



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



September 19, 2021

*"How Is Gentleness Part of Greatness?"*

## The Love of God Gathers Us

**Gathering Music**

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

**Ringing of the Bell**

**Prelude**

“He is Able”

*Ferguson/Noland*

*Sharon Neuenfeldt, Worship Accompanist*

**Words of Welcome**

Pastor Clare Gromoll

**\*\*\*Prayer of Gathering**

Sharon Binger

**Come, Holy Spirit, come. Renew your entire creation, our whole selves, and all manner of matter. Move in and around us, and fill us with your creative energy and extravagant light. May our hearts be opened and stirred—for the work of love to which you call us, and the hope of a world for which we labor. We pray in God’s name, which is Love. Amen.**

**\*\*\*Opening Hymn** “How Like a Gentle Spirit” (vs. 1,3,5)

*see next page*

### Acknowledging Our Humanness and God’s Grace

**\*\*\*Prayer of Longing**

Pastor Clare Gromoll

**God of love and mercy, in the quiet peace of morning, we have gathered in this holy place to sing praise to you and be touched by your gentle Spirit. We offer thanks for the gift of Sabbath rest and renewal. We pray that, through our worship, you will recreate us in your likeness once more. Let your cleansing Spirit enter our lives, that the shadows of our souls may be pierced by the brilliance of your Light. Let our destructive thoughts be transformed into expressions of beauty, reflecting your uncompromising love. We pray in the name of Jesus, your Revealer and our Savior. Amen.**

*prayerful silence*

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

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

*\*\*\*Sitting or standing*

## \*\*\*How Like a Gentle Spirit #443 ~ (vs 1,3,5)

*May be sung in unison*

1 How like a gen - tle spir - it deep with - in  
 2 Let God be God wher - ev - er life may be;  
 3 God like a moth - er ea - gle hov - ers near  
 4 When in our vain pre - ten - sions we con - spire  
 5 Through all our fret - ful claims of sex and race

God reins our fer - vent pas - sions day by day,  
 let ev - ery tongue bear wit - ness to the call;  
 on might - y wings of pow - er man - i - fest;  
 to shape God's im - age as we see our own,  
 the un - i - ver - sal love of God shines through,

and gives us strength to chal - lenge and to win  
 all hu - man - kind is one by God's de - cree;  
 God like a gen - tle shep - herd stills our fear,  
 hark to the voice a - bove our base de - sire,  
 for God is love tran - scend - ing style and place

de - spite the per - ils of our cho - sen way.  
 let God be God, let God be God for all.  
 and com - forts us a - gainst a peace - ful breast.  
 God is the sculp - tor, we the fash - ioned stone.  
 and all the i - dle op - tions we pur - sue.

*The author of this hymn has been a professor at several universities and seminaries and has received thirteen honorary degrees. C. Eric Lincoln is also known for his scholarly books on the African-American church and for his poems and novels.*

