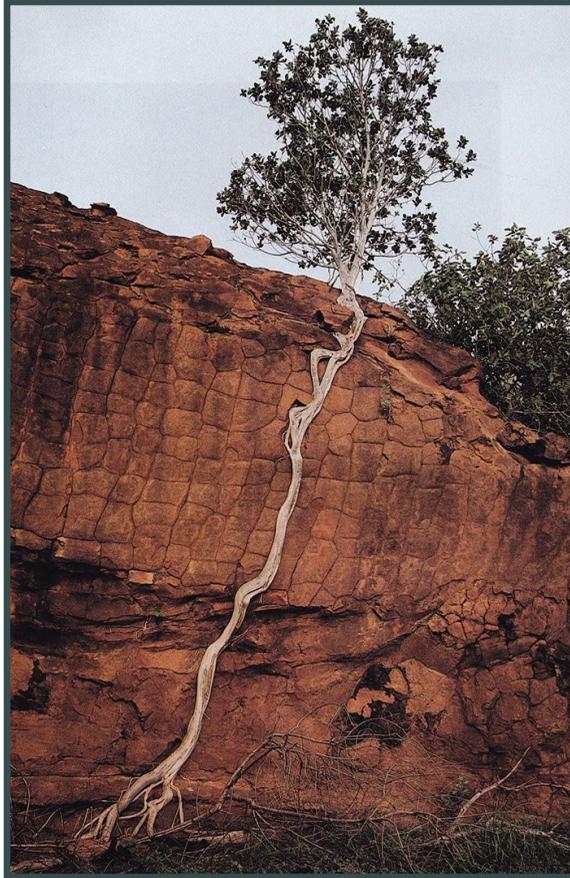




*"An inclusive community, celebrating God's unconditional love
through engaging worship and faithful service"*



March 13, 2022

“What Holy Longings Will You Pursue?”
Second Sunday in Lent

The Love of God Gathers Us

Gathering Music

*You are invited to greet those around you or sit quietly
as we settle into sacred time and space*

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude & Candle Lighting

“Gayon ni hingami”

trad Philippines

Candles represent the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome

Pastor Clare Gromoll

*****Prayer of Gathering**

Mary Binger

One: O God, as we move along our Lenten journey, we remember travelers.

All: Those who are traveling by choice—for work, to see friends and family, to experience new places and communities.

One: Those forced to travel—leaving their homes because of fire, flood, or war.

All: Those leaving their countries due to fear of violence, hoping to resettle in safer places.

One: Those on a journey toward recovery from addiction, shifting away from a destructive habit or toward deeper self-compassion.

All: For all travelers, grant strength for the journey.

One: As people free to travel along a faith journey, we seek to worship you with our whole selves.

All: Show us your face, O God—a glimpse of your eternal love. Amen.

*****Opening Hymn**

“Children of God”

#533

Vs. 1 & 3

***Sitting or standing

Acknowledging Our Humanness & God's Grace

*****Prayer of Longing**

One: Strong and tender God, we have heard whispers of your grace this week .

All: Your whispers have come from unlikely voices, and our ears and hearts have not always been receptive.

One: Your whispers have challenged and humbled us in new ways.

All: Your whispers call us to places that look unfamiliar and risky. For times we've ignored your whispered call, we ask your forgiveness, God.

One: We have also heard your songs of grace, which have stayed with us.

All: In the faithful warmth of a friend. In the loving reminders of family.

One: In the unexpected kindness of strangers.

All: In random beauty—heard, seen, tasted, smelled, felt.

One: Songs of grace known in deep places.

All: For these songs of grace, we are grateful. May we choose to be carriers of goodness and grace. Amen.

prayerful silence

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

We share a sign of peace with those gathered with us now (in-person, virtually)

We extend the peace later in the day (by phone call, email or text message)

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you! **All: And also with you!**

Proclaiming God's Love

A Time with Children

Pastor Clare invites children forward (to the Chancel steps) to wonder together

Sung Invitation *We sing as the children come forward*

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, oh let it shine.**

Singing "Happy Birthday"

*..Happy birthday dear Trevor (Stokes), Stan (Hillard), Jim (Purnick)
& Jonah (Gromoll)*

Blessing One Another

Seated, we open our 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

Sung Affirmation *We sing as our children return to families*

**Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, oh let it shine.**

If needing to move around more, families are welcome to listen to the service from the Narthex play area, Meditation Room, or via baby monitor in the Nursery downstairs

Scripture Readings

Psalm: 27: 1-6, 13-14 ~ NRSV

All join in the refrain
Cantor sings the verses

Unison

God is my strong sal - va - tion: What foe have I to fear?

