

## **Peacham Congregational Church**

56 Church St., Peacham, VT 05862

802-592-3330



**“...so that  
they may be  
one...”**

**John 17:11**

Guest Leader: 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](http://www.peachamchurch.org)

**Order of Worship  
May 17, 2026**

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Lighting of the Candles

Centering Thought

You need to be generous to yourself in order to receive the love that surrounds you. You can suffer from a desperate hunger to be loved. You can search long years in lonely places, far outside yourself. Yet the whole time, this love is but a few inches away from you. It is at the edge of your soul, but you have been blind to its presence. We must remain attentive in order to be able to receive.

- John O'Donohue (1956-2008)

Responsive Call to Worship (from Psalm 68:4, 6, 9, 10, 36)

My friends, sing to God, exalt God who rides upon the heavens;

**God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into freedom.**

You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance;

**You refreshed the land when it was weary.**

Your people found their home in it;

**In your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.**

How wonderful is God in his holy places!

**The God of Israel giving strength and power to his people. Blessed be to God!**

Opening Hymn #437: "It's Me, It's Me, O Lord"

Unison Invocation:

**"We have it in us to be Jesus to each other... We have it in us to work miracles of love and healing, as well as to have them worked upon us. We have it in us to once in a while, maybe even to grieve with some measure of Jesus' grief at another's pain, and to rejoice with some measure of Jesus' rejoicing at another's joy, almost as if it were our own. And who knows but that in the end... Jesus' story will come true in us at last."**

- Frederick Buechner, Telling Secrets

## 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.

Anthem: "Down to the River to Pray" Arr. By Sheldon Curry

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 #46

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

Unison Prayer of Dedication

**"Gracious God, all that we have comes from you. We offer these gifts to you as a sign of our love and dedication. Use them to bring hope and healing to our community. In Jesus' name, Amen"**

Hymn #S-5: "Sweet Hour of Prayer"

Scripture: I Peter 5:6-11 & John 17:1-11

Sermon: "Prayer Should Not Be Our Last Resort" – Ed Nilson

Closing Hymn #442: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

Responsive Benediction

Prayer is always a good first choice —

**With God's help, we will be in prayer this week;**

Listening to God is sometimes a hard thing to do —

**With God's help, we will try to listen more this week;**

Helping others is living a prayerful life of generosity —

**With God's help, we will help whoever needs help this week;**

Our worship concludes; our service continues.

**Blessed be God, now and forevermore!**

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

Postlude

**Announcements**  
**May 17, 2026**

A heartfelt thank you to Nancy Toney for playing piano for the service today. We truly appreciate it!

Bob Bandy, a long-time church member passed away on Sunday, May 10th. There will be a graveside service on Wednesday, May 20 at noon at the Peacham Cemetery, with Rev. Bob Potter officiating.

On the third Sunday of each month, coffee hour is an opportunity to share updates and answer questions about what's happening at the Church. Our conversation today will focus on the Church's mission. The Mission Committee is re-imagining the quarterly missions and is looking for suggestions of local non-profit organizations to support. Please bring your ideas! If you're unable to attend, questions or comments may be shared at [peachammeetinghouse.org/contact](http://peachammeetinghouse.org/contact).

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 - Bread
- 2nd Sunday - Butter
- 3rd Sunday - Cheese (8oz. blocks)
- 4th Sunday - Eggs
- [5th Sunday - Cheese]

Upcoming Worship Schedule:

May 24 – Ed Nilson, “The Holy Spirit and Pentecost”

May 31 - Susan Chandler & Susan Derby with Alive and Well, a musical service with history of the sanctuary

June 7 – Jay Sprout (Communion)

June 14 - John Morris, Sermon on Bonhoeffer (Father’s Day)

Events:

May 26, 6:00 p.m. – Peacham Elementary School Spring Concert

June 13, 4:00 p.m. – John Morris – Presentation & Discussion about Dietrich Bonhoeffer – All Are welcome

**Information about Peacham Congregational Church**

Weekly Worship – Sunday @ 9:30 a.m.

