



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



October 31, 2021

"How Will We Enact Our Commitments?"

The Love of God Gathers Us

Gathering Music

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

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude

“At the Name of Jesus/Come Behold” arr C. Tornquist
Sharon Neuenfeldt

Words of Welcome

Pastor Clare Gromoll

*****Gathering Prayer**

Kathy Iverson

Holy One, we are your people, no matter the circumstances of our lives in past or present times. There are many options before us, but not all lead to the abundance of life you have to offer. May we cling to your promise that you are always there with us. Grant us discernment and the joy of your love. Open our spirits to the possibilities of new faith experiences. Amen.

*****Opening Hymn** “Teach Me, O Lord, Your Holy Way”

#465

Acknowledging Our Humanness and God’s Grace

*****Prayer of Longing**

Gracious God, we come before you to confess our sins.

When we have acted out of fear, when we have acted out of anger, when we have acted out of selfishness, we have sinned.

When our thoughts have been small-minded, when our thoughts have been unruly, when our thoughts have been bitter, we have sinned.

When our words have been unfeeling, when our words have been thoughtless, when our words have been admirable but empty, we have sinned.

When we have wasted your gifts and possibilities, when we have not lived out your love, we have sinned.

But you are the source of love and life, and we ask your forgiveness and your re-forming of our very selves, in the way of Jesus the Christ, our friend and 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!

Proclaiming God's Love

A Time with Young People

Pastor Clare invites children forward to gather with her

Special Music

“Water Is Life/Mni Wičoni”

by Sara Thomsen

See next page for song

Mni wičoni (mini wi-cho-nee) “Water is life” in Lakota/Dakota

Mitakuye Oyasin (mee-dah-koo-yeh o-yah-seen)

“All My Relations” in Lakota/Dakota

Inspired by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and all who joined together at Standing Rock to protect the Missouri River. It continues as a call to all of us to stand courageously to protect the waters everywhere.

Michael will teach us the chorus. We will sing with him each time it comes around.

Chorus: Mni wičoni, sing
Mni wičoni, sing
Mni wičoni,
Water is life for everything
We are the water, sing
We are the water, sing
We are the water
We are where all life begins

We are praying, come
We are praying, come
We are the song and we are the drum
We are one

We are the earth and sky
We are the thunder cries
We are the fire,
We are the light in your eyes

We are the river, come
We are the river, come
We are the boat, the paddle, the shore
We are one

All my relations, come
Every nation, come
All my relations under the sun
We are one

Chorus

Chorus

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

Ruth 1:1-18; Deuteronomy 6:1-9
The Inclusive Bible

Ruth 1:1-18

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there.

But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me." Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth said,

"Do not press me to leave you
or to turn back from following you!
Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people,
and your God my God.
Where you die, I will die—
there will I be buried.
May the Lord do thus and so to me,
and more as well,
if even death parts me from you!"

When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the ordinances—that the Lord your God charged me to teach you to observe in the land that you are about to cross into and occupy, so that you and your children and your children’s children may fear the Lord your God all the days of your life, and keep all his decrees and his commandments that I am commanding you, so that your days may be long. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe them diligently, so that it may go well with you, and so that you may multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has promised you.

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Morning Message

“How Will We Enact Our Commitments?”

Prayer Hymn

“Covenant Hymn”

