



**“Promises Fulfilled: Promise of Good News”
2nd Sunday after Epiphany
January 17, 2021**

WELCOME

Thank you for worshipping with us today!

If you have an email address and want to be on POP’s weekly announcement list, please let the church office know. You can find worship each week at <https://princeofpeace-er.org/podcasts/>. DVD’s of the previous Sunday’s worship are available by contacting the church office at 715-479-9263.

If you would like to support the mission of Prince of Peace so that we can continue worship, community outreach, and other ministries, you can give any amount by cash, check, online, through the Give+ app by Vanco, or by sending a text to 833-394-7887 (text your dollar amount and follow the prompts). Thank you for your generosity.

ORDER OF SERVICE *The assembly speaks the bold verses*

Preparing for Worship

Begin worship with a moment of silence.

Take this time to set up your worship space. Your space will be unique to who you are and what is meaningful to you. Ultimately, you are preparing space that helps you slow down and connect with God through Jesus.

You are invited to light a candle. We light candles in worship to signify the presence of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, with us.

What other items assist you in making your space one of a quiet sanctuary? A Bible? A rock to symbolize God's strength or the weight of the world that you need to give to God? A cross? A picture of Jesus? What helps you to focus on Christ's presence in your life?

Take a few deep breaths. Breathe in the breath of God through the Holy Spirit.

Reading from the Epistles ***Romans 12:9, 14-15, 17-21 (The Message)***

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.

Beloved, let us love each other. Love is from God.

Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

Beloved, let us love each other. Love is from God.

Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Beloved, let us love each other. Love is from God.

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Beloved, let us love each other. Love is from God.

Music ***"Why Are You Downcast" (Be Still My Soul) - Marcus Pagnam***

Why are you downcast, O my soul,
so full of fear where once was hope?
Remember God still loves the world:
be still, my soul.
Beneath the shadow of each storm,
in all the sorrow and despair,
Remember God still loves the world:
be still, my soul.

*Be still, my soul,
trust in your God,
his perfect ways,
his endless love.
Be still and know
he reigns above the earth.
Be still, my soul,
be still, my soul.*

In all your striving, find his peace,
become a shining light of grace
and show that God still loves the world:
be still, my soul.

Confession

Please stand together as we confess our sin before God.

We confess that we would rather not stand together.

We confess that we would rather sit.

We prefer to sit because it's comfortable. And because we're tired.

And because we aren't sure where to go, what to do.

And mostly we're afraid of what standing might require of us.

Sometimes we sit in fear. Sometimes we sit in despair.

And mostly we sit alone.

We'd rather sit alone because "togetherness" is complicated. Loving is a messy, painful business--it's hard enough to love people who are most like us, But to love those who are unlike us, that seems impossible.

We sit alone, as if our lives depended on it.

We sit alone in our individual little corners of what we call comfort, Missing out on truly living. We hold onto our lives and we lose them.

We sit in fear. We sit in despair.

We sit alone. And we know this is no way to live.

Silence for individual confession and reflection.

Assurance of Pardon

"For I am sure that neither death nor life, angels or rulers, things present or things to come, not powers, or height or depth, or anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

We do not stand alone.

Nothing can separate us from God's love.

A Prayer attributed to Francis of Assisi

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Greeting

The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Heavenly Lord,

With joy and awe we praise you for claiming us as your sons and daughters, and for pouring your Holy Spirit upon us. Help us to prepare this earth for your glory, and shine your light on all your faithful children, for the sake of the one whose birth and baptism brought renewal and transformation to this world, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Music *"Instruments of Your Peace"* - Music & Lyrics by Sherri Hansen
(based on the Prayer of St. Francis)

God, make us instruments of Your peace.
Wherever there is hatred let us sow the seeds of love.
God, help us heal the hurt with Your grace.
Wherever there are doubting hearts, let us sow the seeds of faith.

