



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



October 17, 2021

† New Member Sunday †

“How Will We Become Great Collectively?”

# The Love of God Gathers Us

Gathering Music

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

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude

“On Bended Knee”

Robert Gay  
Sharon Neuenfeldt

Words of Welcome

Pastor Clare Gromoll

\*\*\*Gathering Prayer

Paula Richey

**Holy Spirit of God, you gather the whole church into one body. Gather us once again in your presence and strengthen the bonds of affection that hold your people together. Bless us with grace to cooperate with one another in love and service, that we may be the signs of your uniting love to our fractured world. Teach us to show compassion for those in need, to face challenges with imagination, and to counter disappointments with prayerful trust. So may we, your church, bring forth your will and your reign. Amen.**

\*\*\*Opening Hymn “We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky”

#563

1 We can - not own the sun - lit sky, the moon, the wild - flowers  
2 When bod - ies shiv - er in the night and, wea - ry, wait for  
3 God calls hu - man - i - ty to join as part - ners in cre -

grow - ing, for we are part of all that is with -  
morn - ing, when chil - dren have no bread but tears, and  
a - ting a fu - ture free from want or fear, life's

in life's riv - er flow - ing. With o - pen hands re -  
 war - horns sound their warn - ing, God calls hu - man - i -  
 good - ness cel - e - brat - ing. That new world beck - ons

ceive and share the gifts of God's cre - a - tion, that  
 ty to wake, to join in com - mon la - bor, that  
 from a - far, in - vites our shared en - deav - or, that

all may have a - bun-dant life in ev - ery earth - ly na - tion.  
 all may have a - bun-dant life in one-ness with their neigh-bor.  
 all may have a - bun-dant life and peace en - dure for - ev - er.

*Ruth Duck wrote this text while she was serving as a corporate member of the United Church Board for World Ministries. In it, she wanted to "emphasize humanity's shared partnership with God in caring for one another and the whole creation."*

Tune: ENDLESS SONG 8.7.8.7.D.  
*Attrib. to Robert Lowry in Bright Jewels for the Sunday School, New York, 1869*

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## Acknowledging Our Humanness and God's Grace

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

**One:** O God of watchful care, you have offered us and our ancestors before us your life-giving presence, yet we do not always respond. Your abundance overwhelms us, your faithfulness confounds us. Sometimes we draw back or grow complacent. You have shown us in Jesus of Nazareth the humanity you have hoped could be ours. It sounds so good—freedom, justice, and peace—but it asks so much of us! And forgetting to rely on the help of your Spirit, we grow discouraged or indifferent too easily.

**All:** And yet, O God, we do want what you want—a new creation where we will live, one and all, as your children. So let this newness now be in us! Forgive what lies behind us, and turn our hearts and hands to what is ahead. Free us from the guilt and self-pity that hinder our energy to love and our ability to be loved. Refresh our hope and vision as your church, and renew our commitment to the many ministries in which we serve. May we nurture one another as we share the mystery of life and the proclamation of the gospel! This we pray, trusting in you, transforming God! 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*

## Choral Anthem

“Build Up”

*by Hans Anderson*

**Refrain: Build up, prepare the way.  
Remove the obstructions from my people’s way.  
Build up, prepare the way.  
God is near. God is here today.**

Break the chains of injustice.  
Let the oppressed go free.  
Share our homes with the homeless and our bread with the hungry.

### **Refrain**

God sees all our destruction; how we get in love’s way.  
Still go comes and meets us with a steady, healing embrace.

### **Refrain**

Then your light will break forth like the dawn.  
And your healing will break into song.

### **Refrain**

## Receiving Our New Members

### **Words of Invitation**

### **Candidates For Membership**

Mary Maren Bjork  
Pastor Clare, Sam and Jonah Gromoll

## Questions of the Candidates

Matt Wulff, Moderator

Do you seek to continue your journey of faith, following the ways of God as lived out and revealed in Jesus the Christ, knowing you have the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the love and support of this community?

Do you promise, with the grace given you, to covenant with these people – the congregation of People’s Congregational Church – by worshipping together and supporting our wider mission with your presence, talent, and financial support?

And do you promise to open your heart and mind in love to all these siblings in Christian faith, knowing that together we may do more than alone?

## Covenanting Together

One: We gladly welcome you into this Christian community.  
Enfolding you with our love and committing ourselves to your care, we seek to be partners in ministry with you.