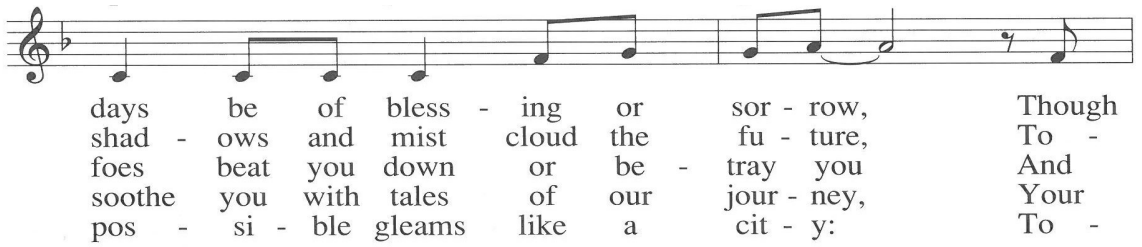
Gather #571



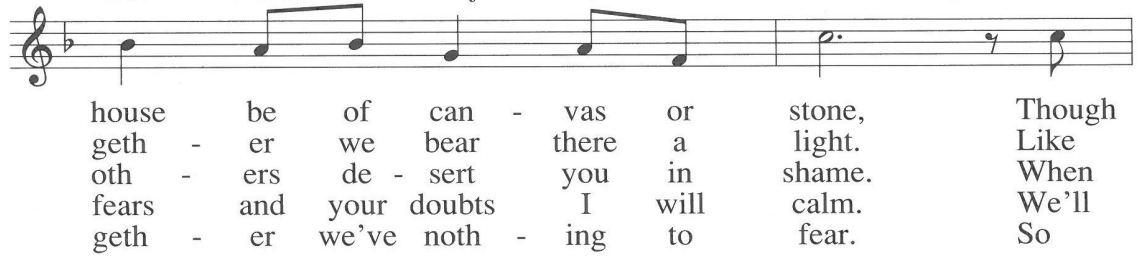
1. Wher - ev - er you go, I will fol - low, Wher -
2. What - ev - er you dream, I am with you, When
3. And though you should fall, you will find me, When
4. Wher - ev - er you die, I will be there To
5. Wher - ev - er you go, I will fol - low, Be -



ev - er you live is my home. Though
stars call your name in the night. Though
no oth - er friend can you claim, When
sing you to sleep with a psalm, To
hold! The ho - ri - zon shines clear. The



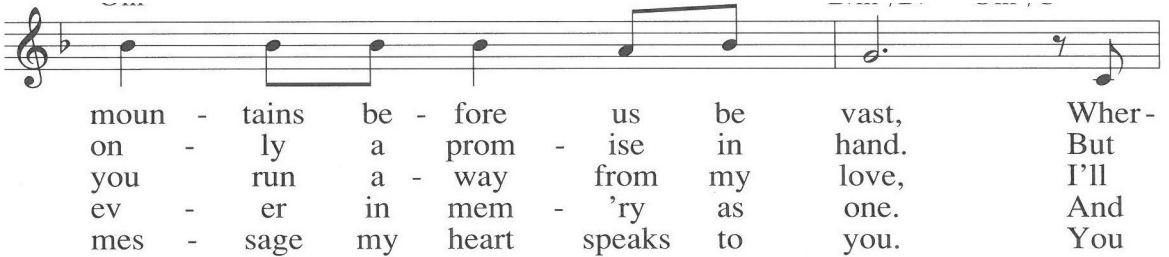
days be of bless - ing or sor - row, Though
shad - ows and mist cloud the fu - ture, To -
foes beat you down or be - tray you And
soothe you with tales of our jour - ney, Your
pos - si - ble gleams like a cit - y: To -



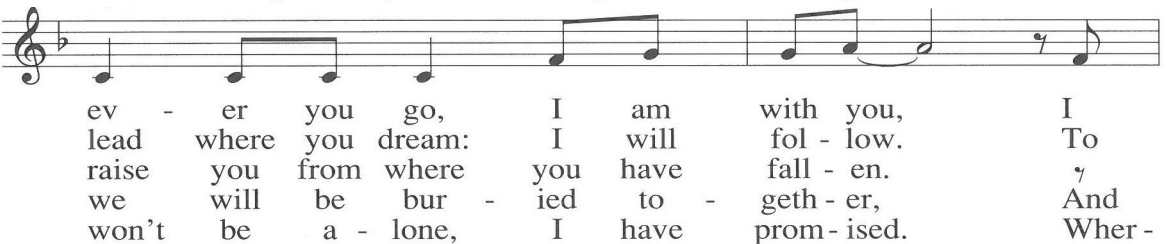
house be of can - vas or stone, Though
geth - er we bear there a light, Like
oth - ers de - sert you in shame. When
fears and your doubts I will calm. We'll
geth - er we've noth - ing to fear. So



E - den be lost to the past, Though
A - bram and Sar - ah we stand, With
home and dreams aren't e - nough, And
live when jour - neys are done, For -
speak with words bold and true The



moun - tains be - fore us be vast, Wher -
on - ly a prom - ise in hand. But
you run a - way from my love, I'll
ev - er in mem - 'ry as one. And
mes - sage my heart speaks to you. You



ev - er you go, I am with you, I
lead where you dream: I will fol - low. To
raise you from where you have fall - en. 7
we will be bur - ied to - geth - er, And
won't be a - lone, I have prom - ised. Wher -



nev - er will leave you a - lone.
dream with you is my de - light.
Faith - ful to you is my name.
wak - en to greet a new dawn.
ev - er you go, I am here.