Tune: SURSUM CORDA 10.10.10.10.  
 Alfred M. Smith, 1941



# \*\*\*Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit #180

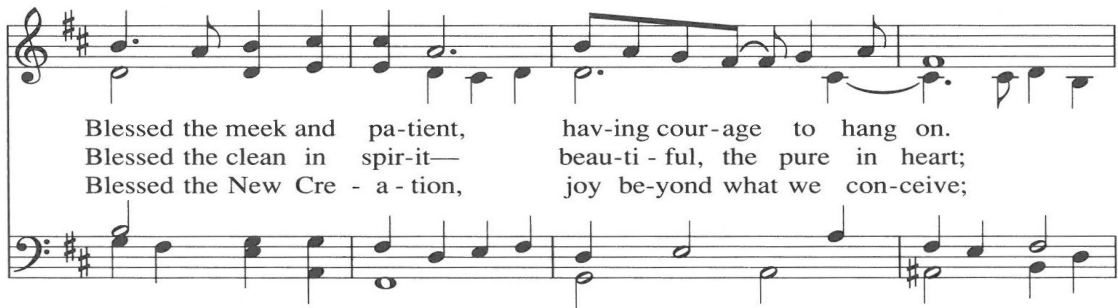
*Unison*



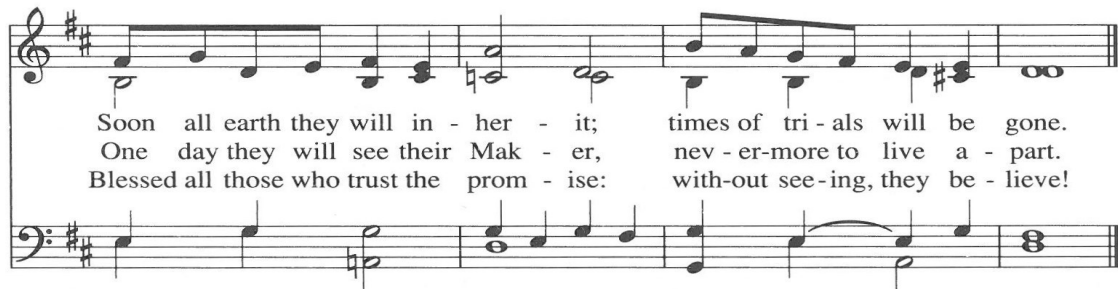
1 Blessed are the poor in spir-it: heav-en will some-day be theirs.  
2 Blessed all who thirst or hun-ger: righ-teous-ly they will be fed.  
3 Each seek-ing peace and jus-tice shall be known as God's own heir.



Blessed are the mourn-ing chil-dren: com-fort comes from One who cares.  
Those who re-spond with mer-cy will see mer-cy up a-head.  
Blessed, too, are those ill-treat-ed for what's good and right and fair.



Blessed the meek and pa-tient, hav-ing cour-age to hang on.  
Blessed the clean in spir-it— beau-ti-ful, the pure in heart;  
Blessed the New Cre-a-tion, joy be-yond what we con-ceive;



Soon all earth they will in-her-it; times of tri-als will be gone.  
One day they will see their Mak-er, nev-er-more to live a-part.  
Blessed all those who trust the prom-ise: with-out see-ing, they be-lieve!

*Howard M. Edwards III, who writes as Rusty Edwards, is an ordained Lutheran pastor from Illinois. The tune for this new Beatitudes paraphrase was composed especially to be interpreted by liturgical dancer Annika Gustafson.*

Tune: ANNIKA'S DANCE 7.7.7.6.7.8.7.  
Jane Marshall, 1993

**Invitation to the Offering**

Sharon Binger

**Offertory**

“Earth and All the Stars”

D. Johnson

**\*\*\*Doxology**

*see last page*

**\*\*\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Holy One, whose heart abounds with gifts, receive this offering as a sign of our intention to live - surrounded by your mercy, inspired by your Spirit, open to the joy of your presence, hospitable to one another, and generous toward your world. Amen.**

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

**\*\*\*Singing**

“Happy Birthday”

*..Happy birthday dear Mindy, Dale, Gary & Betsy*

**\*\*\*Closing Hymn**

"Grant Us Wisdom to Perceive You"

*see next page*

**\*\*\*Benediction**

**\*\*\*Sung Response**

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

*by Jill Jackson-Miller and Sy Miller*

**Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me  
Let there be peace on Earth, the peace that was meant to be.  
With God as creator, family all are we.  
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.**

**Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.  
With ev'ry step I take, let this be my solemn vow;  
To take each moment, and live each moment in peace eternally!  
Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me.**

**Postlude**

“God Be With You”

*T. Dorsey*

**\*\*\*Sitting or standing**

# \*\*\*Grant Us Wisdom to Perceive You #510

1 Grant us wis - dom to per - ceive you, hearts a -  
 2 Grant us faith - ful - ness in pray - ing, strength to  
 3 Grant us dil - i - gence in do - ing, pa - tience  
 4 Grant us cour - age to pro - claim you; Sav - ior

wak - ened to re - ceive you, minds a - lert to  
 keep our souls from stray - ing, sense to cease from  
 when your truth pur - su - ing, ea - ger to re -  
 of our lives we name you! May our ac - tions

thoughts that grieve you, God of mer - cy, hear us.  
 dis - o - bey - ing, God of mer - cy, hear us.  
 ceive re - new - ing, God of mer - cy, hear us.  
 nev - er shame you; God of mer - cy, hear us.

*This text was inspired by a prayer of St. Benedict, the founder of the Benedictine monastic order, c. 529 C.E. Rae Whitney grew up in England, but settled in Nebraska with her American husband in 1960. She is the author of some 300 hymns.*

Tune: QUEM PASTORES 8.8.8.6.  
 German carol, 14th century  
 Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906



\*\*\*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow #94 UMCH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise

*Harmony*

God, all creatures here below: Alleluia!

*Unison*

Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our

gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

*Refrain (Harmony)*

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Alleluia'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!' are written below the treble staff. The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some chords in the bass line.

