



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



October 3, 2021

"With Awe, Identifying as Beloved"

The Love of God Gathers Us

Gathering Music

Mike Bjork, *Music Director*
You are invited to greet those around you or sit quietly.

Words of Welcome

Pastor Clare Gromoll

*****Opening Hymn**

“Morning Has Broken”

#53 CH
see next page

Acknowledging Our Humanness and God’s Grace

*****Prayer of Longing**

Pastor Clare Gromoll

**God of all, we have come to this place to find you. Yet, you have been beside us all the time. We pray not that you be here but that our hearts become more aware of you. Creator, make an intentional and worshipful focusing of our minds a more constant discipline in our lives. Timeless as the sunshine, it is so easy to take your love for granted. Fill this moment with awe, loving God of our hope, and let us progress from a reverent hour into continual worship, from a moment of devotion into a life of prayer.
Amen.**

prayerful silence

*****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 speaks with children, wherever they are seated with their families

***Morning Has Broken

C Am Dm G Dm G C

1. Morn- ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing, black-bird has
 2. Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from heav - en, like the first
 3. Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing born of the

Em Am Em F G C Am F C

spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the
 dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet
 one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ery

Am G C G Am Dm GW C

morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
 gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
 morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

WORDS: Eleanor Farjeon, 1931
 MUSIC: Gaelic melody; arr. Dale Grotenhuis, 1985

BUNESSAN
 55.54D

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 arr. © 1987 CRC Publications

Song of Praise “How Excellent Your Name”

O Lord, our Lord, how excellent Your name is,
How excellent Your name in all the Earth.
Your glory fills the heavens beyond the farthest star;
How excellent Your name in all the Earth.

When I think about the heavens, the moon and all the stars,
I wonder what You ever saw in me.
But You took me and You loved me, and You’ve given me a crown;
And now I’ll praise Your name eternally.

All join in:

**O Lord, our Lord, how excellent Your name is,
How excellent Your name in all the Earth.
Your glory fills the heavens beyond the farthest star;
How excellent Your name in all the Earth.**

Blessing One Another

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

Children may follow leaders to Children's Activity or remain in worship.

Scriptures:

Psalm 8 *The Inclusive Bible*

God, our Sovereign, how majestic is your Name in all the Earth!

You have placed your glory above the heavens! From the lips of infants and children you bring forth words of power and praise, to answer your adversaries and to silence the hostile and vengeful.

When I behold your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars which you set in place -- what is humanity that you should be mindful of us? Who are we that you should care for us? You have made us barely less than God, and crowned us with glory and honor. You have made us responsible for the work of your hands, putting all things at our feet--all sheep and oxen, yes, even the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea and whatever swims the paths of the seas.

God, our Sovereign, how majestic is your Name in all the Earth!

People were bringing their children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples scolded them for this.

When Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not stop them. It is just such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. The truth is, whoever doesn’t welcome the kingdom of God as a little child won’t enter it.”

And Jesus took the children in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

Morning Message “With Awe, Identifying as Beloved”

Duet “Who Am I”

Who am I, that the Lord of all the Earth
Would care to know my name, would care to feel my hurt?
Who am I, that the bright and morning star
Would choose to light the way, for my ever wandering heart

Refrain:

Not because of who I am, but because of what You’ve done
Not because of what I’ve done, but because of who You are
I am a flower quickly fading, here today and gone tomorrow
A wave tossed in the ocean, a vapor in the wind
Still You hear me when I’m calling
Lord, You catch me when I’m falling
And You’ve told me who I am -- I am Yours

Who am I, that the eyes that see my sin
Would look on me with love, and watch me rise again
Who am I, that the voice that calmed the sea
Would call out through the rain, and calm the storm in me

Refrain: (All are welcome to join in)

I am Yours, I am Yours
Whom shall I fear, Whom shall I fear
‘Cause I am Yours, I am Yours

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.

Please 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

**Eternal Spirit,
Source of all that is and ever shall be,
Loving Parent in whom we discern heaven,
May knowledge of your holiness inspire all peoples,
And may your commonwealth of peace and freedom flourish on Earth
Until all of humankind heed your call to justice and compassion.
May we find the bread that we need for today,
And for the hurts we cause one another
May we be forgiven in the same measure that we forgive.
In times of trial and temptation, help us to be strong;
When life seems overwhelming, help us to endure;
And thus from the yoke of sin deliver us.
May you reign in the power of human love,
Now and forever.
Amen.**

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Interlude

*****Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious God, you have planted within us seeds of hope, nurtured within us saplings of faith, and harvested the fruits of your creation. May we embody our thanks with extravagant generosity. May we offer our lives to you in acts of compassion for one another. May we walk gently upon the Earth, ever mindful of your gifts of breath, of love, of life itself. Amen.

