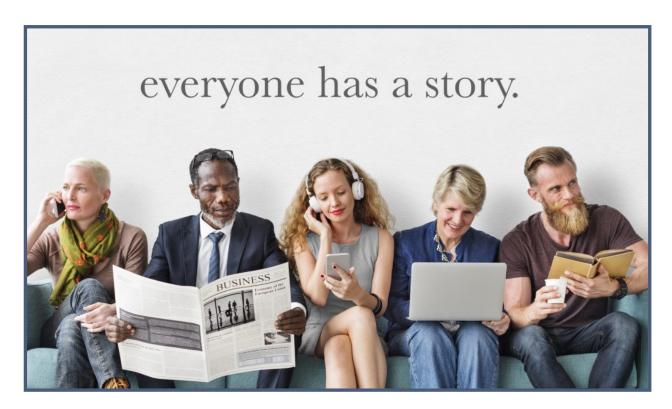


"An inclusive community, celebrating God's unconditional love through engaging worship and faithful service"



August 22, 2021

"What Stories Do You Tell and Live?"

### The Love of God Gathers Us

**Gathering Music** 

"Gavotta-Choro"

by Heitor Villa-Lobos Eric Vandre, quitar

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

Ringing of the Bell

Words of Welcome

Pastor Clare Gromoll

\*\*\*Gathering Prayer

Mary Maren Bjork

Living God, come and be known among us. Help us to perceive your presence as near as breath, yet hidden. Help us to seek you even as you seek us. Speak your word of power. Make us true disciples of Christ. Transform us through your fiery Spirit. All glory be to you, O God—in Christ and through the church forever! Amen

\*\*\*Opening Hymn

"You Are Welcome Here"

Sing! Prayer and Praise #26 (see next page)

Keely Vandre, vocals Eric Vandre, vocals

Join in as you're comfortable

# **Acknowledging Our Humanness and God's Grace**

\*\*\*Prayer of Longing

Pastor Clare Gromoll

Loving God, you have invited us to love you, our neighbors, and ourselves. Although created by Love, surrounded by Love, and made whole in loving; we forget. When we do not believe in your infinite compassion for us, forgive our doubt. When we withhold forgiveness from each other, forgive our desperate control. When we lose hope that we can ever love those who have hurt us, forgive our shallow hope. Free us from the fears that hinder our loving movements. In your name, which is Love, Amen.

#### \*\*\*"You Are Welcome Here"



## \*\*\*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 (socially distanced)

## **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 15 Mary Maren Bjork

O Lord, who may abide in your tent?
Who may dwell on your holy hill?
Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart; who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends, nor take up a reproach against their neighbors; in whose eyes the wicked are despised, but who honor those who fear the Lord; who stand by their oath even to their hurt; who do not lend money at interest, and do not take a bribe against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be moved.

Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 6-9

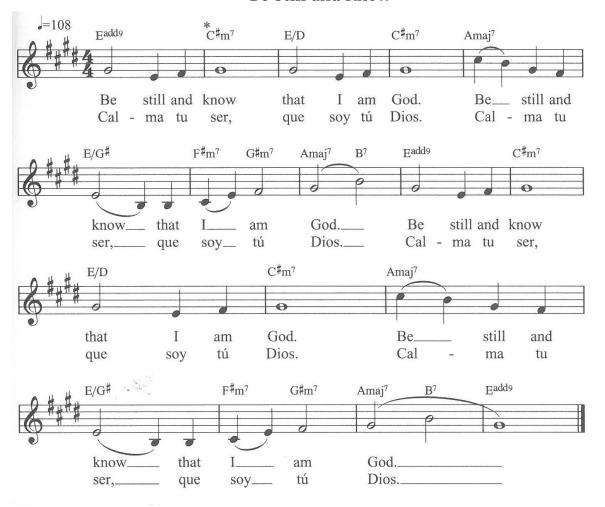
**Morning Message** "What Stories Do You Tell and Live?"

**Prayer Hymn** 

"Be Still and Know" #111/Sing! Prayer and Praise sung three times (in English)

Join in as you're comfortable

## \*\*\*"Be Still and Know"



# **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

(see next page)

\*\*\*Sitting or standing

# Lord's Prayer

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:

the hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.

AMEN.

