



## Mid-Week Update for the week of December 13 to 20, 2020

Published December 16, 2020



### A Prayer as I Put on My Mask

by Richard Blot, Moderator of the United  
Church of Canada

Sent to us by Mary Ann Christenson

Creator,  
as I prepare to go into the world,  
help me to see the sacrament  
in the wearing of this cloth -  
let it be "an outward sign  
of an inward grace" -  
a tangible and visible way of living  
love for my neighbours,  
as I love myself.

Christ,  
since my lips will be covered,  
uncover my heart,  
that people would see my smile  
in the crinkles around my eyes.  
Since my voice may be muffled,  
help me to speak clearly,  
not only with my words,  
but with my actions.

Holy Spirit,  
As the elastic touches my ears,  
remind me to listen carefully -  
and full of care -  
to all those I meet.  
May this simple piece of cloth be  
shield and banner,  
and each breath that it holds,  
be filled with your love.  
In your Name and in that love,  
I pray.

May it be so.  
May it be so.

## Christmas Bulletin Pick-Up

Come by the church parking lot anytime between 11am and 1pm this coming Saturday, Dec. 19, to pick up the Christmas Eve bulletin, candle, and the next booklet of bulletins for after Christmas. Pastor Heidi will be at the church, hanging out inside the glass doors off the parking lot, to bring them out to you. She will be appropriately masked and gloved and is looking forward to being able to say hello to you in person. Those who do not come by will have their booklets mailed to them the following week.



## Wonderful Wednesdays at Peace

**Tonight, Wednesday, 7-7:15pm** We will come together again for our last Wednesday evening Advent service. (Next week we will have a Christmas Eve candlelight worship service at 5pm on Thursday, Dec. 24). Join us on Zoom for worship, including this prayer:

### Advent Litany

God of love and power,  
we come to you for healing.

Where relationships are full of stress  
and unknown words shatter the spirit,

**Grant reconciliation and renewal.**

When the load seems too heavy  
and our backs are tight with pressure,

**Place on us your yoke, which is easy,  
and your burden, which is light.**

When change comes too fast and too painfully,  
and our lives are all in pieces,

**Help us shape ourselves anew  
out of the fragments.**

Hear our silent prayers for healing:

We pray also for healing in our world.

**May divided factions grow to understand  
one another and seek the good of all.**

We pray for peacemakers:

**Give your wisdom to those who seek  
racial reconciliation and justice,**

**to those who feed the hungry and change  
society so no children go hungry.**

In wounded places of our globe,  
wherever people suffer,

**God, heal as you know how. Lead your  
people as they seek justice and peace.**

Hear our silent prayers, for the healing of  
nations.

God of love and power, you are the healer who  
came to us in Jesus Christ. We know you are  
near when people are healed and the poor hear  
good news. Be known among us in healing  
power, for we pray in the name of Jesus Christ  
who was, and is, and is to come. Amen.

**Then join us for our final discussion  
of *The First Christmas***

***It is not necessary to have read the book  
to join the discussion!***

**7:30-8:30pm**, about what the gospels really tell  
us about Jesus' birth. Pastor Heidi recommends  
watching the following interview with the  
authors of *The First Christmas*:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fk90WDo90\\_0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fk90WDo90_0)



## Stewardship Drive

Six weeks ago, Cheryl Christianson introduced to our congregation the annual Stewardship slogan, “We Are in it for The Long Haul.” When I first heard this, I could only think that the long haul had to do with waiting for the pandemic to end, and we would be able to meet again in our church building.

Last Sunday, I learned that my original thinking of “the long haul” was changed. During the Sunday Zoom service, many faces appeared on the computer screen. Among them was John Foss, the first pastor of Peace Church. In listening to the conversation, I realized that the journey of “The Long Haul” started over 60 years ago with the creation of Peace Church. From the beginning, Peace Church has been dedicated to the mission of giving back to our community and the world. Our stewardship drive is proof that we are still on this journey.

The members of the Session thank all of you who have turned in your pledges!

If you have not yet turned in your pledge, please try do so as soon as possible. For the Session to plan for another year of our journey, it is very important that all who plan on pledging are counted.

And remember, we are in it for the long haul!

Thank you, Tom Goodrich



## A Message from Elizabeth Greene

As Elizabeth and her mother prepare to travel to Liberia on Saturday, she sent us a report on her inquiry into Liberia’s education system. Peace Prez is considering partnering with a school in Liberia to help pay for school fees.

“Liberia's education system is no better than other West African Countries’. There are many challenges that the Liberian education system faces today. Because of poor learning outcomes, students' performance rates have dropped dramatically over the years. Many public schools in both urban and rural areas lack basic school materials. Some of the issues faced by the education system are a high rate of dropout, low enrollment rates, and a lack of school supplies and textbooks. Coming to the United States has made me value education more than anything in the world.