**All: In the power of God’s Spirit, let us mutually encourage each other to trust God and strengthen one another to serve others, that Christ’s church may — in all things — stand faithful.**

## Presentation of Certificates of Membership

## Blessing One Another

Children : God be with you

**All: And also with you**

*Children may follow leaders to Children's Activity or remain with their families in worship*

## Scriptures

Psalms 91:9-16 & Mark 10:35-45

*The Inclusive Bible*

## **Psalms 91:9-16**

**Because you have made me your refuge and have me as your stronghold, no evil will befall you, and no disaster will come near your tent.**

**For I will command my angels to guard you wherever you go.**

**They'll carry you in their hands so you don't hurt your foot on a stone.**

**You'll tread on the young lion as easily as one does a cobra; you'll trample down both lion and serpent.**

**Because you love me, I will deliver you; I will rescue you because you acknowledge my Name.**

**You will call upon me, and I will answer you; I will be with you in trouble; I will deliver you and honor you.**

**I will satisfy you with a long life and show you my salvation.**

## Mark 10:35-45

Zebedee's children James and John approached Jesus. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to grant our request."

"What is it?" Jesus asked. They replied, "See to it that we sit next to you, one at your right and one at your left, when you come into your glory."

Jesus told them, "You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup I will drink or be baptized in the same baptism as I?"

"We can," they replied. Jesus said in response, "From the cup I drink of, you will drink; the baptism I am immersed in, you will share. But as for sitting at my right or my left, that is not mine to give; it is for those to whom it has been reserved."

The other ten, on hearing this, became indignant at James and John. Jesus called them together and said, "You know how among the Gentiles those who exercise authority are domineering and arrogant; those 'great ones' know how to make their own importance felt. But it can't be like that with you. Anyone among you who aspires to greatness must serve the rest; whoever wants to rank first among you must serve the needs of all. The Promised One has come not to be served, but to serve--to give one life in ransom for the many."

### **Morning Message**

"How Will We Become Great Collectively?"

**Prayer Hymn**

"I Would be True"

#492  
see page 9

1 I would be true, for there are those who trust me; I would be  
 2 I would be friend of all, the foe, the friend-less; I would be  
 3 I would be prayer-ful through each bus-y mo-ment; I would be

pure, for there are those who care; I would be strong, for  
 giv-ing, and for-get the gift; I would be hum-ble,  
 con-stant-ly in touch with God; I would be tuned to

there is much to suf-fer; I would be brave, for  
 for I know my weak-ness; I would look up, and  
 sense God's slight-est whis-per; I would have faith to

there is much to dare, I would be brave, for there is much to dare.  
 laugh, and love, and live, I would look up, and laugh, and love, and live.  
 keep the path Christ trod, I would have faith to keep the path Christ trod.

*The first two stanzas of this hymn are from "My Creed," a poem that Howard Walter sent to his mother from Japan, where he taught English before becoming a Congregational minister. Walter died at the age of thirty-five while working for the Y.M.C.A. in India.*

Tune: PEEK 11.10.11.10.10.  
 Joseph Y. Peek, 1911

## 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**

**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**

#### **Offertory**

"Lord, You are so Precious to Me"

*Kendrick*

#### **\*\*\*Doxology**

"Praise God" by John Mueller

*sung twice*

**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**

**O God, your importance in our lives is reflected in our gifts. We return to you, through the ministry and outreach of this church, a portion of all you have entrusted to us. We promise that these offerings will not be the end of our giving. We will also invest our time and abilities in your work of healing, comforting, teaching, guiding, and proclaiming good news. Bless each gift, whatever its size, and multiply the good to be done through our time, talents, and treasure. Amen.**

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

#### **\*\*\*Singing** "Happy Birthday"

*..Happy birthday dear Emily, Sharri, Lori, BJ, Finley & Walt*

#### **\*\*\*Closing Hymn** "In the Midst of New Dimensions"

#391  
see page 12

#### **\*\*\*Benediction**

#### **\*\*\*Sung Response** Irish Blessing

*musicians sing through once, then all sing together*

**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**

"May We Have Peace"

*English Tune*

# \*\*\*In the Midst of New Dimensions

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,  
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo - ple, war-ring fac-tions and de - spair,  
 3 As we stand a world di - vid - ed by our own self - seek - ing schemes,  
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,  
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with - draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples wan-dering in their sep - arate ways?  
 Who will lift the ol - ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?  
 Grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage, might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams.  
 Each a gift in your cre - a - tion, each a love song to be sung.  
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir - it res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

*Refrain*  
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier - y pil - lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

people, ours the jour-ney now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

*Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).*

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain  
 Julian Rush, 1985  
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994

## **PRAYER CORNER**

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

\*For Sharon Neuenfeldt's brother Greg as he begins stem cell treatment as part of his fight with multiple myeloma. He will be in isolation for six weeks, receive chemo during that time, be left with no immunity, and then repeat all childhood vaccinations. He continues to manage pain from multiple fractures in disintegrating bones. We pray for healing.

\*For Sharon Neuenfeldt's brother Allen, awaiting results of a body scan for possibly recurring cancer.

