. His words are set to OLD 124th, one of the earliest of Louis Bourgeois' hymn-tune arrangements done for John Calvin.



1. My life flows on in end-less song; a-bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
 2. Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring-ing.
 3. What though my joys and com-forts die? I know my Sav-ior's liv - ing.
 4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!




I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
 What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he's giv-ing.
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?



Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.




Since Love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?



WORDS and MUSIC: Robert Lowry, 1869, alt.

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING
 87.87 w. refrain

Baptist minister and educator Lowry was editor of Sunday School song books for Biglow & Main, one of the largest publishers of hymnals.