

Peacham Congregational Church

56 Church St., Peacham, VT 05862

802-592-3330



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

Order of Worship September 27, 2026

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: "Bourree #2" in C Major, JS Bach

Lighting of the Candles

Centering Thought

"What can we do? We must live our lives. We shall live through the long procession of days before us, and through the long evenings; we shall patiently bear the trials that fate imposes on us; we shall work for others without rest, both now and when we are old; and when our last hour comes we shall meet it humbly... and there, beyond the grave, God will have pity on us. Ah, then, we shall see that bright and beautiful life; we shall rejoice and look back upon our sorrows here and we shall rest. We shall hear the angels. We shall see heaven shining like a jewel. We shall see all evil and all our pain sink away in the great compassion that shall enfold the world. Our life will be as peaceful and tender and sweet as a caress. I have faith; I have faith; (and) we shall rest." Anton Chekhov

Responsive Call to Worship

Come, let us worship the God of Heaven and earth, who became one of us, inviting us to be part of God's kingdom.

We come this morning, seeking a life that is free from excessive worry, caused by today's troubles and tomorrow's headlines.

Jesus bids us to come to him, to leave our troubles at God's altar of love, to forgive freely, and find new hope for each new day.

Lord, help us to live life in the Kingdom of God now, and in the life to come, where mercy and grace are our handmaidens.

Hear the word of the Lord: "Come unto me, all you that are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

By the power of the Holy Spirit, open our hearts to the fire of your love.

Together, let us praise the God who loves us, forgives us, and calls to a life of kindness and generosity. Thanks be to God!

Opening Hymn #72 – "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

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.***

Unison Prayer of Dedication

**Holy God, as we worship you through our giving, we dedicate these gifts
to the work of your kingdom come and our hope that your will be done in
our community and world. Amen.**

Hymn #68 "Though I May Speak

Scripture

Ezekiel 18: 25-32

Matthew 21: 28-32

Message: Who Goes to Heaven After All?

Closing Hymn #12 - "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

Responsive Benediction

What signposts might God wish for us to see as we journey through life?

**God would have us live our lives fully, not putting off tomorrow, what we
should do today;**

God reminds us that we must show the love of Christ to each person we meet
today and in all of our tomorrows,

**For we will not pass this way again, we will not live this day again, and
some people we will never see again;**

We see the face of Christ in the most unlikely people that perhaps are hidden
away by life's misfortunes;

**With God's help, we will alleviate life's misfortunes for others, see more of
God's kingdom on earth, and one day be at peace when we wake up in
eternity.**

Response #345: "God Be with You Till We Meet Again"

Postlude: "The September of My Years", Van Heusen & Kahn (1965)

Announcements
September 27, 2026

Peacham Congregational Church is an open and affirming congregation, welcoming all who earnestly seek faith and fellowship in Christ to share in the life, leadership, ministry, responsibilities, blessings, and joys of our church. We invite and welcome into our community people of every age, race, ability, economic and social status, nationality, faith background, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital standing, and family structure.

How God is calling us to reach out to address the emerging challenges and opportunities of our community and congregation. We believe that we must walk with all in our community, helping to bring it together at a time when divisiveness as well as economic, cultural, and climate-related challenges are pulling us apart. Peacham is an exceptionally tight community, as the response to the July 2024 flood event showed, but many are lonely or shut-in, suffer from health conditions or feel excluded. We believe our Church has historically been and must continue to be a resource to promote community and reach out to those individuals in need of community support.

Coffee Hour today is hosted by Melissa Hough today.

Today, we will hold our quarterly Council Meeting to continue our decision-making process regarding the annex. All are welcome to stay for this very important meeting.

On the third Sunday of the month, coffee hour is an opportunity to share updates and answer questions about what's happening at the Church. Please bring your ideas! If you're unable to attend, questions or comments may be shared at peachammeetinghouse.org/contact.

Our 3rd quarter mission is the Northeast Kingdom Asylum Seekers Assistance Network (NEKASAN). Asylum seekers have fled persecution and often violence in their own countries due to religion, politics, or sexual orientation. Many have undertaken long, arduous journeys to reach our border. They are referred to NEKASAN while they are being held in detention centers or homeless shelters across the U.S. Once here in the Northeast Kingdom, guests stay with paid host families or in rental apartments and receive monthly stipends to help with food and personal needs. We help them get access to health care and immigration lawyers and obtain work permits. Our goal is always to provide community and a road to self-sufficiency for these new Vermonters.