R

- 1 The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
**The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?**
- 2 When evildoers assail me
to devour my flesh—
**my adversaries and foes—
they shall stumble and fall.**
- 3 Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
**though war rise up against me,
yet I will be confident.**
- 4 One thing I asked of the LORD,
that will I seek after:
**to live in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,**
to behold the beauty of the LORD,
and to inquire in God's temple. R
- 5 God will hide me in a shelter
in the day of trouble;
**will conceal me under the cover of a tent;
and will set me high on a rock.**
- 6 Now my head is lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
**and I will offer in God's tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**
- 13 I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living.
- 14 **Wait for the LORD;
be strong, and let your heart take courage.
Wait for the LORD! R**

Just then, some Pharisees came to Jesus and said, “You need to get out of town, and fast. Herod is trying to kill you.” Jesus replied,

“Go tell that fox, ‘Today and tomorrow, I’ll be casting out devils and healing people, and on the third day I’ll reach my goal.’ Even with all that, I’ll need to continue on my journey today, tomorrow and the day after that, since no prophet can be allowed to die anywhere except in Jerusalem.

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem! You kill the prophets and stone those who are sent to you! How often have I wanted to gather your children together as a mother bird collects her babies under her wings—yet you refuse me! So take note: your house will be left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is the One who comes in the name of God!’”

Morning Message “What Holy Longings Will You Pursue?”

Responding To God’s Love

Prayer Hymn “O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns”

#212

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

*To include a prayer in our Prayer Corner in coming days,
please share it with Pastor Clare (by email, phone call or text message) later today
or with Kimberly in the church office while Pastor Clare is away next week*

One: God, in your love,

All: Hear our prayer

Musical Interlude

We listen for our own prayers to quietly arise

Prayer of Jesus

**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.**

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“A Shield Around Me”

Thomas/Williams

We support the work of our church with financial gifts as we have means to do so

*Please consider leaving a gift in an offering plate at either exit,
scan the QR code to give electronically, or mail in a check*

***Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**



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

*All bread is gluten free, spaced out across a tray
Juice is served in individual cups*

*At the Communion Table, please take a piece of bread and a cup without touching others
Consume the elements as you step away from the table*

Place your empty cup in a receptacle at the outer edge of either front row pew

*****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”

CH #111

Sung twice - first in Spanish, then in English

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

Please approach the Communion Table by the central aisle, returning by the side aisles

Sung Response

“Eat this Bread”

CH #414

Sung multiple times as we come forward to receive Communion

see page 10

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

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

trust in me and you will not thirst.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving

Strong and tender God, because the broken bread has meant our healing, because the out poured 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

*****Closing Hymn**

“Christ be Our Light”

Gather #590

Verse 1

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

Verse 2

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice. **Refrain**

Verse 3

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. **Refrain**

Verse 4

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. **Refrain**

Verse 5

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come. **Refrain**

*****Benediction**

*****Sung Response**

Irish Blessing

musicians sing through once, then all sing together

**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

“As You Go Your Way”

anonymous

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

*All are welcome to join us downstairs after worship
10:30 am Fellowship | 11 am Faith Conversations*

**Pastor Clare will be on vacation March 14-21
Kimberly will be in the office (Tu-Th, March 15-17)**

PRAYER CORNER

Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:

* We rejoice with Michael Bjork's Kindergarten student **Olivia**, who has survived three strokes and recovered well enough to attend school part-time. May she continue to heal and thrive.

*We sit with **Jackie Savage** as she and others continue to grieve the death (one year ago, March 6) of her beloved spouse Don Savage. And we sit with **Sharri Kinkead** as she and others continue to grieve the death of her beloved spouse Michael Madden (one year ago, March 10th).

*We offer gratitude for **Aidan Gromoll's** safe return from Romania this past Thursday. She had been providing medical care in a refugee camp.

*We offer gratitude alongside **Bob Dickie and Cindy Parsons**, both recovering from recent Covid infections. We give thanks for science, vaccines, and public health workers who tirelessly encourage vaccination.

*We celebrate birthdays with **Trevor Stokes** (10th), **Stan Hillard** (12th), **Jim Purnick** (13th) & **Jonah Gromoll** (5 yrs. old on the 18th)

And in the wider community...

*For this congregation, grateful for the journey we are taking together through Lent and for our collaborative work toward welcoming our wider community to our May Festival.

*For the well-being and safety of the people of Ukraine. May we give what we can financially in ways that assist and sustain the most vulnerable in the context of the war. May there be justice-based peace sooner than soon.

*For all who struggle with chronic pain due to mental, chemical, and physical health challenges. May we honor our struggles and share the light of your compassion.

*For fairness and respect in the confirmation process for Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, nominee to the United States Supreme Court.



Contact Kimberly for a downloadable pdf of the event flyer

Visit and share our May Fest [webpage](#) (on our website)

Visit and share our May Festival [Facebook event](#) (mark yourself as "going!")

