

Peacham Congregational Church

56 Church St., Peacham, VT 05862

802-592-3330



Sweet Capture Photography. Light of the World, from Art in the Christian Tradition (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
March 15, 2026

Centering Thought

“What God does first and best and most is to trust [God’s] people with their moment in history. [God] trusts them to do what must be done for the sake of [God’s] whole community.”
– Walter Brueggemann.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: "Lenten Meditation" Harvey Gaul (1881-1945)

Sung Responsive Call to Worship (from Ephesians 5:8-14) (2)

Leader: Come, Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.

Response: Lift us up. Make a stand. Let love triumph - in our land.

Leader: Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord.

Response: Lift us up. Make us strong. Give us courage - to right the wrong.

Leader: Take no part in the unfruitful works of hatred, violence, or oppression; rather, expose them.

Response: Lift us up. Make a stand. Let love triumph - In our land.

Leader: For it is a shame to even mention what such people do secretly, but everything exposed by the light of love and generosity and humility becomes visible.

Response: Lift us up. Make us strong. Give us courage - to right the wrong.

Leader: For everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Response: Lift us up. Make a stand. Let love triumph - In our land.

Opening Hymn #372: "Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race"

Responsive Invocation (drawn from "Open Unto Me," a prayer by Howard Thurman) (3)

Open unto us, **hope for our despair.**

Open unto us, **dreams for our dread.**

Open unto us, **courage for our fear.**

Open unto us, **vision for our skepticism.**

Open unto us, **wisdom for our confusion.**

Open unto us, **love for our hates.**

Open unto us, **Your heart for our hearts.**

O God, our God, open unto us. **Amen.**

Reading: Excerpts from "A Prayer for Healing" (1983) by Richard Daniel Henton

Passing of the Peace

Leader: Jesus said to his disciples, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." And so I say to you, the Peace of Jesus Christ be with all of you.

Congregation: And also, with you.

Leader: Now share the Peace of Christ 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

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***

Responsive Prayer of Dedication

Leader: Into a world desperate for signs of hope,
Assembly: **let these gifts arrive as beacons.**

Leader: Into communities working for signs of freedom,
Assembly: **let these gifts unlock shackles.**

Leader: Into hearts searching for signs of compassion,
Assembly: **let these gifts offer tenderness.**

Leader: Into each breath yearning for signs of new life,
Assembly: **let these gifts come as possibility. Amen.**

Hymn #207: "Tis the Gift to be Simple (Simple Gifts)"

Scripture Lesson: John 9 (The Message)

Message: What do you see?

Closing Hymn #520: "Restless Weaver"

Responsive Benediction

May what has been lost find restoration.

May what has been broken find repair.

May what has been hurt find healing.

May what has been closed off find openings.

May what has been unimaginable be envisioned.

May whatever has been, become a sign of God's love. Amen.

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

Postlude: "Theme & Variation" Kosaku Yomada (1886-1965)

(1) Sweet Capture Photography. Light of the World, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-image/act-image-link.pl?RC=55225> [retrieved March 9, 2026]. Original source:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/cuonhigh/3398636812/>.

(2) Sung response is from "Lift Us Up" by Peter Yarrow. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUdjpjfoVsc>

(3) Invocation, Dedication, and Benediction taken from: *The Signs: Service Prayers for Lent 4A*, written by Dr. Sharon R. Fennema, who serves as a free-range facilitator, ritualist, activist, teacher, and writer whose work lives at the intersections of race, gender, sexuality and embodied spiritual practices. She is a founding member of the Liberating Lineages Collective.



Lighting the Steeple

Bob and Patty Gardner light the steeple this week in memory of Jared A. Englehardt, 34, of Greenfield, MA who passed away on Thursday, March 5, 2026, due to complications from Type 1 Diabetes. Jared is the son of Bob and Susan Englehardt, good friends of Bob and Patty. Please keep the Englehardt family in your prayers during this difficult time.

If you would like to light the steeple in honor or memory of a family member or friend, please contact Patty Gardner at peachamchurchinformation@gmail.com

Announcements March 15, 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]

Easter flower order forms are available at the back of the sanctuary. To purchase flowers in honor or memory of a loved one, please return your form by March 22 to Patty Gardner. Forms are also available at peachamchurch.org/church-documents and may be returned by email to peachamchurchinformation@gmail.com, by mail to P.O. Box 205, or put in the collection plate with a check.