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:

- October 4 – Rev. Steve Winkler (Communion)
- October 11 – David Bullock
- October 18 – Ed Nilson
- October 25 – Ken Vos

Information about Peacham Congregational Church

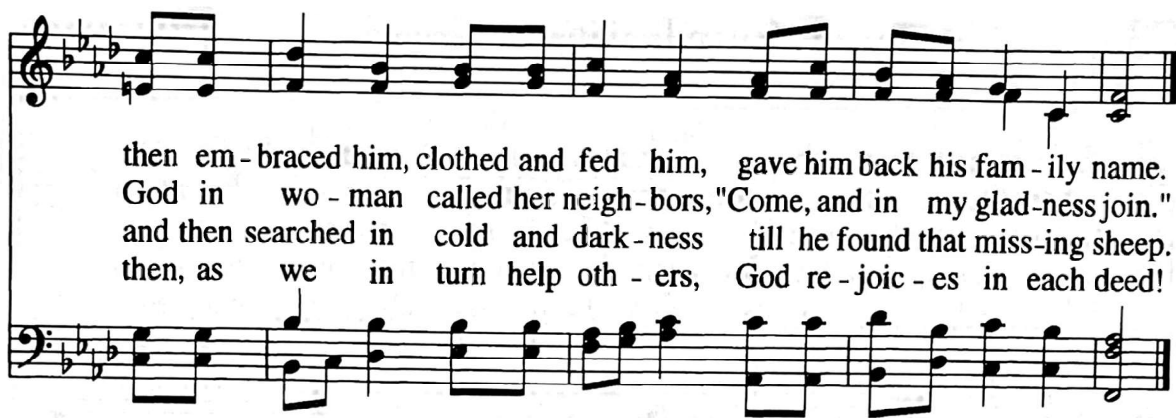
Weekly Worship – Sunday @ 9:30 a.m.

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

For general inquiries, email information@peachamchurch.org

Church Admin.....	Patty Gardner	Treasurer.....	Bruce Westcott
Collector.....	Ann Goss	Accompanist	Bruce Westcott
Sexton.....	Jeff Lane	Web Ministry.....	Jonathan R. Potter
Church Council President & Moderator			John Marshall
Administrative Staff.....			Meghan Hovey, Emma Kaplan

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



then em-braced him, clothed and fed him, gave him back his fam-ily name.
 God in wo-man called her neigh-bors, "Come, and in my glad-ness join."
 and then searched in cold and dark-ness till he found that miss-ing sheep.
 then, as we in turn help oth-ers, God re-joice-es in each deed!

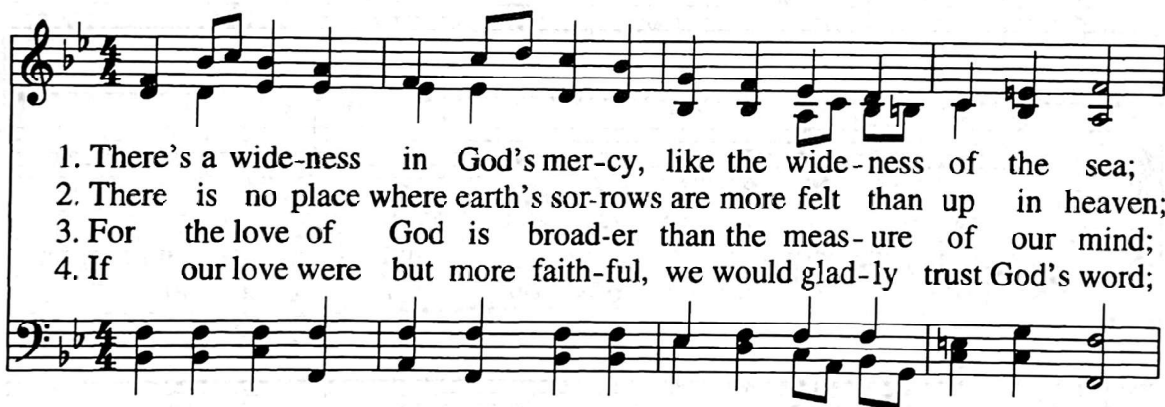
WORDS: Rae E. Whitney, 1993
 MUSIC: Margaret R. Tucker, 1997

