



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



September 5, 2021

"Will You Be Opened By Love?"

The Love of God Gathers Us

Gathering Music

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

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude

“Good Morning Lord, Lord”

M. Bounds

Sharon Neuenfeldt, *Worship Accompanist*

Words of Welcome

Pastor Clare Gromoll

***Call to Worship

Mindy Peters

A new day has dawned! God’s gift of life is renewed in you and me. Praise God for today! Praise God for the creative spirit in our midst! Be still and know that God is here. Let the Spirit in. We are ready to pray and think and rejoice. We are ready to hear God’s Word. May we listen and respond to God, who meets us in new ways -- today in worship, and every day of our lives. Come to us, O God, and guide our worship. Speak. Speak to us the Word we need. And let that Word change us and empower us to be your people. Amen.

***Opening Hymn “Awake, Awake to Love and Work”

#89 NCH

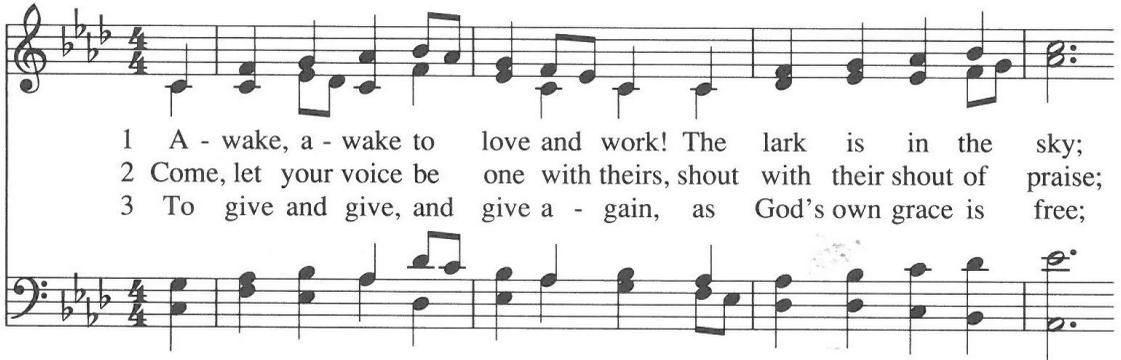
(see next page)

Mike Bjork, *cantor*

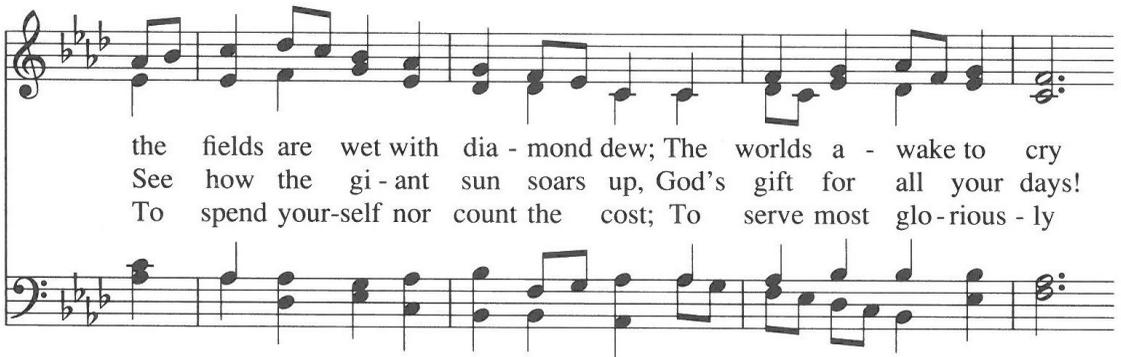
Join in as you’re comfortable

***Sitting or standing

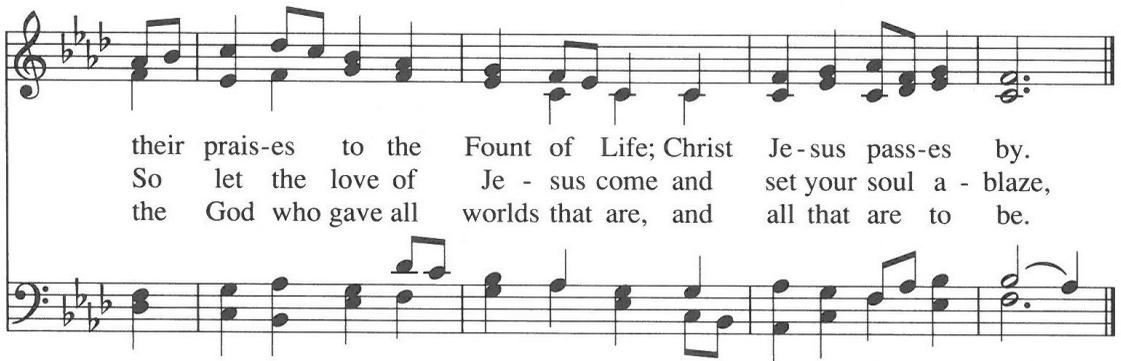
***“Awake, Awake to Love and Work”



