

Peacham Congregational Church

56 Church St., Peacham, VT 05862

802-592-3330



Guest Speaker: Ed Nilson

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
2nd Sunday of Easter Sunday
April 12, 2026

Welcome and Announcements

Centering Thought:

My Lord God, I believe that the desire to please You does in fact please You. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that, if I do this, You will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore, I will trust You always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for You are ever with me, and You will never leave me

Prelude: "Prelude in D Major" Mikalojus Konstantinas Ciurlionis (1909)

Responsive Call to Worship this Second Sunday of Easter:

This Easter season is a time to rejoice in the resurrection of Christ, God's goodness, and gratitude for this new season of spring – daffodils, tulips, greening grass, and new leaves on the trees.

This is a time to look forward with joy in our hearts, a time to sing and pray, and a time to show acts of kindness to those we meet.

Good and gracious God, we pray You will be pleased with our songs of joy and prayers of gratitude. We believe that the desire to please You, does in fact please You.

O God, we pray in this new season of life, that we will "see you more clearly, love you more dearly, follow you more nearly, day by day."

God not only accepts us where we are this morning, but also plants in our souls seeds of faith, that we might lean into the lives we are becoming.

Thanks be to God!

Opening Hymn #206: "I Danced in the Morning" (Lord of the Dance)

Unison Invocation: (by Ann Weems, New Zealand Contemporary Prayer Book)

You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.
You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
Your love for us in Jesus Christ,
Who lived and died and rose again.

You are God.
You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.
You are our God.
We worship You. Amen.

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.

Joys and Concerns

Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer (using debts/debtors)

Response

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

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

Offering & Mission

Doxology #45

Praise God for love we all may share.

Praise God for beauty everywhere.

Praise God for hope of good to be.

Praise God for truth that makes us free. Amen

Prayer of Dedication

Scripture: Acts 2:14a, John 20: 19-31

Anthem: "Children of the Lord" Patsy Ford Blevins

Sermon: "Never, Ever Give Up"

Hymn #220: "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

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

Benediction

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

Postlude: "I Will not Leave you Comfortless" (Anthem for Whit-Sunday) Bruce Steane (1909)

Announcements

April 12, 2026

Our 2nd quarter mission is Heifer International. Heifer International believes that ending hunger and poverty begins with agriculture. Starting with a seed investment of livestock or agriculture given to a family, Heifer mentors that family in building a business and gaining access to supply chains and markets. These families are able to earn a living and continuously support their communities as they train the next generation of farmers, ranchers, and female business owners.

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. During the week, 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 -

2nd Sunday - Butter

3rd Sunday - Cheese (8oz. blocks)

4th Sunday - Eggs

[5th Sunday - Cheese]

Upcoming Worship Schedule:

April 19 - Ken Vos "Another Kind of Happiness"

April 26 - John Morris "A focus on the Exodus Story"

May 5 - Rev. Jay Sprout, Message from Bruce Maclean, "Christian Nationalism, Christianity and You"

Events:

May 26 - 6:00 pm - Peacham Elementary School Spring Concert

Information about Peacham Congregational Church

Weekly Worship - Sunday @ 9:30 a.m.

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

For general inquiries, email information@peachamchurch.com

Church Admin.....Patty Gardner

Collector.....Ann Goss

Sexton.....Jeff Lane

Church Council President & ModeratorJohn Marshall

Treasurer.....Bruce Westcott

AccompanistBruce Westcott

Web Ministry.....Jonathan R. Potter

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

Psalm 16

1 **Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; ***
I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord,
my good above all other."

5 **O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; ***
it is you who uphold my lot.

6 My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; *
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

9 **My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; ***
my body also shall rest in hope.

10 For you will not abandon me to the grave, *
nor let your holy one see the Pit.

11 **You will show me the path of life; ***
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

I Danced in the Morning

(Lord of the Dance)

Unison

1. I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, and I
 2. I danced for the scribe and the phar - i - see, but they
 3. I danced on the Sab-bath and I cured the lame, the
 *4. I danced on a Fri-day when the sky turned black, it's
 5. They cut me down and I leapt up high; —

* Stanza 4, up to bracket (), may be sung in F minor

danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I
 would not dance and they would-n't fol-low me; I
 ho - ly peo - ple said it was a shame; they
 hard to dance with the dev - il on your back; they
 I am the life that - 'll nev - er, nev - er die; I'll

came down from heav - en and I danced on the earth; at
 danced for the fish - er - men, for James and John, they
 whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high, and
 bur - ied my bo - dy and they thought I'd gone, but
 live in you if you'll live in me; —

Beth - le - hem I had my birth.
 came with me and the Dance went on.
 left me there on a cross to die.
 I am the Dance and I still go on.
 I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

WORDS: Sydney Carter, 1963

MUSIC: Shaker melody; adapt. and harm. Sydney Carter, 1963

LORD OF THE DANCE

Irr. w. refrain

Sydney Carter brings us back to the medieval, joyous tradition of a dancing Savior — dancing being a metaphor for living life in the fullest sense.

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RESURRECTION AND EXALTATION

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new
 2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
 3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,
 4. Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
 un - til with thee I will one will to do and to en - dure.
 un - til this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.
 but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

WORDS: Edwin Hatch, 1886, alt.

MUSIC: Robert Jackson, 1894

TRENTHAM
SM

Anglican Edward Hatch ministered and taught in Canada and England.
 This hymn, first published in his *Between Doubt and Prayer*, shows
 this scholar could also be simple and unaffected.

Holy Spirit, Truth Divine

1. Ho - ly Spir - it, Truth di - vine, dawn up - on this soul of mine;
 2. Ho - ly Spir - it, Love di - vine, glow with - in this heart of mine;
 3. Ho - ly Spir - it, Power di - vine, fill and nerve this will of mine;
 4. Ho - ly Spir - it, Right di - vine, rul - er in my con - science reign;

WORDS: Samuel Longfellow, 1846, alt.

MUSIC: Louis Moreau Gottschalk, 1867; arr. Edwin Parker, 1888

MERCY
77.77

This hymn tune is taken from a piano piece by the New Orleans
 Creole composer Louis Moreau Gottschalk. His celebrated career
 in Europe and America was cut short at age forty by yellow fever.

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.