“Earlier this year, I wrote a project proposal and gave it to Peace Presbyterian Church. You were gracious enough to support my project to buy school supplies for the kids back home. This year, I have the opportunity to go to Liberia to give backpacks and school supplies to first, second and third graders. This project would not have happened without the help of my parents, Pastor Heidi, and Peace Church. I look forward to seeing the looks on those kids’ faces when they get new school supplies, and I hope to share this joy with you through videos and photos. Thank you for investing in my little projects. I plan on continuing to do projects like this in the future.”



## A Minute for Missions

The sound of *O Come Let Us Adore Him* fills the air. We are waiting for the birth of Jesus. We are celebrating the reason for the season. With the Christmas Joy Offering, we as a community of Christ give thanks for our leaders, the leaders who have told us the stories through the Bible, through sermons and actions, and through music. With this offering, we also contribute to the education of our future leaders. Thank you to all who have sent in your donations. If you want to send in a donation, there is still time. Just send your check or drop it off at the church, and don't forget to put "Joy" in the memo of your check.



## 'Tis The Season. . .To Be Connected!

The holidays usually signal more gatherings, more activities, more chances to see family and friends. But this year is different. Because the Covid-19 pandemic is raging at unprecedented levels in our community, the responsible thing to do is to stay in and stay away to stay well.

Tonight is our last **Advent Worship Service** and **Book Discussion**.

**Worship.** 7:00-7:15pm on Zoom. We'll light Advent candles, offer prayers, and prepare for the coming of Christ. After worship, you are welcome to sign off, or you can join us after for the book discussion.

**Book Discussion.** 7:30-8:30pm on Zoom Tonight's Discussion is *Light and Joy*, a discussion of what the birth of Christ means to us today.

## Christmas

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.** Hear the familiar carols, celebrate the birth, and give thanks for the light. Patrice Meschke has already gotten out our traditional hand-held candles and is exploring ways to distribute them to you--so we will be able to hold them while we sing Silent Night.

*Many thanks to the kind person who decorated the front of our church for Christmas – it's lovely!*

## Our Personal Christmas Continues

Amidst the pandemic, it's sometimes easier to dwell on what has been lost or diminished, but especially this year, we have been celebrating the many blessings we have been given. With our Zoom technology, we have shared those personal joys and remembrances with the whole Peace Church family this year.

So far, we have shared our advent wreaths, Christmas trees, holiday memories, etc. and we'll continue to celebrate into the New Year as well. Continue to send your pictures and whatever else you'd like to share, and I will gladly create a presentation for the congregation. We may not be able to be together

in person, but we'll be able to share all the memories, all the joy, all the music, all the blessings that make Christmas personal and special.

~ Patrice Meschke

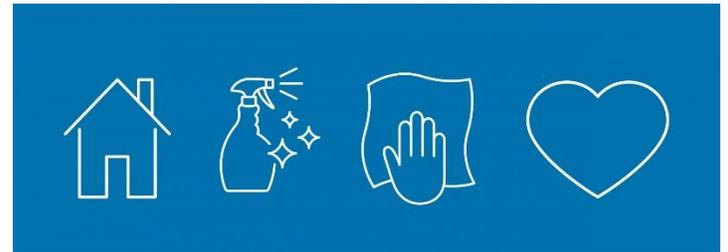


### Christmas Memories, by Pat Wilson

Christmas trees come in all shapes and decorations. Remember the tinsel we used to scatter over the tree? Some trees look like they belong in Macy's windows, while others are full of crafts and memories. Mine is the second option. I have a box that I've labeled "My Treasures". Inside are ornaments from family and friends, homemade ones from my grandchildren. I'm always surprised at the memories that float up while I decorate my tree. In the picture, you may see a colored teardrop ornament. I fell in love with them in 1962, my first Christmas as a married woman. The problem was they were \$10 for 4, a lot of money at that time, especially for a couple who had so

little. My husband said go ahead and buy them, and I still have them (minus one).

The two ornaments with houses were made by my granddaughter Anna. She went to the houses where we grew up, took pictures, and made us ornaments out of them. The Santa you can guess is homemade. It was on my husband's grandparent's tree, and we guess it's 100 years old. The Jesus our Savior ornament my granddaughter Katrina bought for me when she was ten with her own money. I never get tired of looking at them. They are history, they are memories.



### Hennepin County Aid for Covid

#### COVID-positive residents can call for help during isolation

Hennepin County's COVID-19 Essential Services area helps county residents who have recently tested positive for COVID and may need assistance to stay in isolation.