God, make us instruments of your peace.
To those who are in despair let us be a beacon of hope.
God, where there's dark, let us shine Your light.
Wherever there is sadness let us bring to them Your joy.

O God, grant that we may give instead of take,
That daily we may die to ourselves.
That we console, when we are hurt, understand when we are wronged
And love, even when we are unloved.

O God, grant that we may give instead of take,
That daily we may die to ourselves.
For in giving we receive, in forgiving, are forgiven
And in dying we will live eternally

Gospel Reading

Luke 4:14-30

¹⁴Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” ²²All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” ²³He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” ²⁴And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown. ²⁵But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; ²⁶yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” ²⁸When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Message

Pastor Andrea Fluegel

Music

***“Just One Candle” – Music and Words by David LaMotte
Words of Refrain by St. Francis of Assisi***

**And all the darkness in the world can’t extinguish the light of just one candle
All the darkness in the world can’t extinguish the light of just one candle**

Prayers of the People

In Christ Jesus we meet the God who knows our weakness
And bears the wounds of the world.
Therefore, let us be bold as we pray,
Trusting that God draws near to those in any kind of need.

Eternal God, your Word brought forth creation, and your Spirit brings order out of chaos and confusion. You breathe upon us, and we are able to hear one another with language we can understand. Pour out your Spirit upon us now, that even when we disagree on the way forward, we may remain united in Jesus Christ, in whom we are known and accepted with a single love. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, we pray for our public servants, that they do their work in a spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice. Inspire them to use their authority to serve faithfully and to promote our common life. Guide our leaders to govern in such a way that all people enjoy a peaceful and just society. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

And all the darkness in the world can't extinguish the light of just one candle
All the darkness in the world can't extinguish the light of just one candle

Sovereign God, your Son Jesus lived within the structures of society even as he spoke truth to those in power and challenged systems of oppression. On this Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend and the week of a Presidential Inauguration, we pray for a peaceful transition in our government and nation. Empower us to be courageous disciples and responsible citizens. Grant that our life in the public realm be grounded in love for our neighbors, care for the most vulnerable in our midst, and respect for the common life we share, following the example of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

God, our gracious giver, your Son Jesus taught us that where our treasure is there our hearts will be also. Teach us to love people more than money, relationships more than things, and you above all, that the way we live will reflect what we truly value and believe. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who emptied himself in love for us. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

And all the darkness in the world can't extinguish the light of just one candle
All the darkness in the world can't extinguish the light of just one candle

God of compassion, we give you thanks for first responders, for police officers, firefighters, EMTs, and all who offer compassionate aid in situations of tragedy. Keep them safe from harm, and give them courage and sound judgment as they act. That we may join in support of those who risk their lives for others, we pray, make us instruments of your peace. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

God of resurrection, we remember before you those who have died, especially those who suffered from COVID-19 and from events at our nation's Capitol. We commend them to your eternal love. Grant healing and wholeness. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

God of hope, we pray for those who are ill, suffering, struggling. We pray for the continuation of the Weekend Backpack program and all needs-based organizations in our community. We also pray for those that are struggling with food insecurity, unemployment, housing, or just providing for their basic needs, bring them hope, generosity and security. We now lift up to you all the people, places, and circumstances on our hearts and minds....Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Gathering our many prayers into one, let us pray.

O loving God, you know the needs of all the world. By your Spirit, grant that we, having turned to you in prayer, now might turn to one another in peace, tend and keep what you have made, and love our neighbor with the love of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

**And all the darkness in the world can't extinguish the light of just one candle
All the darkness in the world can't extinguish the light of just one candle**

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. **Amen.**

Music "God of the Movements and Martyrs" - The Many

Verse 1:

God of the movements and martyrs
God of the powerless child
God of the hurt and the hopeless
And unreconciled
God of the just and the faithful
God of the night and the day
God of the whole of creation
In your name we pray
Many have followed the savior
Into the face of the storm
Strengthened by long generations
By love they were formed
In basements of tall-steepled churches
In shadows of fences and walls
In alleys and hallways of power
They answered your call