# **Invitation to the Offering**

Mary Maren Bjork

Offertory

"You've Got To Be Carefully Taught"

by Richard Rogers/Oscar Hammerstein II, sung by James Taylor

You've got to be taught, to hate and fear You've got to be taught from year to year It's got to be drummed in your dear little ear You've got to be carefully taught

You've got to be taught, to be afraid Of people whose eyes are oddly made And people whose skin is a different shade You've got to be carefully taught

You've got to be taught before it's too late Before you are six or seven or eight To hate all the people your relatives hate You've got to be carefully taught You've got to be carefully taught Join in as you're comfortable

Praise, God, for these gifts; we lift them up for heaven's blessing. Praise God, for these gifts; we lift them up to serve you, Lord.

## \*\*\*Prayer of Dedication

God of all, we bring our offerings because of the love you have poured out on us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Your gifts call for responses that cannot be contained in envelopes or baskets. We dedicate all that we have and all that we are to your will and purposes. With awe and trembling, and also joy and gratitude, we bring you our whole selves. Use us to realize your love, justice and peace among all people. Amen

# **Going Forth to Share God's Love**

\*\*\*Closing Hymn

"Deep Peace"
vs. 1 & 2 (see next page)

#201/Sing! Prayer and Praise

Join in as you're comfortable

\*\*\*Singing

"Happy Birthday"

..Happy birthday dear Mark, Kaari, Barb, Alex, Jenni and Paula

\*\*\*Benediction

# "Irish Blessing" sung twice

Join in as you're comfortable

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

Our Antiracism Collective organizers invite us to partake of After-worship Fellowship snacks and beverages. Then please move right back to our seats to begin our sacred conversation (which concludes at 11:30).

# Reminder: People's Monthly Backyard Potlucks

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!

# \*\*\*"Deep Peace"



\*\*\* Sitting or standing

### 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 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 we protect one another from the virus. We hope for the well-being of all struggling with vaccination questions. Bob Dickie & Cindy Parsons feel grateful and relieved that all of their children are now vaccinated.
- \*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 students, parents, teachers, bus drivers and other workers in school settings. May all experience safe learning environments and enjoy the growth that occurs.
- \*For all who are experiencing job transitions or struggling with burnout during this uncertain, stressful time of "the great resignation."
- \*For Pastor Clare's sister Aidan as she begins serving as a volunteer pediatrician in a refugee camp near Serajevo, Bosnia for a stretch of several months.
- \*For the small international Lowe Syndrome community, grieving two recent deaths of young men with the rare (2 in a million) syndrome that Sam Gromoll has.
- \*For Cindy & John Siegel's daughter, Jenna, who will begin three months of radiation on Sept. 2 on her brain tumor. Radiation could cause new tumor growth. May healing energy surround Jenna, her husband and their daughter.



# **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 a head count. Pass out prayer corner cards for signing at the start of worship (Pastor Clare will cue you). Put all materials back into the black rolling cart.

Please let Kimberly know if you are able to be a greeter: <a href="mailto:office@peoplescongregational.org">office@peoplescongregational.org</a> - 651-439-5667.

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



# People's Book Club

(We aim to read books that matter from diverse genres, topics and authors)

# See No Stranger by Valarie Kaur

<u>In-person:</u> (Saturdays) Sept. 25, Oct. 9, 23 9-10:30am (outdoors as long as possible)

Zoom: (Wednesdays) Sept. 29, Oct. 6, 20 6:30-8pm(ask pastor Clare how join in-person)

We will order paperback copies from Valley Bookseller (discounted to \$14.50). Contact Kimberly by <u>Sept. 6</u> to purchase a copy.

## All Teams/Committees Share Out

We invite all members and friends to hear teams and committees share about their current work and ways we can participate.

In-person: Sunday after worship, Sept. 12

or

Zoom: Wednesday, Sept. 15, 6:30 pm



# **After-worship Fellowship**

We are now serving food during Afterworship fellowship. See below for guidelines. Please contact Kimberly to sign up to bring treats. 651-439-5667 office@peoplescongregational.org

### **Food Guidelines:**

Keep it simple. Be as sanitary as possible.

Food should be provided in one of these ways:

- individually wrapped (grab one for yourself)
- spread out on a plate, distanced enough that a person can grab one for themself without touching other food
  - a host/food provider (gloved) serves/hands out food to individuals

Pitchers of water, lemonade etc. are fine (again, we recommend a gloved server pours).

Please avoid any food items that need to be assembled or "dipped."

Thank you for all who made today wonderful: Keely & Eric Vandre, (beautiful music), Mary Maren Bjork (reading) and Kimberly Jackson (Tech)



# **People's Congregational Church**

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