



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



December 26, 2021

*"Singing Our Faith in Christmastide"*

## The Love of God Gathers Us

### **Gathering Music**

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

### **Ring of the Bell**

#### **Prelude**

“I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”

*Calkin*

#### **Words of Welcome**

Pastor Clare Gromoll

#### **\*\*\*Opening Carol**

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

#129

### **Prayer of Gathering**

**O God in Jesus, the Christ Child, we greet this morning with joy. You lift our spirits by coming to share in our human situation. We thank you for Christmas joy—for gifts, for friendships renewed, and for hearts warmed by the love of dear ones and greetings between strangers. Even as we greet this morning with joy, we ask you to transform our joy into new lives, as we find ourselves and each other in the new life of Christ Jesus. Amen.**

#### **Carol**

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

#126

## Acknowledging Our Humanness and God’s Grace

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

**Incarnate God, help us to discover the true meaning and joy that lie beneath the surface of this holy Season of Christmastide. Help us to see beyond the baby in the manger to the child, adolescent and adult Jesus became. Guide us to test our lives by his teachings and example. Enable us to see beyond Jesus to your incredible love reaching out to us in human life, giving wisdom and power for our journeys. Then send us out to spread the good news that you are born among us, living in our neighborhood. Through Jesus, the Christ we pray.  
Amen.**

*prayerful silence*

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

*We safely share a sign of peace with those nearest to us*

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*

<b>Carol</b>	<b>“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”</b>	<b>#131</b>
<b>Scriptures</b>	Isaiah 52: 7-10; Luke 2: 41-52 <i>The Inclusive Bible</i>	Carol Dusbabek

Isaiah 52: 7-10

How welcome upon the mountains are the feet of one who brings good news—  
who announces peace, and brings news of happy things,  
and proclaims deliverance, saying to Zion, “Your God reigns!”

Listen! Those who keep watch raise a cry, together they shout for joy—  
for they see with their own eyes God’s restoration of Zion!

Break out together in song, O ruins of Jerusalem! For God comforts the people,  
and redeems Jerusalem.

God bares a holy arm, in the sight of all the nations;  
all the ends of the Earth will behold the salvation of our God!

Luke 2: 41-52

The parents of Jesus used to go every year to Jerusalem for the feast of  
Passover, and when Jesus was twelve, they went up for the celebration as was  
their custom. As they were returning at the end of the feast, the child Jesus  
remained behind in Jerusalem, unbeknownst to Mary and Joseph.  
Thinking Jesus was in their caravan, they continued their journey for the day,  
looking for him among their relatives and acquaintances.

Not finding Jesus, they returned to Jerusalem in search of him.

On the third day, they came upon Jesus in the Temple,  
sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them asking them questions.  
All who heard Jesus were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

When Mary and Joseph saw Jesus, they were astonished, and Mary said,  
“Son, why have you done this to us? You see that your father and I have been  
worried, looking for you.” Jesus said to them, “Why were you looking for me?  
Did you not know I has to be in my Abba’s house?”

But they didn’t understand what he told them.

Then Jesus went down with them to Nazareth and was obedient to them.

Mary stored these things in her heart,  
and Jesus grew in wisdom, in years and in favor with God and people alike.

**Carol**                            “Once in Royal David’s City”                            #145  
**A Brief Christmastide Message**

**Carol**                            “Who Would Think That What Was Needed”                            #153

**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**

**Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,  
Holy and blessed is your true name.  
We pray for your reign of peace to come,  
We pray that your good will be done,  
Let heaven and Earth become one.  
Give us this day the bread we need,  
Give it to those who have none.  
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,  
From each one to each one.  
Lead us to holy innocence  
Beyond the evil of our days —  
Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.  
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:  
Forever your name is All in One.  
Amen.**

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Carol**

**“Little Drummer Boy”**

**Come they told me Pa rum pum pum pum  
A new born king to see Pa rum pum pum pum  
Our finest gifts we bring Pa rum pum pum pum  
To lay before the king Pa rum pum pum pum,  
Rum pum pum pum, Rum pum pum pum  
So to honor him Pa rum pum pum pum  
When we come**

**Little baby Pa rum pum pum pum  
I am a poor boy too Pa rum pum pum pum  
I have no gift to bring Pa rum pum pum pum  
That's fit to give our king Pa rum pum pum pum,  
Rum pum pum pum, Rum pum pum pum  
Shall I play for you Pa rum pum pum pum  
On my drum**

**Mary nodded Pa rum pum pum pum  
The ox and lamb kept time Pa rum pum pum pum  
I played my drum for him Pa rum pum pum pum  
I played my best for him Pa rum pum pum pum,  
Rum pum pum pum, Rum pum pum pum  
Then he smiled at me Pa rum pum pum pum  
Me and my drum**

**Offertory**

**“Do you Hear What I Hear”**

*Shayne*

**\*\*\*Offertory 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**

**O God, your love surpasses our understanding. Yet we trust your generous love at work in our lives. Use our gifts to expand your realm of HOPE, of PEACE, of JOY, of LOVE for all—in this Christmas season and far beyond. Amen!**

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

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

*..Happy birthday dear Jessica and Eddy*

**\*\*\*Closing Carol "Go Tell It on the Mountain"**

#154

**\*\*\*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 "Go Tell It on the Mountain" *African/American Spiritual***

We encourage donations to “Offering & Tithes” (our general fund). Scanning the QR Code takes you to the “Giving” page of our website.



### Upcoming Worship Services:

**Jan. 2** | “Milk & Honey” around the firepit @ People’s Park, 9:30 am

**Jan. 9** | Guest preacher leads worship, 9:30 am

### Save the Date!

**Jan. 23** | Antiracism Collective Sacred Conversation ~ following worship we will look at “The Bad & The Good: Racism, Christianity & The Congregational Church”

**Jan. 30** | Annual Meeting of the congregation

Thank you for all who made today wonderful:  
Worship Accompanist Sharon Neuenfeldt (beautiful music),  
Carol Dusbabek (liturgist), Mary Maren Bjork (greeter),  
Kathy & Bob Iverson (fellowship hosts)  
and Paul Spilseth (recorder)



### People’s Congregational Church

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