Due to the huge increase in cases, people may not hear about this service for a week or more – and during that time, they may be exposing others. The backlog means people may not get a call from contact tracing staff, which is usually where they learn about Essential Services.

Essential Services can provide a variety of services so that people can stay isolated and avoid spreading the virus. If you're aware of anyone in Hennepin County who has recently tested positive for COVID-19 and may need assistance while they're in isolation, tell them to

call 612-348-3000 or email at [essentialservices@hennepin.us](mailto:essentialservices@hennepin.us).



## Prayers

### We offer prayers of concern for

**Dean and Karen Meyer** who are recovering from Covid-19. Dean had a relatively mild case. Karen is doing well but continues to not feel great.

**Jake Hamilton**, whose grandfather passed away this past week.

**Julie North's mother Marilyn Abram**, who had surgery yesterday, and for her Aunt Violet who is recovering from Covid-19.

**Mark Maier** who tested positive for Covid-19, but is so far asymptomatic—and pray for his father John who is so worried about him.

**Lois Gibbs**, who learned that a childhood friend has just died from Covid-19

**Joan Amara Green and Elizabeth Greene** who leave for a trip to Liberia on Saturday.

**Bob and Eileen Unze** and their family as they remember their beloved granddaughter Rebecca who died a year ago.

**Peter May**, a former member of Peace Church, was diagnosed with stomach/liver cancer.

### We share prayers of joy for

The unexpected visit of Peace Prez' founding pastor, **John Foss**, who joined us for Zoom worship last Sunday. He is 93 years old, living in Arkansas, and doing very well indeed.

News that Peace Prez will receive a **grant of \$1500** from the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area's Mission and Witness Committee to help fund the work that Eileen Unze and volunteers are doing to create Birthday Bags and New Baby Bags for clients of STEP.

News that **Joan Amara Green** is being awarded a scholarship from the Synod of Lakes and Prairies for her college tuition as she prepares to become a social worker helping children and families.

Former seminarian intern **Katrina Bergman** who will be starting a special social justice clinical pastoral education unit in January. In appreciation for Katrina's service among us, Peace Prez is contributing toward the cost of this educational opportunity for Katrina.

**Anjel Starr**, the grandson of Terry and Lynne Kubista, is now back in Minnesota. His moms flew to Utah and brought him back to his new living situation in Sauk Rapids. He is looking forward to starting school at the high school there.

*If you have any prayer requests that you would like printed in the Mid-Week Update, please e-mail them to [peaceprezslp@gmail.com](mailto:peaceprezslp@gmail.com) or call the church office at 952-545-2586 and leave a message.*

## Worship Resources

Click on this link for all Church events:

<https://zoom.us/j/5046768135>

You can also open the Zoom app and entering the **meeting ID 504-676-8135**.

To dial in, call 312-626-6799 (long-distance).

The meeting ID is 504-676-8135.

To watch previous worship recordings on our YouTube channel, go to

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCvOa5jl8xld1VtI105h6ZRA/](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvOa5jl8xld1VtI105h6ZRA/).

They are also on our website at <https://www.peaceprez.com/worship-recordings/>.

We will continue to post Sunday bulletins ahead of the service on our website at

<https://www.peaceprez.com/news/publications/>

## Calendar

### This Week:

#### Tuesday, December 15

10:30 am – Morning conversation and prayer, on Zoom

#### Wednesday, December 16

7:00 pm – Advent Service

7:30 pm – Advent Book Discussion: *Light and Joy*

#### Thursday, December 17

10:30 am – Bible Study, on Zoom

7:00 pm – Session Meeting

#### Sunday, December 20

10:30 am – Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship service, live on Zoom and Facebook.

Remember to have four candles ready to light.

### Next Week:

#### Tuesday, December 22

10:30 am – Morning conversation and prayer, on Zoom

#### Wednesday, December 23

*No Advent service or discussion*

#### Thursday, December 24

10:30 am – Bible Study, on Zoom

5:00 pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, on Zoom and Facebook

#### Sunday, December 27

10:30 am – Worship service, live on Zoom and Facebook.



### Upcoming Birthdays

Jerry Larson	Dec. 16
Danielle Reid	Dec. 20
Donna Howard	Dec. 22
Kim North	Dec. 22
Louise Ahmadi	Dec. 23
David Councilman	Dec. 31

**If You Have Information** that needs to be in the weekly update such as meeting dates and times, special events or prayer requests, please get this information to our office manager Beth by Wednesday morning. Please email or call [peaceprezSLP@gmail.com](mailto:peaceprezSLP@gmail.com) or 952-545-2586.