Join us online at [peachamchurch.org/watch-us-live-on-sunday](http://peachamchurch.org/watch-us-live-on-sunday)

For general inquiries, email [information@peachamchurch.com](mailto:information@peachamchurch.com)

Church Admin.....Patty Gardner

Collector.....Ann Goss

Sexton.....Jeff Lane

Church Council President & Moderator .....John Marshall

Treasurer.....Bruce Westcott

Accompanist .....Bruce Westcott

Web Ministry.....Jonathan R. Potter

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

437

# It's Me, It's Me, O Lord

(Standin' in the Need of Prayer)

*Refrain*

It's me (it's me), it's me, O Lord, stand-in' in the

need of prayer. It's me (it's me), It's me O Lord,

*Fine*

stand-in' in the need of prayer.

1. Not my broth - er, not my
2. Not the preach - er, not the
3. Not my fa - ther, not my
4. Not the strang - er, not my

It's me,

sis - ter, but it's me, O Lord, stand - in' in the  
 dea - con, but it's me, O Lord, stand - in' in the  
 moth - er, but it's me, O Lord, stand - in' in the  
 neigh - bor, but it's me, O Lord, stand - in' in the

it's me, Lord,

WORDS: African-American spiritual  
 MUSIC: African-American spiritual; harm. FCC, 1997

PENITENT  
 13 7.13 7 w. refrain

Paul's words, 'All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God,' are personalized in this spiritual, included in James Weldon Johnson's 1925 collection *The Book of American Negro Spirituals* and popularized by Mahalia Jackson.

Harm. © 1998 FCC Houston TX

need of prayer. Not my broth - er, not my sis - ter, but it's  
 need of prayer. Not the preach - er, not the dea - con, but it's  
 need of prayer. Not my fa - ther, not my moth - er, but it's  
 need of prayer. Not the strang - er, not my neigh - bor, but it's

It's me, it's  
 me, O Lord, stand-in' in the need of prayer.

me, Lord,

to Refrain

## Behold Us, Lord, a Little Space

438

1. Be - hold us, Lord, a lit - tle space from dai - ly tasks set free,  
 2. A - round us rolls the cease-less tide of busi - ness, toil, and care,  
 3. Yet these are not the on - ly walls where - in thou mayst be sought;  
 4. Thine are the loom, the forge, the mart, the wealth of land and sea,  
 5. Work shall be prayer, if all be wrought as thou wouldst have it done;

and met with-in thy ho - ly place to rest a - while with thee.  
 and scarce-ly can we turn a - side for one brief hour of prayer.  
 on sim - plest work thy bless - ing falls, in truth and pa - tience wrought.  
 the worlds of sci - ence and of art, re - vealed and ruled by thee.  
 and prayer, by thee in - spired and taught, it - self with work be one.

WORDS: John Ellerton, 1871, alt.  
 MUSIC: Thomas Este's *Whole Book of Psalms*, 1592

WINCHESTER OLD  
 CM

Hymn tunes with 'Old' as a part of their name all entered the English hymn-tune repertory prior to the introduction of the 'new' Tate and Brady Psalter of 1696.

## Sweet Hour of Prayer

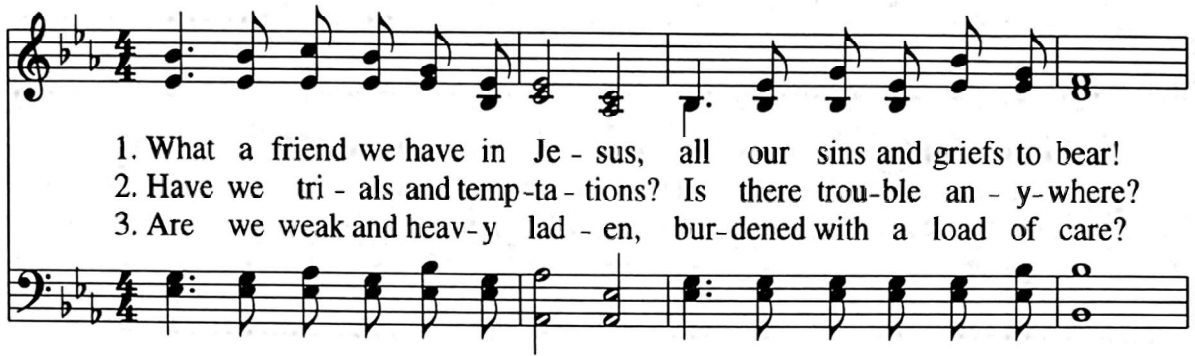
1. Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, that calls me from a world of care,  
 2. Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, the joys I feel, the bliss I share  
 3. Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, your wings shall my pe - ti - tion bear

and bids me at my Fa-ther's throne make all my wants and wish-es known.  
 of those whose anx-ious spir - its burn with strong de-sires for your re - turn!  
 to him whose truth and faith - ful - ness en - gage the wait - ing soul to bless.