Going Forth to Share God's Love

*****Singing**

“Happy Birthday”

..Happy birthday dear Nat, Eleanora & Jere

*****Closing Song**

“How Excellent Your Name”

**O Lord, our Lord, how excellent Your name is,
How excellent Your name in all the Earth.
Your glory fills the heavens beyond the farthest star;
How excellent Your name in all the Earth.**

**When I think about the heavens, the moon and all the stars,
I wonder what You ever saw in me.
But You took me and You loved me, and You've given me a crown;
And now I'll praise Your name eternally.**

**O Lord, our Lord, how excellent Your name is,
How excellent Your name in all the Earth.
Your glory fills the heavens beyond the farthest star;
How excellent Your name in all the Earth.**

*****Benediction**

*****Sung Response**

Irish Blessing

Sung twice (first with accompaniment, then a capella)

**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**

PRAYER CORNER

Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:

- *For Kimberly's father Gordon Jackson, who fell on Monday, fractured his hip, had successful surgery in which two rods were placed, and is moving toward healing and rehabilitation.
- *For the initiative, generosity, and energy of those who recently re-stained our gazebo and renovated our Sunday School room.
- *For the wellbeing of church friends who have not been able to be with us in person this summer and early fall. May we make our care known to them.
- *For all who suffer while managing chronic pain, particularly Barb Hilliard and Bob Neuenfeldt.
- *For the family of Santino, a third-grader at the school Mike Bjork teaches. Santino lost his older brother in a car accident, and his family is heartbroken. May the school community be a healing presence for him.
- *Cheri & Bob Schwartz are new grandparents! Daisy Sue Schmidt was born on September 8th to Cheri's son Dan and his wife Courtney. Big sister Isla was very excited to welcome Daisy.
- *For Cindy & John Siegel's daughter, Jenna, battling a brain tumor. Radiation has been cancelled for now as doctors seek to determine why the tumor is growing so aggressively.
- *We celebrate birthdays with Nat Graf (26th), Eleanora Favilla (8yrs. Old on the 1st) & Jere Fetter (8th). We celebrated with Walt & Paula Richey their anniversary on the 27th.

And in the wider community...

- *For the safeguarding of reproductive rights, empowering women to manage their own health and bodies.
- *As the COVID19 pandemic rages on, may we protect all of our neighbors from the virus.



Pastor Clare's Service of Installation

TODAY

2:00 pm at People's Park



We hope that you will join us for this joyful milestone event in the life of our congregation! Many friends in the St. Croix Valley and our NACCC and UCC networks are joining us as we celebrate the beginning of Pastor Clare's partnership in ministry with the people of People's Church.

People's Church is bustling with team meetings, events and gatherings!

Do you ever wonder...

- *When a meeting or event is scheduled?
- *When you could schedule a meeting?
- *When would be a good time to meet with

Pastor Clare? (Whose office hours are T, W, Th 9 am-3:30 pm)

Well, now you have access to view the church calendar on our website.

<https://peoplescongregational.org/special-events/>



Stillwater Area Theological Discussion Group

Topical discussions among people of all faiths & spiritual paths

1st Thursday evenings, bimonthly | 6:30–8 pm | via Zoom for now
Oct. 7, Dec. 2, Feb. 3, Apr. 7, Jun. 2

October 7th | Topic: "Oneness (Unity)"

David Keller, a person of Bahá'í faith and regular participant in this group, will facilitate our discussion.

**How do we build and maintain a unified community?*

**Can we bring people of different backgrounds together and foster higher degrees of unity in thought and action?*

**What spiritual paths, truths or teachings lead us to unity and oneness?*

“Those who are working alone are like ants, but when they are united they will become as eagles. Those who work singly are as drops, but, when united, they will become a vast river carrying the cleansing water of life into the barren desert places of the world. Before the power of its rushing flood, neither misery, nor sorrow, nor any grief will be able to stand. Be united! It is rather dangerous to be an isolated drop. It might be spilled or blown away.”

– Baha'i Writings

Co-hosted by People's Congregational Church, Adult Faith Formation Team
Please find the zoom link on our website: peoplescongregational.org/groups/



INQUIRERS GATHERING

WED | OCT. 6 | 4:30 PM

*Come learn more about
People's Church*

Would you like to learn more about People's Congregational Church and a bit about Congregationalism? Would you like to explore deepening your participation in our congregation and possibly consider covenanting in membership (a pledge of mutual support along the faith journey)?

You are invited to our next Inquirers Gathering! We will gather in the gazebo at People's Park on Wednesday, Oct. 6, 4:30-6:00 pm. We will share introductions among all present, storytelling by Pastor Clare and lay leaders about People's Church history and our present ministries, and hopes for next steps in our collective journey. Attending this gathering does not obligate you to covenant in membership, but it is a required step in the process.

The second and final step prior to joining is a one-to-one conversation with Pastor Clare to allow her to learn more in depth about your faith journey and what you hope to experience as a member of People's Church. So far, there will be at least 5 of us at this gathering.

Our next New Member Sunday will be either October 17 or 31. Pastor Clare and her sons as well as at least one other individual will covenant with us as new members!

Volunteer Sign-Up

We now have a sign-up sheet at our after-worship fellowship table. Please sign up for a date to serve as lay reader, one of two greeters, after-worship fellowship host, or service recorder.

Faith Conversations:

A Hybrid Bible Study



Faith Conversations: A Hybrid Bible Study

Oct. 6 topic | *Salvation: Abundant Life Now*

We explore biblical texts and faith concepts, applying them to our own lives. We've launched Faith Conversations with the *Animate Faith* series. In rich 10-minute videos,

contemporary progressive faith leaders present key concepts of God, religion, Jesus, salvation, cross, Bible, church.

Wednesdays, 11am-noon | join us in-person or via Zoom

find link on our website homepage



People's Church QR Code

We now have a QR Code that will directly link you to our donations page on the website. If so moved, we encourage you to make a donation either to "Offering & Tithes" (our general fund) or "Community Garden" (to support People's Park).

Thank you for all who made today wonderful: Music Director Mike Bjork & Pastor Clare (beautiful music), Children's Activity leaders & assistants, and Paul Spilseth (service recorder)



People's Congregational Church

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