1 A - wake, a - wake to love and work! The lark is in the sky;
2 Come, let your voice be one with theirs, shout with their shout of praise;
3 To give and give, and give a - gain, as God's own grace is free;



the fields are wet with dia - mond dew; The worlds a - wake to cry
See how the gi - ant sun soars up, God's gift for all your days!
To spend your-self nor count the cost; To serve most glo - rious - ly



their prais-es to the Fount of Life; Christ Je - sus pass-es by.
So let the love of Je - sus come and set your soul a - blaze,
the God who gave all worlds that are, and all that are to be.

Geoffrey Studdert-Kennedy was known in the United States as an eloquent preacher. He was a famed chaplain (Woodbine Willie) in World War I and later chaplain to the King of England. This hymn is part of a longer poem, "At a Harvest Festival."

Tune: MORNING SONG 8.6.8.6.8.6.
Kentucky Harmony, 1816
Harm. C. Winfred Douglas, 1940

Acknowledging Our Humanness and God's Grace

*****Prayer of Longing**

Pastor Clare Gromoll

Surround us, O God. Breathe into us freshness and self-love and life-joy. We work so hard to satisfy you, to satisfy ourselves, to satisfy those around us. We are weary of falling short and feeling incompetent.

Surround us, O God. Breathe into us freshness and self-love and life-joy. We want to feel useful in our community, intentional in our work, and successful in contributing to life. Remind us that you have blessed us with gifts and skills.

Surround us, O God. Breathe into us freshness and self-love and life-joy. 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 invites children forward to gather with her (socially distanced)

Blessing of Backpacks and Diaper Bags

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:

James 2:1-10,14-17
Mark 7:24-37

Mindy Peters

Morning Message “Will You Be Opened By Love?”

Prayer Hymn

“Open My Eyes”

by Jesse Manibusan

Join in as you're comfortable



1. O-pen my eyes, Lord. Help me to see your face.
2. O-pen my ears, Lord. Help me to hear your voice.
3. O-pen my heart, Lord. Help me to love like you.
4. I live with - in you. Deep in your heart, O Love.



1. O-pen my eyes, Lord. Help me to see.
2. O-pen my ears, Lord. Help me to hear.
3. O-pen my heart, Lord. Help me to love.
4. I live with - in you. Rest now in me.

Text: Based on Mark 8:22-25. Text and music © 1968, 1999, Jesse Manibusan. Published by spiritandsong.com
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Responding To God's Love

A Litany of Labor

Ruler of the heavens, who came to Earth as a humble carpenter, hear our prayers this Labor Day weekend: We give thanks for the gift of work, which can help give meaning and purpose to our lives, and which can offer us a way to serve you.

COMPANION of our labor, hear our prayer.

For all whose work is truly their calling, that they may continue to find joy in their labor, and through their labor be drawn closer to you.

JOY in our lives, hear our prayer.

For all whose work is not a joy, who work simply because they must, and who suffer boredom and exhaustion from jobs that do nothing to feed their spirits.

SOURCE of all meaning, hear our prayer.

For all whose work leads them into ethical conflicts, who struggle to do what is right in the midst of frustrating circumstances.

GUIDE for our path, hear our prayer.

For all who are unemployed or underemployed, who face daily the financial and personal anxieties that their employment status brings, who begin to wonder about their worth in the world.

SAVIOR in the stress, hear our prayer.

For all who are retired - those who enjoy retirement, those who have lost purpose in their lives, and those who struggle to make a faithful use of their days.

TEACHER of quietness, hear our prayer.

We know, Gracious God, that our lives depend on the faithful labor of other workers, often those who are underpaid and overworked. Keep us aware of how our choices affect the labor of others. May all of our work be done in a way that brings you honor and glory. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

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

**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

Mindy Peters

Offertory

"The Giving Song"

Litsch

*****Doxology**

Join in as you're comfortable

**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.**

****Sitting or standing*

*****Prayer of Dedication**

God of all, we dedicate our lives and all that we have to the work of life, of love, of peace. Receive our gifts and lead us in wisdom and courage. Amen.