In sea - sons of dis - tress and grief my soul has of - ten found re - lief,  
 With such I has - ten to the place where God my Sav - ior shows his face,  
 And since he bids me seek his face, be - lieve his word, and trust his grace,

and oft es - caped the tempt - er's snare by your re - turn, sweet hour of prayer.  
 and glad - ly take my sta - tion there, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer.  
 I'll cast on him my ev - ery care, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer.

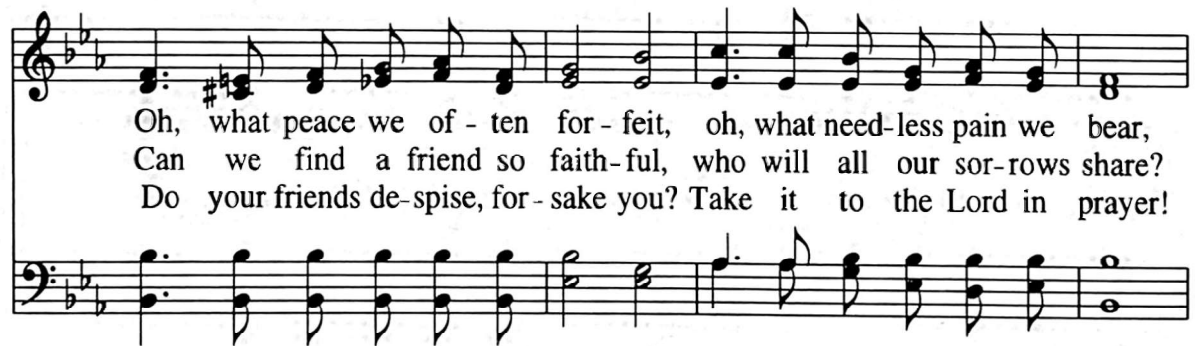
## What a Friend We Have in Jesus



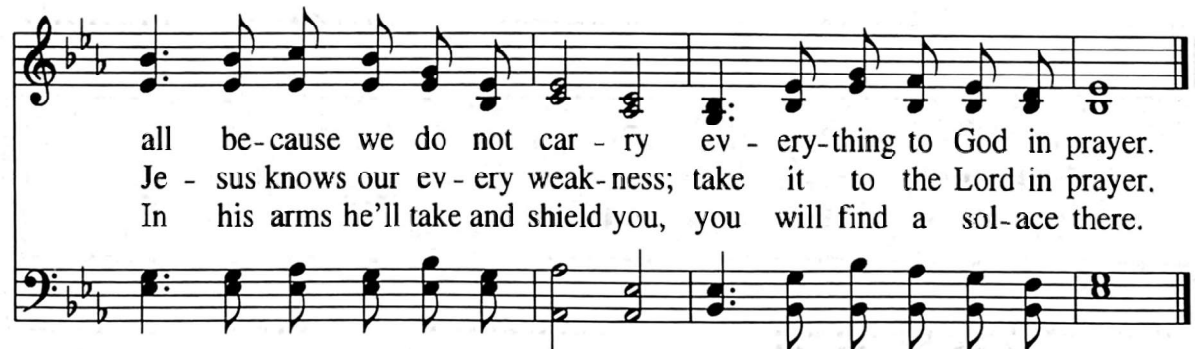
1. What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
 2. Have we tri - als and temp-ta - tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?  
 3. Are we weak and heav-y lad - en, bur-dened with a load of care?



What a priv-i - lege to car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!  
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; take it to the Lord in prayer!  
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge, take it to the Lord in prayer!



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh, what need - less pain we bear,  
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful, who will all our sor - rows share?  
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer!



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer.  
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 In his arms he'll take and shield you, you will find a sol - ace there.

WORDS: Joseph Scriven, 1855, alt.  
 MUSIC: Charles C. Converse, 1868

ERIE  
 87.87D

Joseph Scriven wrote this hymn for his mother in a time of deep sorrow. In this text he depicts Jesus as a loving parent who comforts a child and as a friend in whom we can safely confide.