\*For Mary Binger's daughter Erika (who was recently feeling "good" while visiting her mom), we pray for strength as she continues to battle her mysterious illness and chronic pain.

\*For the Vandre family, delighted that Eric's sister Lisa and partner Andrew welcomed newborn Alice Rose on October 1st!

\*For Jennifer Halverson-Albright and family as they grieve and support one another through two deaths in their extended family.

\*For the vitality of our enduring congregation, providing a spiritual space for worship and a warm welcome for newcomers.

\*We celebrate birthdays with Emily Mayaka (14yrs. old on the 11th), Sharri Kinkead & Lori Mildon (15th), BJ Stokes (18th), Finley Graf (2 yrs. old on the 21st) & Walt Richey (21st).

*And in the wider community...*

\*In the wake of the violent shooting Saturday evening at a bar in St. Paul, killing one and fourteen and injuring fourteen; we pray for those who are grieving, for healing, and for more sensible gun control legislation.

\*We pray for Indigenous people and their accomplices, fighting to protect water and to respect the dignity and integrity of all creation. May we listen, learn and amplify their voices.

\*For schools and their communities. With COVID cases on the rise, students and staff are out of buildings more and more. Prayers of healing for those affected, prayers of safety for all in schools, and prayers of guidance for schools as they navigate the uncertainty of it all.



## After-Worship Brunch

As our warm season for outdoor worship services at beautiful People's Park winds down, we'll celebrate on Sunday, **October 24**, with what Sue Favilla and Claire Spilseth promise will be a delicious After-Worship Brunch. They will provide all food and beverages.



## Anti Racism Collective

Following worship on **Sunday, October 31**, we will look at racism through the eyes of the NACCC. Over a twelve-month period, *The Congregationalist* magazine is publishing articles presenting different member viewpoints on the role of the church in confronting racism.

*See mid-week for more details.*

## We've Got Solar Power!

We offer deep gratitude to Milan Horak, Rolf Dittmann, Paul Spilseth and Dwight Morgan (brother to Claire Spilseth) for giving their time and labor to arrange for and accomplish this project.

And we offer deep gratitude to Dawn and Jere Fetter and Claire and Paul Spilseth for generous funding of the project.



We can proudly power our outdoor worship with solar for years to come!



## To All Teams & committees...

Your vision budgets are due to Bill Stokes on **Oct. 31.**



### All Saints Sunday | November 7th Is there anyone you'd like us to remember?

On All Saints Sunday, we will typically call to mind those who have died in the past year. We will light a candle, toll the bell, and say the name of each one during our worship service. This year, due to pandemic, we will

remember all who have died since we last gathered on an All Saints Sunday in 2019. Listed below are People's Church members as well as relatives and dear friends who have died since **November 3, 2019.** If you'd like to add someone to the list, please call or email Kimberly by Tuesday, **Nov. 2** giving the person's name and their relationship to you.

**Members** | Anne Knutson, Judy Hansen, Karen Joan Dahl, Donald (Don) Savage, Michael Madden

**From our wider circle** | Sharon Marie Ford, Dawn Stickel and Robin Laak, Kelsey Schroeder, Bruce Laiti, Lin Stephan, Thomas Kaye, Austin McDonald, Marcoz Paramo

*The Harvest Fest planning team has decided to postpone Harvest Fest as we've known it ...*

(an indoor event with a crowd of happy folks eating, shopping, and enjoying fellowship) and re-imagine what it could be. Can YOU imagine something on the land this Winter or Spring? We invite you to share your ideas and organizing energy!



**TASTE OF HARVEST FEST, November 14:** We all were looking forward to the delicious soups, bread and pie lunch of Harvest Fest, so we've decided to offer a mini-Harvest Fest luncheon immediately after church on Sunday, November 14, celebrating the culmination of our Stewardship Campaign. Depending on the weather, we will either eat outside or at safely distanced tables inside. Please volunteer to sign-up to make soup (recipe provided), bread, pie, server, or clean-up crew with Kimberly in the church office.

## 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



### Faith Conversations

Our adult education offering, in-person and zoomed

**OCT. 13 SESSION CANCELED**

(No more Wednesday 11 am gatherings)

We'll reboot soon...

Beginning Nov. 7th, we're shifting to Sundays, 10:45-11:45 am!

We'll enjoy 10:30 am After-Worship Fellowship.

Keep visiting with friends at the elevator end of the Fellowship Hall...

Or come join us for Faith Conversations in the Fireside Room.

*find the zoom 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)

Thank you for all who made today wonderful: Music Dir. Michael Bjork, PCC Choir, Worship Accompanist Sharon Neuenfeldt (beautiful music), Paula Richey (liturgist), Children's Activity leaders & assistants, Mary Maren Bjork & Sharon Binger (greeters), and Paul Spilseth (service recorder)



### People's Congregational Church

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