

Second Wednesday in Lent

March 16, 2022 | 5:30 pm



“Rhythm”

Gathering Music

Sharon Neuenfeldt

*You are invited to quietly greet others as you settle into sacred time and space
Candles represent the light of Christ among us*

Words of Welcome

Mindy Peters

Holden Evening Prayer Service

*You are invited to join in singing the parts marked “all”
As we repeat this liturgy each Wednesday, it will become familiar to us*

Readings

One: May our prayers come before you, O God, as incense, and may your presence surround and fill us, so that in union with all creation, we might sing your praise and your love in our lives.

All: Amen

From “The Rhythm of Creation” (in *Sabbath*)

The fruit contains the seed, and the seed contains the fruit. What we harvest in this season provides the seed for the next season. In Sabbath time we taste the fruit of our labor, and prepare the seed for the week to come. If we are too busy, if we do not rest, we miss this rhythm...

We do not gauge the value of the seasons by how quickly they progress from one to the next. Every season brings forth its bounty in its own time, and our life is richer when we can take time to savor the fruit of each. In the fall we chop and carry our wood, gather the harvest, rake leaves, prepare our home for winter, and give thanks. In winter we are dormant, a time for quiet generousities, and reflection on the endurance of inner light in the midst of darkness. In spring we prepare the soil for planting, we prune what has been lost or dried up, we feed the soil and plant what is needed, and take delight in the flowers. In summer we tend the garden, watch for weeds and crowding, thin what needs air and sun, at rest in the freedom of long days and warm nights, losing ourselves in the gift of sweet air and time. (p. 67)

Ecclesiastes 1:9, 3:1 ~ NRSV

What has been is what will be,
and what has been done is what will be done;
and there is nothing new under the sun...
For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven.

From “Hurtling Toward the Eschaton” (in *Sabbath*)

This, then, is the theology of progress. Only when we get to the ends can we lie down in green pastures, be led beside still waters, and allow our soul to be restored. This is the psalm we sing when people have died. This is the psalm we save for death, because in the world of progress, you do not rest in green pastures, you do not lie beside still waters, there is no time. Never in this life, only in the next. Only when we get to the promised land.

But we must ask this question: What if we are not going anywhere? What if we are simply living and growing within an ever-deepening cycle of rhythms, perhaps getting wiser, perhaps learning to be kind, and hopefully passing whatever we have learned to our children? What if our life, rough-hewn from the stuff of creation, orbits around a God who never ceases to create new beginnings? What if our life is simply a time when we are blessed with both sadness and joy, health and disease, courage and fear—and all the while we work, pray and love, knowing that the promised land we seek is already present in the very gift of life itself, the inestimable privilege of a human birth? What if this single human life is itself the jewel in the lotus, the treasure hidden in the field, the pearl of great price? What if all the way to heaven is heaven? (p. 37)

Psalm 23 ~ Psalms for Praying, by Nan Merrill

**O my Beloved, you are my shepherd,
I shall not want;
You bring me to green pastures for rest
and lead me beside still waters, renewing my spirit.
You restore my soul.
You lead me in the path of goodness
to follow Love's way.
Even though I walk
through the valley of the shadow and of death,
I am not afraid;
For You are ever with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they guide me,
they give me strength and comfort.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of all my fears;
you bless me with oil,
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy will follow me
all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the heart of the Beloved forever.**

**One: The light shines in the darkness...
All: ... and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Benediction

Parting Music

We carry the light of Christ with us in all times and spaces

All are invited to a soup supper downstairs, immediately following this service and to a discussion on the topic of rest, downstairs and Zoomed at 6:30pm



We support the work of our church with financial gifts as we have means to do so. Please consider leaving a gift in the offering plate as you depart or scanning this QR code to give electronically. We also gladly receive checks mailed to the church office.



The Gertens flower and plant sale is now LIVE.

This is a great opportunity to financially support the church (we receive 30% of all plant sales and 15% of all gift card sales!!) AND you will have beautiful plants for your summer garden!!

THE LAST DAY to order is April 6.

See Mid-Week for downloadable brochure & how to order

Thank you for all who made today wonderful: Music Dir. Michael Bjork, Worship Accompanist Sharon Neuenfeldt & Cheri Schwartz (beautiful music), Mindy Peters (liturgist), Bob Dickie & Jane Hanson (Greeters), Jenni Shaller (Chancel decoration), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech), Mindy Peters & Cheri Schwartz (6 pm soup supper host) & Walt Richey (6:30 topical discussion co-host)



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

Credits & Permissions | *Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal and Delight in your busy lives*, Wayne Muller. | *Psalm 23: Psalms for Praying* by Nan Merrill, *Ecclesiastes 1:9, 3:1* - NRSV | *Holden Evening Prayer Service*, Marty Haugen