



"An inclusive community, celebrating God's unconditional love through engaging worship and faithful service"



August 22, 2021

"What Does Your Strength look Like?"

The Love of God Gathers Us

Gathering Music

You are invited to greet those around you or sit quietly.

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude

“Colors”

by Black Pumas

*It's a good day to be
A good day for me
A good day to see
My favorite colors, colors
My sisters and my brothers
They see 'em like no other
All my favorite colors*

Words of Welcome

Pastor Clare Gromoll

***Gathering Prayer

Mindy Peters

O Holy One, may this place be filled with your Spirit. Gently nudge us into an unclenched moment, a deep breath, a letting go of heavy expectations, of shriveling anxieties, of dead certainties. Softened by your love, surrounded by your light, and open to your mystery—may we be found by wholeness, upheld by the unfathomable, entranced by the simple, and filled with the joy that is you. Amen.

***Opening Hymn

“God Moves in a Mysterious Way”

#412 NCH

(see next page-s. 1, 3, 5-6)

Mike Bjork, cantor

Join in as you're comfortable doing so

***Sitting or standing

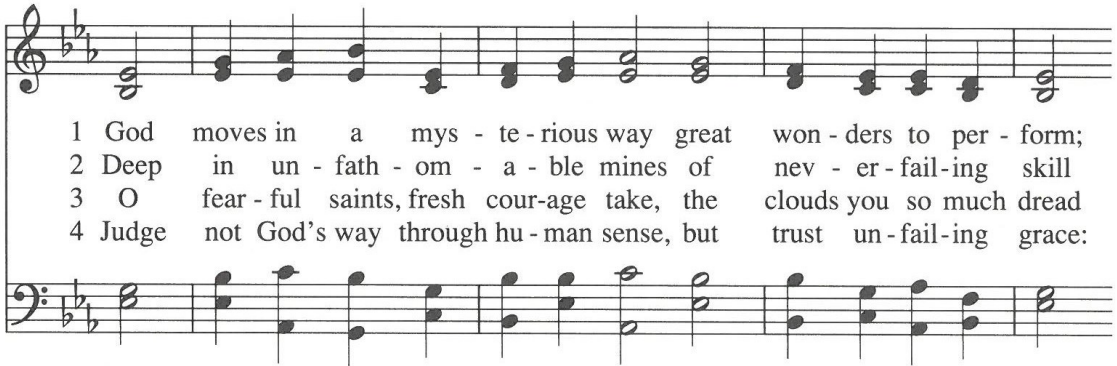
Acknowledging Our Humanness and God's Grace

***Prayer of Longing

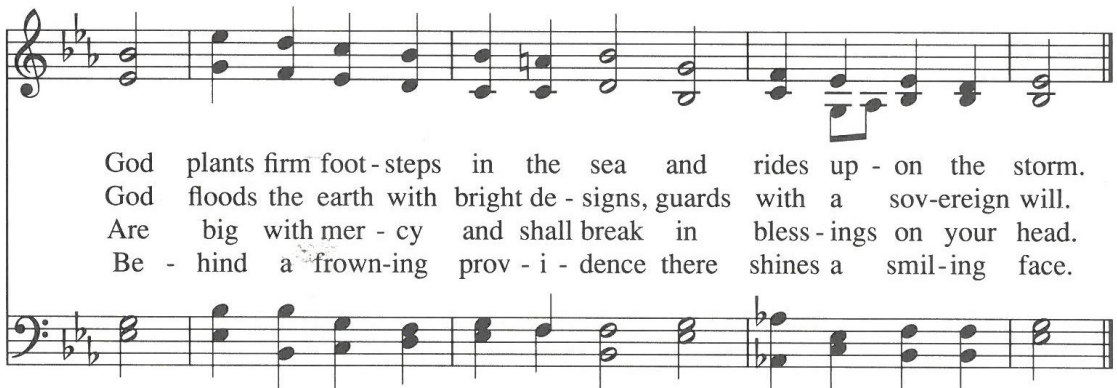
Pastor Clare Gromoll

Creator God, we come to you a rebellious people. We have denied your intentions for us; we have sought our own ways rather than the way of Christ. We have refused to learn the lessons of the past, and we remain bound up with past offenses. We dream of what cannot be, and we fail to devote ourselves to laying a foundation for genuine hope. Forgive what we have done, amend how we are, and direct what we shall be in order to rise with Christ and serve you with trust and joy. Amen.

“God Moves in a Mysterious Way”



1 God moves in a mys - te - rious way great won - ders to per - form;
2 Deep in un - fath - om - a - ble mines of nev - er - fail - ing skill
3 O fear - ful saints, fresh cour - age take, the clouds you so much dread
4 Judge not God's way through hu - man sense, but trust un - fail - ing grace:



God plants firm foot - steps in the sea and rides up - on the storm.
God floods the earth with bright de - signs, guards with a sov - ereign will.
Are big with mer - cy and shall break in bless - ings on your head.
Be - hind a frown - ing prov - i - dence there shines a smil - ing face.