## Pastor Clare's Service of Installation

Oct. 3, 2021

2:00 pm at People's Park



Our Leadership Team invites you to save the date for this joyful occasion!  
We'll invite friends in the St. Croix Valley and in our NACCC and UCC networks to join in celebrating the beginning of Pastor Clare's partnership in ministry with us.

**A reception will follow!**

Your contributions will be welcome, stay tuned as details unfold!

\*\*\*Sitting or standing

## **PRAYER CORNER**

*Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:*

\*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 by c-section at 9:30 am on September 8th to Cheri's son Dan and his wife Courtney. Big sister Isla was very excited to welcome her little sister who weighed in at 8 lbs. 1 oz. and was 19-1/4" long with a bit of brown hair.

\*For Pastor Clare's sister Aidan, departing today from Bosnia. She has been serving refugees as a pediatrician in a setting that has proven potentially volatile. She will visit a friend in Romania before discerning her next humanitarian project.

\*For Cindy & John Siegel's daughter, Jenna. This Monday, she had part of her cervix removed due to pre-cancerous cells (unrelated to her brain tumor). Imaging of her brain has pinpointed radiation, which begins on the 21st. Radiation will not shrink the tumor but hopefully stop its growth.

\*For Kathleen, friend to our new friend Mary Ann Litfin, whose Lymphoma tumor is growing despite treatments.

\*For the safeguarding of reproductive rights. May women be considered full humans, empowered to manage their own health and bodies.

\*For students, parents, teachers, bus drivers and other workers in school and childcare settings. May all experience safety, joy, learning and growth.

\*As COVID-19 Delta infection and death rates spike with new variants, may we protect one another from the virus.

\*For safety and health for all travelers, moving around for many reasons.

\*For all water protectors, including those demonstrating against the Line 3 Tar Sands Pipeline - for continued resilience in efforts to protect the water.

\*We celebrate birthdays with Mindy Peters (12th), Dale Shaller (14th), Gary Mclaughlin (15th) and Betsy Stokes (25th). And we celebrate with Robin & Gregg Ellingson on their 35th wedding anniversary (20th).



## People's Book Club

We read books that matter from diverse genres, topics and authors

**See No Stranger** by Valarie Kaur

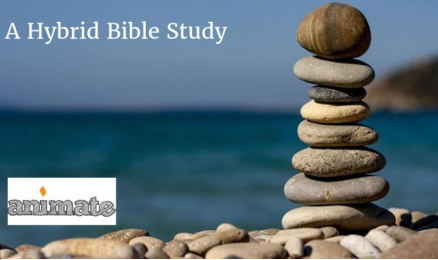
In-person: (Saturdays) **Sept. 25, Oct. 9, 23**  
9-10:30am (outdoors as long as possible)

Zoom: (Wednesdays) **Sept. 29, Oct. 6, 20**  
6:30-8pm (or join Pastor Clare & others in person to zoom from the church meeting)

To participate, please sign up through Kimberly

## Faith Conversations:

A Hybrid Bible Study



## Faith Conversations: A Hybrid Bible Study

**Sept. 22** topic: "Religion-Spirituality isn't enough."

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*



## Vision Budgeting Process | Fall 2021 "Rooted in Love"

**Oct 17** - Congregational Meeting: Sharing a Vision for 2022

**Oct 24** - Financial Stewardship Campaign Launches!

**Oct 31** - Team/Committee Vision Budget due!

**Nov 10** - Monthly Finance Committee & Leadership Team Meetings

**Nov 14** - Thanks-4-Giving Sunday

**Dec 8** - Monthly Finance Committee & Leadership Team Meetings

**Dec 12** - Congregational Meeting: Planning, Budget & Elections

*see midweek for more details*

## 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, greeter (x2), after-worship fellowship host, or service recorder.



### People's Monthly Backyard Potlucks

*Mark your calendar for our next one!*

**Weds., Sept. 22, 5:00-7:00 pm**

at the home of Claire & Paul Spilseth  
The potluck at their house will feature a walk, about a quarter-mile long but with a rather significant descent of about 80 feet. We will walk thru 5 different landscapes:

**Short grass prairie|Long grass prairie and Forbes|Maple Forest  
Lakeshore restoration|Oak Savannah**

There will be a prize for identifying the most flowers.

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

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!

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Kimberly.

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

Thank you for all who made today wonderful: Sharon Neuenfeldt, PCC Choir, and Music Director Mike Bjork (beautiful music), Sharon Binger (reader), Children's Activity leader's & assistant's, Sharon Binger & Kris Strasburg (greeter) Carol Dusbabek (after-worship fellowship host), and Rolf Dittmann (service recorder)




### People's Congregational Church

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