



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



December 5, 2021

2nd Sunday of Advent



"Peace: Will We Be Ready To Receive Christmas?"

The Love of God Gathers Us

Gathering Music

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

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude

“Dona Nobis Pacem”

arr. Thompson
Sharon Neuenfeldt

Words of Welcome

Pastor Clare Gromoll

*****Opening Hymn**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

#116

Vs. 1-2, 6-7

*****Advent Candle Lighting**

Zoey & Eddy Graf, Mary Maren Bjork

One: Advent is a season of waiting and watching for God’s presence with us. Today we light the first candle of HOPE and the second candle of PEACE. 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



In the dark - ness, light a light, Ad - vent can - dle, warm and bright, Fire of peace in



dark of night. Em - man - u - el! We wait for you, O Je - sus.

*****Prayer of Longing**

Compassionate God, greet us with your grace this day, for we need you. We need the peace you offer. We cannot save ourselves. Today we would be quiet enough to hear your voice. Today we would be still enough to feel your touch. Help us to prepare a place where we receive as well as give, wait as well as act, listen as well as speak. Our whole world needs your peace. We come before you, longing to learn your ways. Come to us now, through Jesus the Christ. 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

Duet

“Drawing Nearer”

by Christopher Grundy

Sung by Dale Shaller & Michael Bjork

**Even in the midst of all of this
trouble on the news, no peace within
still there is a light in the distance
drawing nearer, drawing nearer.**

**So, open up our eyes to see your light
open up our arms, they're clenched so tightly
come in like a thief and steal our hearts
like a baby, like a baby.**

Even in the midst of all of this...

Blessing One Another

Seated, the congregation opens their arms to the children

Children : God be with you

All: And also with you

Children may follow leaders to Children's Activity or remain in worship

Scriptures Malachi 3:1-4; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

The Inclusive Bible

Malachi

Well, pay attention!

I am sending my messenger

To prepare the way for me;

The One you seek will suddenly come to the Temple,

The messenger of the covenant whom you long for will come,
says God Omnipotent.

But who can endure the day of that coming?

Who can stand firm with that One appears?

That day will be like a smelter's fire, a launderer's soap.

The One will preside as refiner and purifier,

purifying the children of Levi,

refining them like gold and silver—

then they will once again

make offerings to God in righteousness.

Then the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem
will be pleasing to God as they were in former days,
in years long past.

Philippians

I thank my God every time I think of you. In every prayer I utter, as I plead on your behalf, I rejoice at the way you have all continually helped promote the Good News from the very first day. And I am sure of this much: that God, who has begun the good work in you, will carry it through to completion, right up to the day of Christ Jesus. It's only right that I should entertain such expectations about you, since I hold all of you dear—you are all partakers of grace with me, even when I lie in prison or am summoned to defend the solid ground on which the Good News rests.

God knows how much I long for each of you with all the affection of Christ Jesus! My prayer is that your love may abound more and more, both in understanding and in wealth of experience, so that with a clear conscience and blameless conduct you may learn to value the things that really matter, up to the very day of Christ. It's my wish that you be found rich in the harvest of justice which Jesus Christ has ripened in you, to the glory and praise of God.

Luke

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, Philip his brother tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene.

In those days, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the Word of God came to John, ben-Zechariah, in the desert. John went through the entire region of the Jordan proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as is written in the words of Isaiah, the prophet:

“A herald's voice in the desert, crying,
‘Make ready the way of our God;
clear a straight path.
Every valley will be filled,
and every mountain and hill will be leveled.
The twisted paths will be made straight,
and the rough road smooth—
and all humankind will see the salvation of God.’ ”

Morning Message

“Peace: Will We Be Ready To Receive Christmas?”

Prayer Hymn “Toda la Tierra / All Earth is Waiting”

#121

*Vs. 1 - solo (Spanish), Vs. 2 - **all** (English), Vs. 3 - solo (Span.), Vs. 4 - **all** (Eng.)*

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.*

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

Offertory

“Prayer of Peace”

unknown



*****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**

**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** “Now Bless the God of Israel”

#110

*****Benediction**

*****Sung Response** “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

by Jill Jackson-Miller and Sy Miller

**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

“I Will Give You Peace”

Ylvisaker

PRAYER CORNER

Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:

*As our friend **Gloria Phillips** nears the end of her life, may the love of God enfold her in deep peace and surround her loved ones in their time of anticipatory grief.

