



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



December 12, 2021

3rd Sunday of Advent

"Joy: How Will We Participate In Salvation ?"



The Love of God Gathers Us

Gathering Music

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

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude

“Mary Had A Baby”

arr. M. Hayes

Words of Welcome

Pastor Clare Gromoll

*****Opening Hymn** “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” #107
Vs. 1-3

*****Advent Candle Lighting** Jonah Gromoll & Mindy Peters

One: Advent is a season of waiting and watching for God’s presence with us. Today we light the first candle of HOPE, the second candle of PEACE, and the third candle of JOY. As we seek to fulfill our congregation’s purpose; we are wondering, longing, and expecting the new life that God is bringing forth among us.

All: We welcome this new life that embraces all beings with hope, peace, joy, and love!

*****Advent Candle Song** “In the Darkness, Light a Light” *German carol*
words by Judith Melander



*****Prayer of Longing**

One: Holy Spirit, our very waiting in Advent is itself a confession:

All: If we are waiting for Emmanuel, we have not yet recognized your presence with us.

One: If we are waiting for a Savior, the proud are still powerful, the mighty are still exalted, the cries of the oppressed go unheard.

All: If we are waiting for your incarnation in human form, we confess that we have not known and loved you in our siblings, we have not served you in our neighbors.

One: In this time of great meaning, in the stillness of Advent joy and light, hear our deepest confession.

All: Heal us, and make us new through the good tidings of your presence in our lives. 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 the front row of pews

Blessing One Another

Seated, the congregation opens their arms to the children

Children : God be with you

All: And also with you

Children return to their families for the remainder of worship

We welcome our children's sounds and movements

Families are also welcome (if needing to move around more) to listen to the service from the play area in the Narthex or via the baby monitor in the Nursery downstairs

Choral Anthem

“The Yearning” *Written by Susan Bentall Boersma,
music by Craig Courtney*

There is a yearning in hearts weighed down
by ancient grief and centuries of sorrow.
There is a yearning in hearts that in the darkness hide
and in the shades of death abide,
a yearning for tomorrow.

There is a yearning, a yearning for the promised One,
the First-born of creation.
There is a yearning for the Lord who visited His own,
and by His death for sin atoned, to bring to us salvation.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts the yearning.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts the yearning.

There is a yearning that fills the hearts
of those who wait the day of His appearing.
There is a yearning when all our sorrows are erased
and we shall see the One
who placed within our hearts the yearning.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts the yearning.

Scriptures Isaiah 12:2-16; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18
The Inclusive Bible

Isaiah

You are my deliverer, O God!
I trust you and am no longer afraid of you—
you are my strength and my refuge.
you are my deliverer

With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.

And on that Day you will say:
“Give thanks to God,
invoke God’s holy Name!
Make known among all the people what God has done.
Proclaim that God’s Name is exalted.

Sing praises to God, for God has triumphed.
Let this be known throughout the world!

Cry out, shout aloud, you who dwell in Zion,
for the Holy One of Israel dwells among us in majesty!”

Philippians

Rejoice in the Savior always! I say it again: Rejoice!
Let everyone see your forbearing spirit. Our Savior is near.
Dismiss all anxiety from your minds; instead, present your needs to
God through prayer and petition, giving thanks for all circumstances.

Then God’s own peace, which is beyond all understanding, will stand
guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Luke

John said to the crowds who came out to be baptized by him, “You pack of snakes! Who warned you to escape the wrath to come? Produce good fruit as a sign of your repentance. And don’t presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Sarah and Abraham as our mother and father,’ for I tell you that God can raise children for Sarah and Abraham from these very stones. The ax is already laid at the root of the tree; every tree that doesn’t produce good fruit will be cut down and tossed into the fire.”

When the people asked him. “What should we do?” John replied, “Let the one with two coats share with the one who has none. Let those who have food do the same.”

Tax collectors also came to be baptized, and they said to John, “Teacher, what are we to do?” John answered them, “exact nothing over and above your fixed amount.”

Soldiers likewise asked, “What about us?” John told them, “Don’t bully anyone. Don’t accuse anyone falsely. Be content with your pay.”

The people were full of anticipation, wondering in their hearts whether John might be the Messiah. John answered them all by saying, “I am baptizing you in water, but someone is coming who is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not fit to untie! This One will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and in fire. A winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear the threshing floor and gather the wheat into the granary, but the chaff will be burnt in unquenchable fire.”