Verse 2:

Now it's our turn to do justice
Humbly we rise to the day
Give us the strength and the wisdom
To walk in your way
Gather the loaves and fishes,
Share until all have been fed
Walk in compassion and mercy
By love we'll be led
Standing in circles surrounding
All holding hands while we pray
When powers bear down on the helpless
We'll stand in the way
God of the worn and the wounded
Let us be healed by the truth
When doorways are blocked we will lower
Our friends through the roof

Verse 3:

God of the circle that holds us
God of the ones pushed away
We will reach out to our neighbors
In your name we'll say:
No matter your creed or your country
No matter the hue of your skin
Your age, who you love, or the body
Your soul was born in
No matter the places you're broken
No matter the things you have done
Lay down that weight on the altar
A new day's begun
You are a child of the maker
You are beloved and known
Join us in work of the kin-dom
We welcome you home
Join us in work of the kin-dom
We welcome you home

Blessing

Holy God, as the travelers with their treasures were overwhelmed with joy on finding Jesus, so we also are overwhelmed on finding out the depth of his love for us. For Jesus showed just how beloved we are to him, by loving us and giving himself for us. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

May the blessing of the three-in-one God be yours.

May the Spirit bless you with hope
poured out like water and flowing as the river.

May Jesus bless you with discomfort
at injustice and oppression.

May God in whose being beauty shines on you
and journey with you.

God says to you, "you are my beloved,
Be blessed this day and always."

Amen.

Sending

Gathered by Grace.

Sent to Serve.

Thanks be to God!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gathered and Sent Bible Discussion Available By Phone

The weekly Gathered and Sent Bible discussion recording (podcast) is now available by phone. Just call **978-599-7887** and stay on the line to listen to the recording that discusses the upcoming Sunday scripture reading. A new recording is posted every Monday. Gathered and Sent podcasts can also be found on the church website, Spotify, Pandora, Alexa, Audible, iTunes, Apple Podcast, Google Podcasts, and more. Listen, invite, and participate in God's Word.

Volunteer for the Weekend Backpack Program

Please sign up to help with the Weekend Backpack Program. Volunteers are needed weekly to continue this ministry. Contact the church office or visit the website to sign up. We are feeding 135 children each week through this program plus are feeding an additional 100 children through in-school pantries!

Worship DVDs

DVD's of the previous Sunday's worship are now available at POP! They can be mailed or scheduled for pick up by contacting the church office via telephone (715-479-9263).

Return to Phase 1

The Prince of Peace Council has decided to return back to Phase 1 due to the rising number of positive COVID-19 cases and deaths in Vilas and Oneida Counties as well as the number of students being quarantined due to close contact with a positive case in the Northland Pines School District. This means that we are suspending the limited communion worship for the meantime and reducing the number of volunteers for the Backpack Program and for other essential functions of the church. The Church Council continues to reassess what is happening in our local community on a frequent basis. The Oneida and Vilas Health Departments are strongly encouraging people to limit contact with people outside their immediate household, wear face masks/coverings, wash hands, and keep at least 6 feet (or more) distance from others if you need to go outside of your household unit.

CURRENT PHASE: 1

- Fully digital worship and fellowship
- Critical staff and volunteers by invitation-only access to building
- All in-person activities suspended and moved to digital format where possible
- Visitors must wear a facemask and may not enter the building



MISSION STATEMENT

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is a community who believes in God's love, knows Jesus as Savior, and is blessed by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Thankful for these gifts, we gather to pray and praise, explore God's Word and its meaning for our lives, strengthen each other in our witness, and serve each other and our neighbors in the world.

VISION STATEMENT

Gathered by Grace ~ Sent to serve.
*Core Values: Spirituality, Community,
Grace, Helping Others, Creativity.*

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 5030 Highway 70 West, Eagle River, WI 54521
www.PrinceofPeace-ER.org