5 God's pur - pos - es will rip - en fast,
un - fold - ing ev - ery hour;
The bud may have a bit - ter taste,
but sweet will be the flower.

6 Our un - be - lief is sure to err
and scan God's work in vain;
God is God's own in - ter - pret - er,
whose truth shall be made plain.

*****Assurance of Grace & Invitation to Pass the Peace**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you! **All: And also with you!**

Proclaiming God's Love

A Time with Young People

Pastor Clare invites children forward to gather with her

Blessing One Another

Children: God be with you **All: And also with you**

Children return to their families to remain in worship or enjoy the playground.

Scriptures: Psalm 84: 1-11, Ephesians 6: 10-20 ~NRSV Mindy Peters

**How lovely is your dwelling place,
O Lord of hosts!**

**My soul longs, indeed it faints
for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy
to the living God.**

**Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.**

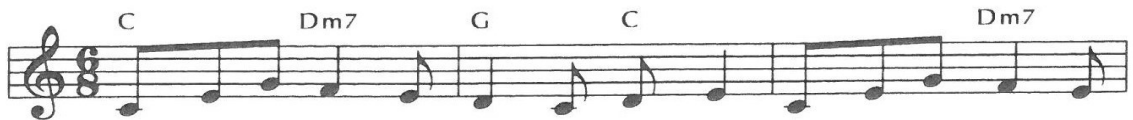
**Happy are those who live in your house,
ever singing your praise. Selah**

**Happy are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.
As they go through the valley of Baca
they make it a place of springs;
the early rain also covers it with pools.
They go from strength to strength;
the God of gods will be seen in Zion.**

Morning Message “What Does Your Strength look Like?”

Prayer Hymn “God Be the Love to Search and Keep Us” (O Christ Surround Us)

Join in as you're comfortable doing so



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
2 Bind to my-self the Name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light-ning,
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

This hymn is a 21st-century adaptation of the traditional Celtic prayer style known as a *lorica* (Latin for “armor” or “breastplate”). Many such petitions for God’s presence and protection were never written down, but this one is based on an example attributed to St. Patrick.

Responding To God's Love

Prayers of the People

You are invited to speak a brief prayer for yourself, another, or a part of the world.

Raise your hand or stand and project your joy or concern so we can hear it.

Pastor Clare will follow your prayer with, "God, in your love..."

One: God, in your love,

All: Hear our prayer

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father and Mother who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name.**

Thy kin-dom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

For thine is the kin-dom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Mindy Peters

Offertory

"Brave"

by Sara Bareilles

*You can be amazing
You can turn a phrase into a weapon or a drug
You can be the outcast
Or be the backlash of somebody's lack of love
Or you can start speaking up
Nothing's gonna hurt you the way that words do
When they settle 'neath your skin
Kept on the inside and no sunlight
Sometimes a shadow wins
But I wonder what would happen if you
Say what you wanna say
And let the words fall out

Honestly I wanna see you be brave*

***Sitting or standing

*****Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen**

*****Prayer of Dedication**

O God, through the offering of these gifts may we become a more open people...

**open-minded in hearing your Word and wisdom,
open-hearted in healing a broken world,
open-handed in heeding your call for charity and enacted love.**

With thanks for all good gifts, we present a portion of our substance and the whole of ourselves. Amen.

Going Forth to Share God's Love

*****Closing Hymn “We Shall Not Give Up the Fight”**

#437 NCH

(see next page—join in as you're comfortable doing so)

*****Singing**

“Happy Birthday”

..Happy birthday dear Gregg, Gloria, Mark, Kaari, Barb

*****Benediction**

*****Sung Response**

“Irish Blessing”

Join in as you're comfortable doing so (we'll sing it twice)

**May the road rise to meet you
May the wind be at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face
The rain fall soft upon your fields
And until we meet again
Till we meet again
May God hold you in the palm of God's hand**

*****Postlude**

Guitar Jams

by Mike Bjork

“We Shall Not Give Up the Fight”

Descant, st. 4 only

we have on - ly start-ed, we

1 & 4 We shall not give up the fight, we have on - ly start-ed, we have on - ly

have on - ly start-ed, we have on - ly start - ed.

start-ed, we have on - ly start - ed. We shall not give up the fight, we

we have on - ly start-ed, we have on - ly start-ed, on - ly start - ed.

have on - ly start-ed, we have on - ly start-ed, we have on - ly start-ed.

Last time, end

This protest song of South Africa came to Europe via Tanzania. It reflects the determined faith and unity of those who fought against apartheid, and offers hope and strength to all Christians struggling against the evils of injustice.