Ways to help out right away:

Post our flyer in several locations! - We have a stack of printed flyers in the Narthex and a list of 75+ locations in the St.

Croix Valley where we would like them posted. Please plan to pick up several and mark where you will post them (feel free to add locations to our list). Please let Sue or Jane know if you have already posted it somewhere!

Calling People's Crafters (from Carol) - "People's Crafters - I know you're out there. Please let me know what you're working on for May Fest" (cjdusb1@gmail.com, 651-285-5638)

NOTE: Some members & friends will exhibit as a group display, giving all of their proceeds to our church. Our team also encourages members and friends to have their own booth instead if you wish (\$25 fee, 15% of gross sales go to church, see the [Exhibitor Agreement Form](#) on website for details).

Call for Seasonal Silent Auction Items (from Claire) - "Think Summer! The May Festival seeks gifts for a small Auction of items that are especially suitable for use in the summer months! Trips, Pots and Plants, Art, Equipment, Lessons, Experiences. Contact me with your ideas." Claire Spilseth (651)-439-5568

Join our "Fun and Games" Team (from Sharon) - "Festivals are fun! If you want to have even more fun, please consider volunteering for the "Fun and Games" team. We are thinking about raising a Maypole, potting plants, bingo, bean bag toss... and we're looking for more great ideas and people to help that day." If interested, please contact Sharon Binger (Itlyfreely@gmail.com).

Faith Conversations



Faith Conversations

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

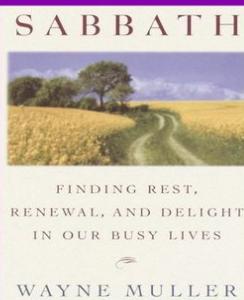
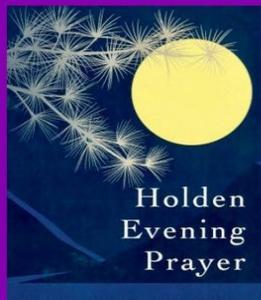
We continue our series called "Animate: Practices" - an introduction to central practices of the Christian faith. A contemporary progressive faith leader presents the topic in a 10-minute provocative video, then we engage in fruitful discussion. Jump in any week!

Today's Topic: Money | The Joy of Sharing



NEW! - Healing Prayer

Such power can be shared when we name our need for the touch of God's healing love! Beginning **TODAY**, then every 1st Sunday, 10:30 to 10:45 am, **Mary Ann Litfin** and others will offer individual prayers for healing (more silent, caring physical presence than words) in our Meditation Room. If you would like to try it out, please connect with Mary Ann after worship this Sunday.



Wednesday Evenings In Lent

March 16 Rhythm

5:30 | Contemplative Worship

In person & Live streamed

We experience the same liturgy each Wednesday evening - the one variation being our readings (which thematically connect to our 6:30 pm topical discussion).

6 pm | Soup Supper

6:30 - 7:15 | Topical Discussions |

In-person and Zoomed

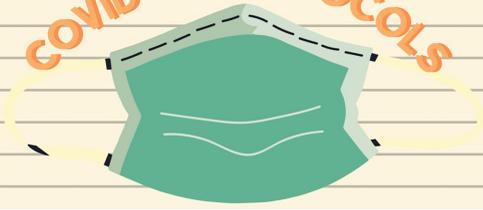
Soup Supper



**Wednesdays
in Lent**

Topic: Rhythm | "To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven." "Eccles. 3:1" Walt Richey and Pastor Clare invite you to join us for our weekly topical discussions, inspired by Wayne Muller's Sabbath.

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS



- People's Church continues to follow MDH/CDC guidelines and protocols regarding the fluid COVID-19 virus.
- Masks are now encouraged (and always welcome) but not required of those who are vaccinated and healthy.

- Continue to be aware of your surroundings, erring toward maintaining some social distance.
- We strive to make People's Church a safe, open, and welcoming place to worship (including for those who are still vulnerable, immunocompromised, or unable to be vaccinated). Keep a mask with you when you come to worship. If you find yourself seated near someone who may be vulnerable, please ask if they would like you to mask or to give them ample space to worship comfortably.
- Bulletins and offering baskets will be placed in the Narthex and in front of the pulpit (for individuals to pick up a bulletin and drop off an offering).

NOTE: If a significant negative change develops in the COVID-19 virus, we will notify the congregation and revisit COVID-19 safety protocols in accordance with MDH and CDC.

Thank you for all who made today wonderful: Music Dir. Michael Bjork, & Worship Accompanist Sharon Neuenfeldt (beautiful music), Mindy Peters (communion), Mary Binger (liturgist), Mary Ann Litfin & Cheri Schwartz (greeters) Claire Spilseth (Fellowship host) Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech), Jill Greenhalgh (Faith Conversations facilitator)



People's Congregational Church

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