Going Forth to Share God's Love

*****Closing Hymn**

"The Summons"

by John Bell

See next page

Join in as you're comfortable

*****Singing**

"Happy Birthday"

..Happy birthday dear Alex, Jenni, Paula and Claire

*****Benediction**

*****Sung Response "Let There Be Peace on Earth"**

By Jill Jackson-Miller & Sy Miller

Join in as you're comfortable

**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

"Part in Peace"

Young

****Sitting or standing*

***“The Summons (Will You Come and Follow Me)”

Capo 3: (D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (Asus) (A)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 Csus C

1 “Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
 2 “Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
 3 “Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
 4 “Will you love the ‘you’ you hide if I but call your name?
 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 B^b F

Will you go where you don’t know and nev - er be the same?
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
 Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.

(Em7) (G) (F#m7) (G) (Asus)(A)
 Gm7 B^b Am7 B^b Csus C

Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
 Will you use the faith you’ve found to re - shape the world a - round,
 In your com - pa - ny I’ll go where your love and foot-steps show.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 B^b F

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?”
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?”
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?”
 Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

The first four stanzas of this ballad-like hymn are understood to be in the voice of Christ, with the fifth reflecting the individual singer’s response. Created for this traditional Scottish tune, the text was written to mark the conclusion of a youth volunteer’s time of ministry.

PRAYER CORNER

Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:

- *For our 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 students, parents, teachers, bus drivers and other workers in school and childcare settings. May all experience safety, learning, growth and fun.
- *For all who are experiencing job transitions or struggling with burnout during this uncertain, stressful time of "the great resignation."
- *For people on the Louisiana and Mississippi Gulf Coast, weathering the devastating aftermath of Hurricane Ida. May they find their way to safety and vital resources.
- *For the health of the Earth as droughts deepen, wildfires rage and we continue to damage the climate. As we give thanks for recent rain in this region, may we also answer the UN's (and God's) challenge to change our ways and begin to heal the Earth.
- *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. We share with Bob Dickie & Cindy Parsons in their gratitude and relief now that all of their children are now vaccinated.
- *For safety and health for all travelers, moving from place to place for any reason.
- *For water protectors everywhere, including those demonstrating against the Line 3 Tar Sands Pipeline - for continued resilience in their efforts to protect the water.
- *For Pastor Clare's sister Aidan as she begins serving as a volunteer pediatrician in a refugee camp near Serajevo, Bosnia for several months.
- *For Sam Gromoll's small international Lowe Syndrome community, grieving two recent deaths of young men with the rare (2 in a million) syndrome. And for Sam's wellbeing as he is being treated for a likely tick-borne Lyme infection.
- *For Cindy & John Siegel's daughter, Jenna, who soon begins radiation on her brain tumor. The radiation could cause new tumor growth. May healing energy surround Jenna, her husband and their daughter.
- *We celebrate birthdays with Alex Favilla (Aug.30th), Jenni Shaller & Paula Richey (Sept. 2nd) and Claire Spilseth (Sept. 11th).



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 (ask Pastor Clare how to join in-person)

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

Welcome Home Sunday

Sept. 12, 2021

Children's Activity begins again for ages 3 and above! *It occurs during the latter part of worship.*

"All Teams/Committees Share Out"

New initiatives and ongoing efforts are underway!

We invite all members and friends to hear about

the current work of our teams and committees and ways we can participate.

In-person: Sept. 12 after worship or Zoom: Wed, Sept. 15, 6:30-7:30pm



Faith Conversations:

A Hybrid Bible Study



Faith Conversations: A Hybrid Bible Study

We are retooling our weekly Bible Study!
We'll use various curricula to explore biblical texts and faith concepts, applying them to our own lives.

We'll launch Faith Conversations with the *Animate Faith* series.

In rich 7-minute videos, contemporary progressive faith leaders present key concepts of God, religion, Jesus, salvation, cross, Bible, church. Our discussions will be fruitful!

Wednesdays, 11am-noon, combined in-person and Zoom (**starts Sept. 15**)



nursery

**People's Church
is Hiring
Childcare Providers**

*Please share this ad
far and wide!*

People's Congregational Church employs two Childcare Providers for infants and toddlers, each working 26 Sunday mornings per year.

Current hours are outdoors, 9:15–10:45 am.

Once cold weather arrives, hours will be 9:45–11:15 am in a childcare room in our church building. Occasionally, these providers offer an additional hour of multi-age childcare before or after worship.

They establish and maintain positive relationships with our families. We seek persons with experience providing care for infants and toddlers and willingness to work in the setting of a progressive Christian community.

Must be vaccinated against COVID-19 and willing to mask.

Please contact Pastor Clare Gromoll with any questions
or to receive the full position description

Thank you for all who made today wonderful: Sharon Neuenfeldt, Mike Bjork (beautiful music), Mindy Peters (reading & *After-Worship Fellowship* host), Sharon Binger & Kris Strasburg (Greeters) and Mike Bjork (Tech)



People's Congregational Church

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