*For Sharon Neuenfeldt's brother **Greg**, continuing to battle multiple myeloma, having recently started chemo and a t-cell transplant while also enduring the complication of a blood clot.

*For Pat Mazzitello's young friend **Olivia**, hospitalized with stomach paralysis and severe pancreatitis.

And in the wider community...

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

*We lament how the verdict in the Rittenhouse trial emboldens white supremacist terror. We take a breath with our black and brown neighbors, bearing witness to accountability in the murder of Ahmaud Arbery. May God grant us courage to keep pushing ourselves toward antiracist ideas and our nation toward antiracist policies.

*As the pandemic rages on, may we each continue to do what we can to protect one another from the virus. May we welcome new friends into our church this Advent season while continuing to prioritize the safety of all.



Volunteers Needed | **Advent**

Seeking **Advent Wreath candle lighters (acolytes)** for:

Dec. 21 @ 7 pm & Dec 24 @ 9 pm

(a lay reader accompanies the lighting with simple words)

Seeking **Greeters** for:

Dec 19, Dec 24 @ 7 pm, Dec 24 @ 9 pm & Dec 26

Please let Kimberly know what dates you are able to participate 651-439-5667
office@peoplescongregational.org



Curious about what it means to be a greeter?

- Arrive by 9:15. Find your clipboard and materials by the pulpit.
- Turn on all lights in the breaker box - 5 buttons on top that do not have tape covering them.
- Light all candles.
- Welcome people warmly as they arrive. Help a visitor find a seat.
- Ring the bell as worship begins - you need to pull down hard on this bell.
- Take attendance.
- Pass around any prayer cards for signing during worship (cued by Pastor Clare).
- Immediately following the service, collect and count offering money (detailed instructions on back of clipboard).
- In the sanctuary, pick up all used bulletins and put them into Kimberly's bin on her door.
- Extinguish all candles, turn off sanctuary lights, and lock the front door.

Thank you for volunteering!

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

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. 5 Topic: Salvation | "Abundant Life Now"
Dec. 12 on break (resumes Dec. 19)

Time of Wonder Advent 2021 Calendar

A holiday offering from the People's Antiracism Collective

From the Antiracism Collective (ARC)

Last Sunday, the Antiracism Collective offered worshippers the gift of a "Time of Wonder" Advent calendar. (You can find copies in the Narthex.) Each day includes an opportunity to challenge racism by opening ourselves to the lives and stories of people we might not otherwise know. The activities are varied - some are educational, others historic, some entertain or challenge, and some are ideal for families - but all can open our hearts and minds to the wondrous diversity of humanity created in God's image.

The online version of the calendar is available in the Mid-Week, with clickable links to many of the daily activities. We hope they will be just the start of your search for wonder through the Advent season and into the New Year.

Dec 12 @ 10:45 am (in-person & Zoom)
Planning, Budget & Elections Congregational Meeting
Brunch starts at 10:30 am and continues through the meeting



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

Thank you for all who made today wonderful: Music Dir. Michael Bjork, Dale Shaller & Worship Accompanist Sharon Neuenfeldt (beautiful music), Mary Maren Bjork (liturgist), Zoey & Eddy Graf (acolytes), Children's Activity leaders & assistants, Jill Greenhalgh (greeter), Lori Mildon & Aidan Gromoll (fellowship hosts), Paul Spilseth (recorder) and Jill Greenhalgh (Faith Conversations facilitator).



People's Congregational Church

Rev. Clare Gromoll, Pastor ~ pastor@peoplescongregational.org
309 Third St. N, Bayport MN 55003-1028
(651) 439-5667 / office@peoplescongregational.org
www.peoplescongregational.org  [@PCCBayport](https://www.facebook.com/PCCBayport)

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