Upcoming Schedule:

- 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

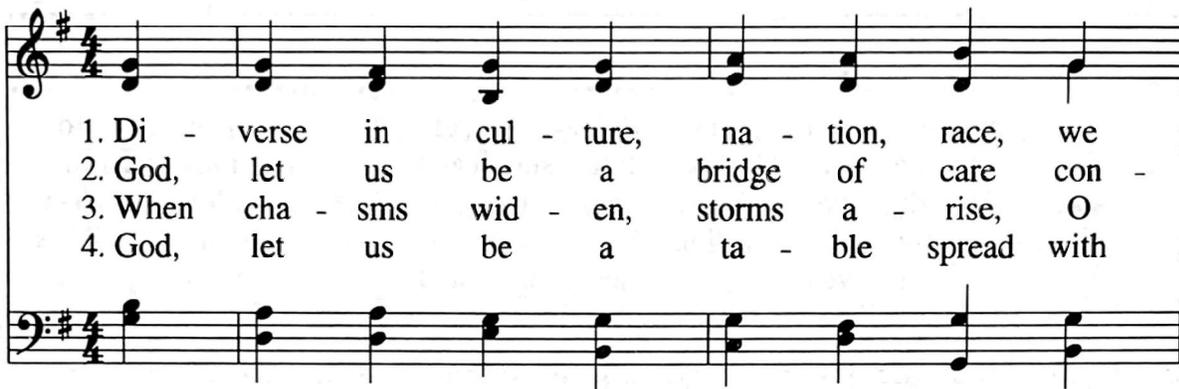
AccompanistBruce Westcott

Sexton.....Jeff Lane

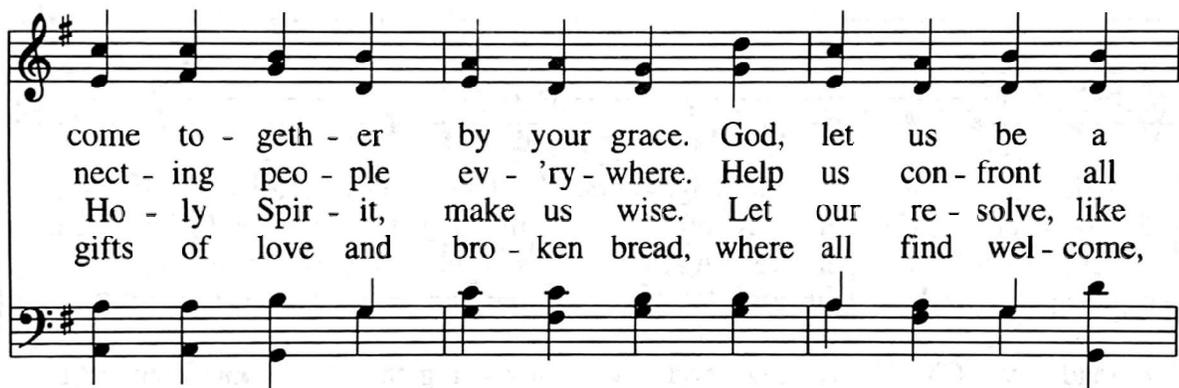
Web Ministry.....Jonathan R. Potter

Church Council President & ModeratorJohn Marshall

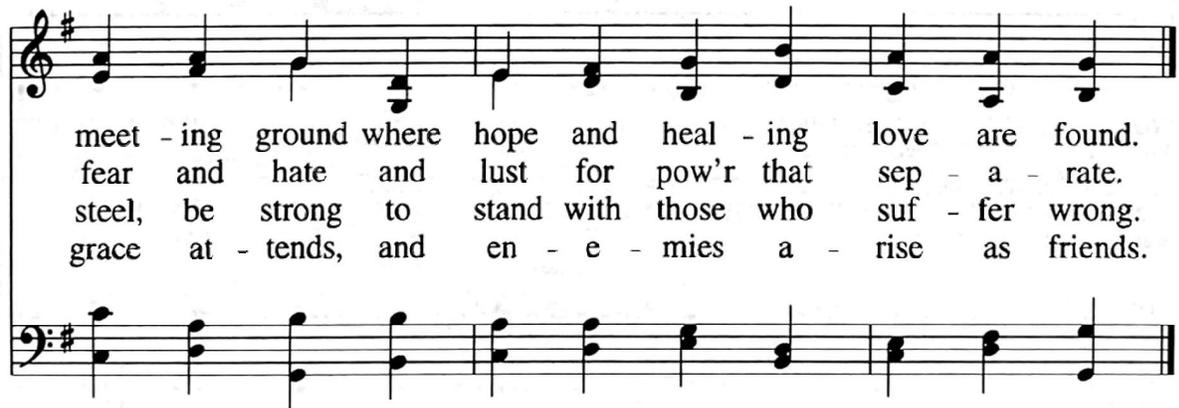
Deacons: Susan Chandler, Chris Danielson, Carolyn Deasy,
Patty Gardner, Anita Vann, Rick Witt, Bruce Maclean, Deacon Emeritus



1. Di - verse in cul - ture, na - tion, race, we
 2. God, let us be a bridge of care con -
 3. When cha - sms wid - en, storms a - rise, O
 4. God, let us be a ta - ble spread with



come to - geth - er by your grace. God, let us be a