WILBUR
 87.87

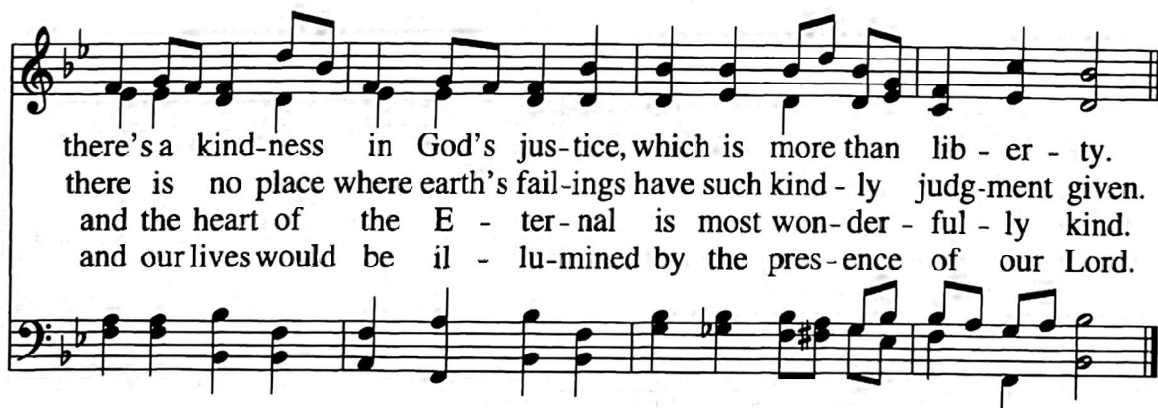
Jesus' parables of the lost son, lost coin and lost sheep (Luke 15) provide three images of God - father, woman and shepherd. The tune is named for Rita Wilbur, Associate Minister (1996-2000) of FCC, Houston, her parents and sisters.

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There's a Wideness in God's Mercy 72



1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
 2. There is no place where earth's sor-rows are more felt than up in heaven;
 3. For the love of God is broad-er than the meas-ure of our mind;
 4. If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's word;



there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib-er-ty.
 there is no place where earth's fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
 and the heart of the E-ter-nal is most won-der-ful-ly kind.
 and our lives would be il-lu-mined by the pres-ence of our Lord.

WORDS: Frederick W. Faber, 1854, alt.
 MUSIC: Lizzie S. Tourjée, 1877

WELLESLEY
 87.87

Lizzie Tourjée wrote this tune to accompany words her classmate had written for their high school graduation in Newton MA. Her father included it in a hymnal, where he set it to Faber's text.

Though I May Speak (The Gift of Love)

68

1. Though I may speak with brav - est fire, and have the
 2. Though I may give all I pos - sess, and striv - ing
 3. Come, Spir - it, come, our hearts con - trol, our spir - its

gift to all in - spire, and have not love, my words are
 so my love pro - fess, but not be given by love with -
 long to be made whole. Let in - ward love guide ev - ery

vain, as sound - ing brass, and hope - less gain.
 in, the prof - it soon turns strange - ly thin.
 deed; by this we wor - ship, and are freed.

WORDS: Hal H. Hopson, 1972

MUSIC: Traditional English melody; adapt. Hal H. Hopson, 1971

Hal Hopson's paraphrase of I Corinthians 13 and his setting of a traditional English tune have made this a well-loved hymn in a short twenty-five years.

GIFT OF LOVE
LM

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O God of Love

69

1. O God of love, to you we bow
 and pray for these before you now,
 that closely knit in holy vow
 they may in you become as one.
2. Whatever comes to be their share
 of quickening joy or burdening care,
 in power to do and grace to bear,
 may they in you remain as one.
3. Eternal Love, with them abide;
 through change and chance, O be their guide,
 let nothing in this life divide
 those whom you now have joined as one.

WORDS: William Vaughan Jenkins, 1900, alt.

Jenkins, a chartered accountant in England, was active in mission work of both Baptist and Congregational churches. He wrote this text for his wedding.

O WALY WALY
LM

GRACE AND LOVE

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3. To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4. Thou reign - est in glo - ry, thou dwell - est in light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,
 all praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

WORDS: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867, alt.

MUSIC: Welsh melody from John Roberts' *Caniadau y Cyssegr*, 1839

ST. DENIO

11 11.11 11

Minister and scholar Walter Smith also became Moderator of the Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland. The opening phrases are based on Timothy 1:17.