Using exhortations like this, John proclaimed the Good News to the people.

Morning Message

“Joy: How Will We Participate In Salvation?”

Prayer Hymn

“With Joy Draw Water”

#109

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

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

“Emmanuel”

McGee

*****Sung Response “In the Bleak Midwinter”**

**What can I offer, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise one, I would do my part;
but what can I offer: all my heart.**

*****Prayer of Dedication**

**Eternal God of time and space, we respond to you with joy.
Your generous provision for our needs prompts us to be generous
in return. Accomplish your purposes, we pray, through these gifts
and in our lives. Amen.**

Sharing in Holy Communion

*Holy Communion is open to members and friends of all ages
We welcome you in the name of Jesus,
whom we follow in the way of radically inclusive love*

*****The Invitation & Prayer**

Pastor: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to God.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

All: All-loving God, you are Creator of energy and matter, the heavens and the Earth. Therefore, we celebrate you - joining our voices with the wind and the streams, the animals and the flowers, the living and the dead (*pause*), the stars and the planets and all the company of creation, who forever sing their unending hymn to proclaim your glory. Amen.

*****Sung Response**

“Santo, Santo, Santo”

#111 CH

Sung twice - first in Spanish, then in English

see page 9

C G7 Am F G C

San - to, san - to, san - to. ¡Mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra! Mi
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you! My

F G7 C Am F G7 C

co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: ¡San - to e - res Señ - or!
 heart knows how to say to you: Ho - ly are you, Lord!

Words of Remembrance & Blessing

Sharing the Bread of Life & Cup of Blessing

Pastor Clare will cue us to partake of the elements

Sung Response

“Eat this Bread”

#414CH
 see page 10

G C Am D Bm

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and

Em Dsus D G D Em Bm

nev - er be hun - gry. Eat this bread, drink this cup,

C D G

trust in me and you will not thirst.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of all, because the broken bread has meant our healing, because the outpoured cup has meant our life, because our common sharing has meant the communion of our souls, and because we have been graced by your presence; we give you thanks and pray that our lives may be renewed in the life and the love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Going Forth to Share God's Love

*****Singing "Happy Birthday"**

..Happy birthday dear Michael, Milan & Peter

*****Closing Hymn "Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates"**

#117

*****Benediction**

*****Sung Response**

Irish Blessing
Sung twice

**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

"Oh How Joyfully"

Sicilian Melody

PRAYER CORNER

Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:

*For **Zack Peterson**, who is on a ventilator due to Covid. Zack is the son of former PCC member Joel Peterson and lifetime friend of the Dittmanns.

*For loved ones grieving the recent death of our friend **Gloria Phillips**. We trust she is now fully in God's peace and light beyond our imagining. Gloria's obituary can be found in the Stillwater Gazette.

*For **Jere Fetter**, who continues to manage pain in his upper leg, hoping upcoming physical therapy will help.

*We celebrate Michele Stephan's mother, **Dorothy Miels**, who turned 100 on November 26th. She lives in a West St. Paul home where she has lived for 70+ years.

*For Emily Wulff's "Grandma Dough," **Evelyn Reichert**, nearing the end of her life. For peace and comfort for Evelyn and her family.

*For **Sam Gromoll** as a fractured toe begins to heal after recently tripping and falling at home.

*For Aidan Gromoll's friend Anatasia's mother, **Natalja**, being treated for life-threatening injuries after a car accident in Latvia.

*For Sharon Neuenfeldt's brother **Greg**, who continues to battle multiple myeloma. He's he is in isolation, recovering from chemo and a t-cell transplant.

*For Pat Mazzitello's young friend **Olivia**, who is managing stomach paralysis and severe pancreatitis.

*For safe travels for **Aidan Gromoll**, who departed Saturday for Timisoara, Romania. She'll provide medical care at a welcome center for asylum seeker and refugees for three months. We also long for all global citizens to have access to basic necessities of safety, shelter, food and clean water.

cont...

*We celebrate birthdays with Michael Favilla, Milan Horak & Peter Favilla all on the 17th!

And in the wider community...

*When we feel fear and hate, may we find sources of grace and love to transform our impulse toward violence.