 nect - ing peo - ple ev - 'ry - where. Help us con - front all
 Ho - ly Spir - it, make us wise. Let our re - solve, like
 gifts of love and bro - ken bread, where all find wel - come,



meet - ing ground where hope and heal - ing love are found.
 fear and hate and lust for pow'r that sep - a - rate.
 steel, be strong to stand with those who suf - fer wrong.
 grace at - tends, and en - e - mies a - rise as friends.

WORDS: Ruth Duck, 1991
 MUSIC: Thomas Tallis; adapt. Parker's *Whole Psalter*, c. 1561

TALLIS' CANON
 LM

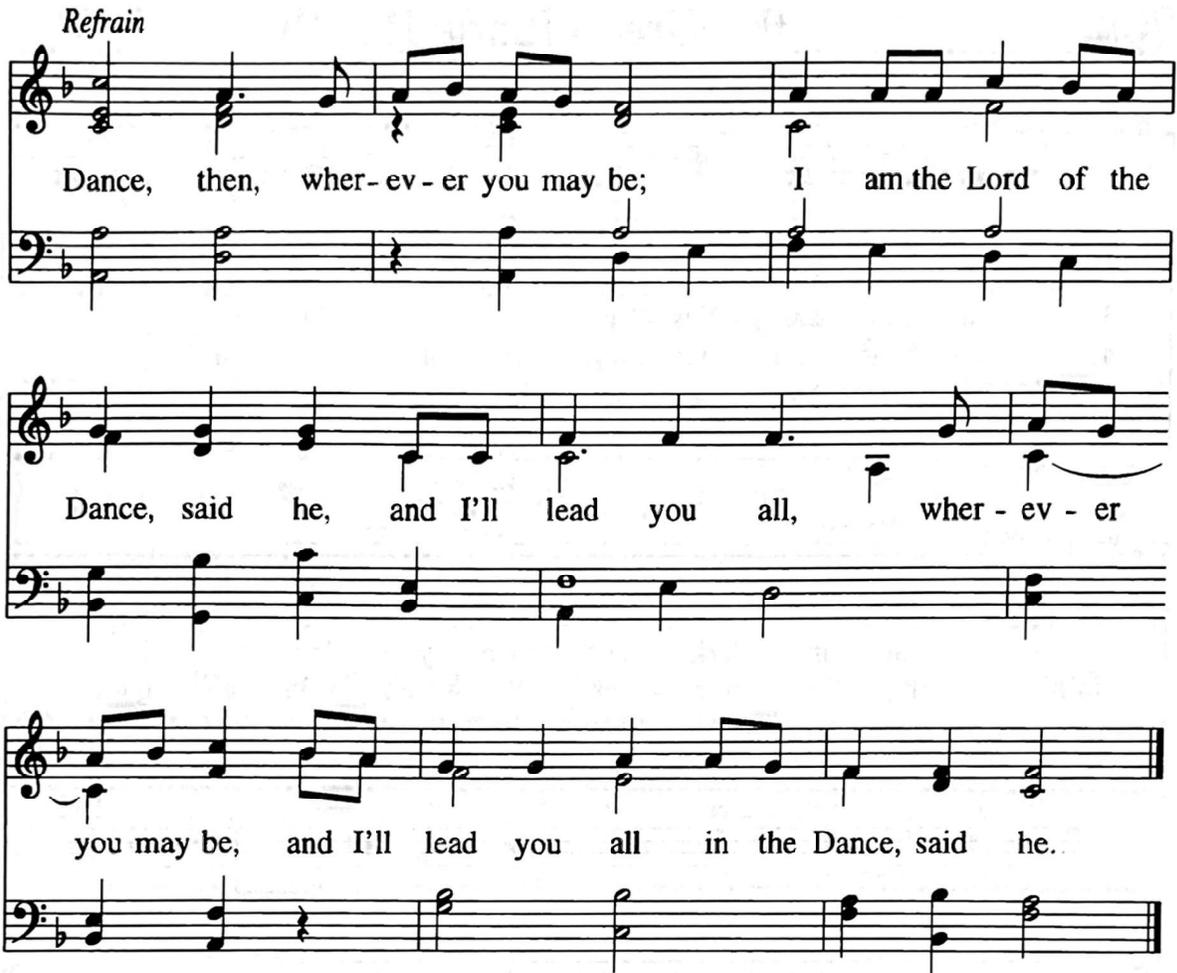
Duck, a UCC minister and hymnodist, speaks to the diversity within the United Church of Christ and within Christianity. She has received an honorary doctorate from Chicago Theological Seminary.