Tune: ONLY STARTED Irr.
South African freedom song

G C D

2 To - geth - er we'll have vic - to - ry, hand hold - ing hand, hand
 3 Nev - er, ev - er put to flight, we're bound to win, we're

G C G

hold - ing hand, hand hold - ing hand. To -
 bound to win, we are bound to win.

C D

geth - er we'll have vic - to - ry, hand hold - ing hand, hand
 Nev - er, ev - er put to flight, we're bound to win, we're

G D7 G to beginning

hold - ing hand, hand hold - ing hand.
 bound to win, we are bound to win.

PRAYER CORNER

Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:

*For this faith community of People's Church and for our St. Croix Valley Community, we offer gratitude. May we create welcoming, empowering spaces wherever we go.

*For the people of Haiti as they suffer in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Grace. To contribute financially go to [UCC.org](https://www.ucc.org) and search for Haiti.

*For the people of Afghanistan. *"Let us hold on to the hope that peace is possible and commit ourselves not only to keeping our Afghan siblings in prayer, but also to committing: our churches to welcome refugees; our voices to engage in advocacy; our hearts to establish partnerships; and our minds and bodies to support the 'things that make for peace.'"* For more information go to <https://www.ucc.org/ucc-officers-we-must-not-turn-on-our-back-on-afghanistan/>

*For our U.S. military veterans to be affirmed for sacrifices made in service to our country, and that they find welcoming spaces for processing grief and trauma.

*For the global community as the COVID-19 Delta variant spikes infection and death rates. May vaccines reach everyone. May we protect one another from the virus.

*For justice and peace to prevail in relation to the January insurrection at our U.S. Capitol. May we all be reminded to listen carefully for articulations of truth.

*For resilience as BIPOC communities and allies seek racial justice, and for legislators to lead us in building an antiracist society.

*For the Earth as droughts deepen, wildfires rage and the UN's "Code Red" report confirms the terrible damage we are doing to the climate. As we lament tremendous losses for people, other creatures, and plant life; may we begin to heal the Earth.

*For Nat Graf, that she continues to heal smoothly and recover after successful knee replacement surgery on the 12th.

*For Cindy & John Siegel's daughter, Jenna, whose brain tumor is growing. May healing energy surround Jenna, her husband and daughter as they await further information.

*For Brian, young adult son of our new friends, Jennifer and Dennis; for resilience as he copes with a recent diagnosis of Type 1 Diabetes.

*We celebrate birthdays with Gregg Ellingson (the 16th) and Gloria Phillips (the 21st), Mark Stephan (the 24th), Kaari Bjork (turning 5 on the 25th) & Barb Hilliard (the 26th). We celebrate anniversaries with Claire and Mike Bjork (the 9th), Dale & Jenni Shaller (the 19th), Rolf Dittmann & Jill Greenhalgh (the 27th) and Cheri & Bob Schwartz (28 years of marriage on the 28th).

VOLUNTEER

all that's missing is U!

Greeters Needed for Worship Services

We need two greeters for each Sunday service.

Duties include: Arrive by 9:15. Set out bulletins, offering bag, welcome cards and sanitizer by the "entrance" near the People's Park Sign. Welcome people warmly as they arrive. Ring the bell as worship begins. Take attendance. Pass out prayer corner cards for signing at the start of worship (cued by Pastor Clare). Put all materials back into the black rolling cart.

Please let Kimberly know if you are able to be a greeter:

office@peoplescongregational.org - 651-439-5667.

Dates: Aug. 29, Sept. 5, 12, 19 (1 more need) 26- (1 more need)



People's Monthly Backyard Potlucks

Mark your calendars for our next!

RSVP to Kimberly

Tues., Aug. 31, 5:30-7:30 pm
at the home of Pastor Clare, Sam & Jonah
1017 Carlton Dr.
Shoreview, MN 55126

Bring a lawn chair and a dish to share (salad, side, dessert).

**** Label your serving container and spoon/tongs with your name! ****

We don't need to know what food item you'll bring.

Host provides beverages, dishes, flatware, napkins, indoor restroom.

Invite a friend or neighbor along to meet your church friends!

Feel free to come at the last minute if it works out!



People's Antiracism Collective
formerly our Antiracism Task Force

Antiracism Collective Session 1: Sacred Conversations
Sunday, August 29, 10:15-11:30am (at People's Park)

All are invited to attend our first learning session immediately following worship next Sunday. In small groups, we will share stories about our understanding of racism and what it mean for us going forward.

Many of us have pledged to attend 3 Collective activities in the coming year. Pledge forms are available on Sundays. We hope more members and friends will pledge to join the Collective.

Thank you again - we're underway!
Mary Bjork, Lori Mildon, Jenni Shaller (Antiracism Collective coordinators)

Thank you for all who made today wonderful: Mike Bjork, (beautiful music), Mindy Peters (reading) and Kimberly Jackson (Tech)



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