*In Oxford Michigan, may God's healing love be present with the loved ones of the four teenagers murdered by their classmates and the classmates injured by gunfire. And may we each become engaged in pushing for safer gun laws.

*As our US Supreme Court considers a Mississippi law that curtails women's reproductive rights, may our nine justices uphold the integrity of our democracy with wisdom and compassion.

*Having born witness to accountability in the murder of Ahmaud Arber, we pray for justice in the current trial related to the April killing of Daunte Wright. Grant each of us the courage to keep pushing ourselves toward antiracist ideas and our nation toward antiracist policies.

*As the pandemic rages on, with 9.8 million active cases in this land (which is 45% of confirmed active cases in the world). As a congregation, may we continue to protect each other and new friends during this Advent season.

Christmas Solstice & Christmas Eve Services

A Light in the Darkness:
A Contemplative Christmas Solstice Service
Dec. 21, 7 pm | Fellowship 8 pm

Christmas Eve Service | 7 pm
Fellowship 8:15 - 8:45 pm
Christmas Eve Service | 9 pm

Please RSVP for these three worship services!

Seating is limited due to Covid safety protocols.
We will hold several seats for walk-ins visitors.

651-4396-5667 office@peoplescongregational.org

Flyer in Narthex, please share with a friend

Faith Conversations



Faith Conversations

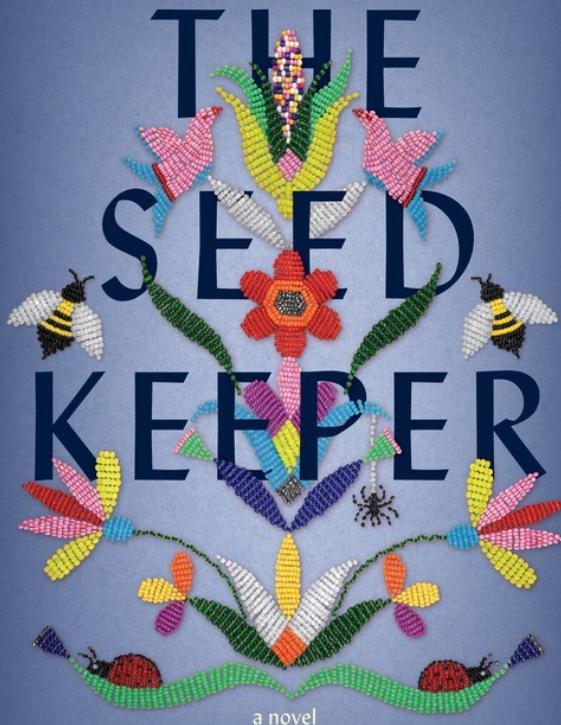
Our adult ed. Forum | in-person and zoomed
Most Sundays, 11-11:45 am

Join us in the Fireside Room. Bring your 10:30 am after-worship fellowship treats with you!

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.

Dec. 19 Topic: Cross | "Where God Is"
on break Dec. 12 & 26, Jan. 2

"Compelling . . . *The Seed Keeper* invokes the strength that women, land, and plants have shared with one another through the generations." —ROBIN WALL KIMMERER



a novel

DIANE WILSON

PCC Book Club

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

Calling all readers! We will read local Dakota author Diane Wilson's debut novel,
The Seed Keeper, in January.

Hybrid gatherings
(Zoomed & In-person at church)

Jan. 13 & 27, 6:30 – 8 pm

If interested please contact
Pastor Clare
pastor@peoplescongregational.org
651-600-6409

Join us after worship service for...

Planning, Budget & Elections Congregational Meeting

Brunch starts at 10:30 am and continues through the meeting



- Elect members to Leadership Team positions for 2022
 - Review current year goals, plans, financial status
- Share ideas and priorities for new and continuing programs, activities, goals, plans for 2022
 - Discuss budget and resource needs for 2022

Thank you for all who made today wonderful: Music Dir. Michael Bjork, PCC Choir & Worship Accompanist Sharon Neuenfeldt (beautiful music), Mindy Peters (liturgist), Jonah Gromoll (acolyte), Carol Dusbabek (Children's worship bags), Kris Strasburg & Cheri Schwartz (greeters), Sue Favilla & Brunch Team (fellowship hosts), Paul Spilseth (recorder), Matt Wulff (moderator)



People's Congregational Church

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