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What God does first and best and most is to trust his people with their moment in history. He trusts them to do what must be done for the sake of his whole community.

— Walter Brueggemann

Refrain



Dance, then, wher-ev-er you may be; I am the Lord of the

Dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wher-ev-er

you may be, and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

'Tis the Gift to Be Simple (Simple Gifts)

207

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,
'tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
and when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'twill be in the valley of love and delight.

When true simplicity is gained,
to bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,
to turn, turn will be our delight
'til by turning, turning, we come round right.

WORDS: Shaker song
MUSIC: Shaker melody

SIMPLE GIFTS
Irr. w. refrain

The Shaker movement, English, and American from 1774, celebrating the simple life, is lovingly encapsulated in this song.

Restless Weaver

1. Rest - less Weav-er, ev - er spin-ning threads of jus - tice and sha-lom;
 2. Where earth's frag - ile web is rav-eling help us mend each bro-ken strand.
 3. When our vio - lent lust for pow - er ends in lives a - bused and torn,
 4. Rest - less Weav-er, still con-ceil - ing new life—now and yet to be—

dream-ing pat - terns of cre - a - tion where all crea - tures find a home;
 Bless our ur - gent, bold en - deav - ors cleans-ing wa - ter, air, and land.
 from com- pass - ion's stur - dy fab - ric fash - ion hope and trust re - born.
 bind - ing all your vast cre - a - tion in one liv - ing tap - es - try:

gath - ering up life's var - ied fi - bers—ev - ery tex - ture, ev - ery hue:
 Through the Spir - it's in - spi - ra - tion—of - f'ring health where once was pain—
 Where in - jus - tice rules as ty - rant, give us cour - age, God, to dare
 you have called us to be weav - ers. Let your love guide all we do.

grant us your cre - a - tive vis - ion. With us weave your world a - new.
 strength - en us to be the stew - ards of your world knit whole a - gain.
 live our dreams of trans - for - ma - tion. Make our lives in - car - nate prayer.
 With your reign of peace our pat - tern, we will weave your world a - new.

WORDS: O. I. Cricket Harrison, 1988, rev. 1993
 MUSIC: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. FCC, 1997

Text writer Harrison served on the Development Committee for the 1995 *Chalice Hymnal* (Disciples of Christ). *The Sacred Harp* of 1844, in which this folk tune is first found, started a singing tradition. Groups throughout the south keep the tradition alive today using the latest (1991) revision.

BEACH SPRING
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