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.**

Witnessing Steward

Paul Spilseth

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory "So, Have This Mind Among Yourselves"

English Tune



*****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**

**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 “Called as Partners in Christ's Service”** #495

*****Singing** “Happy Birthday”
..Happy birthday dear Drew, Jennifer & Michele

*****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**

Postlude “Bwana Awabarriki” *West African Song*

PRAYER CORNER

Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:

*For Kimberly Jackson, her mother Joan, and her brother Doug as they grieve in the wake of the swift death of Kimberly's father Gordon, who fell and sustained a fatal head injury.

*For Jah'verious, a student of BJ & Claire Stokes, as he heals from a traumatic brain injury sustained in an accident.

*For Evelyn Reichert, Emily Wulff's 90-year-old grandmother, who is currently on hospice for congestive heart failure. She is one of Emily's greatest influences in life, which is why Emily and Matt names their daughter after her.

*For the Siegels' daughter Jenna, who will have surgery on November 3rd. Her brain tumor has doubled in size across the past six months. In a very dangerous surgery that carries a high risk of stroke, they will remove the tumor and rebuild the sagittal sinus. This is her 6th surgery on the tumor since 2017. We pray for God's healing energy to surround Jenna, husband Kevin and daughter Emily (along with Cindy, John, and all who love Jenna).

*We celebrate birthdays with Drew Dittmann (28th), Jennifer Halvorsen-Albright (11/2), Michele Stephan (11/6).

And in the wider community...

*We celebrate increased access to vaccines at as young as 5 years of age.

*When we tend toward reacting from anger and fear, may we instead go deeper into sources of love and resilience to see one another more effectively and fully.

*In the wake of the recent violent shooting at a bar in St. Paul, we pray for those grieving the one who died, for fourteen healing from injuries, and for sensible gun control legislation.

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

*As the pandemic rages on (having killed 4.9 million people worldwide thus far, 9.7 million current cases in this land), may we each do our part to protect one another from the virus.



Kimberly will be out of the office beginning Oct. 29, returning to the office on Nov. 9.

There will be no Mid-Week on Nov. 3.

Pastor Clare will work from northern Wisconsin next Wednesday-Friday, Nov. 3-5. Feel free to contact her by email or phone during those days.

Faith Conversations



Faith Conversations

Our adult ed. Forum | in-person and zoomed

Most Sundays, 10:45-11:45 am

Nov. 7 Topic: God | "Faith is a Quest"

In 10-minute videos, contemporary progressive faith leaders present key concepts of God, religion, Jesus, salvation, cross, Bible, church. We'll explore biblical texts and faith concepts, applying them to our own lives.



Weekly Tai Chi Chih (A Gentle Form) with Mary Ann

Join newcomer, Mary Ann Litfin, for an introduction to Tai Chi Chih!

Nov. 2nd, at 10:00am, in the Fellowship Room, downstairs at church...

...and keep coming back every Tuesday morning!

This derivation of the martial art form of Tai Chi Ch'uan was developed by American, Justin Stone, to provide an art that is easier to learn and perform. Mary Ann leads each move as we stand in a circle facing each other, seeing it as an opportunity to invite Spirit into our midst.

Desired outcomes are improved balance, mind-body-soul Connection and a lovely opportunity to relax and be with beautiful people. Wear comfortable clothing!





**Holiday
Hope**

community thread

**This marks the 51st year of Community Thread's
Holiday Hope program.**

Donate gift cards – \$25 denominations
(please include or attach a gift receipt)

Grocery: Aldi, Cub Foods*, Hyvee

Gas Stations: BP, Holiday, Kwik Trip, Speedway

Retail: Amazon, Best Buy, Burlington, Five Below, Fleet Farm, HomeGoods,
Kohl's, Marshall's, Menards, Target*, TJ Maxx, Walmart*

General: MasterCard, Visa*

**most requested gift cards*

Please let Claire Stokes know by **Nov. 8** if you are willing to donate gift card(s)
this year and the total amount in gift cards you are giving
at walthocl@gmail.com | 612-759-8043.

(Kimberly has to turn in the sponsor form by Nov. 9.)

You will be sent a match (within 5 business days) and given their preferred
choice of gift card(s).

Do Not buy gift cards until you have been given a match.

All gift cards with a gift receipt are due back to the office by **Nov. 22**

Last year we helped 5 seniors with \$450.00 in gift cards.
Let's shoot for 10 seniors this year!

Thank you for all who made today wonderful: Music Dir. Michael Bjork, Worship
Accompanist Sharon Neuenfeldt (beautiful music), Kathy Iverson (liturgist),
Children's Activity leaders & assistants, Diane & Joe Legato
(after-worship fellowship) Kris Strasberg (greeter), and
Paul Spilseth (service recorder)




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