



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



March 20, 2022
Second Sunday in Lent
Rev. Désirée H. Gold

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*

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude & Candle Lighting “Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners” Prichard

Candles represent the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome

Pastor Désirée H. Gold

*****Call To Worship**

Carol Dusbabek

One: May we journey in the wilderness with our God.

All: May we touch and immerse ourselves in the ordinary until we realize it is sacred.

One: May we transcend our worries and know the liberating love of Jesus our Exemplar.

All: May the Spirit guide us in this hour of worship to open ourselves more fully to God’s presence. Amen.

*****Opening Hymn “Come to Tend God’s Garden”**

#586

Acknowledging Our Humanness & God's Grace

*****Prayer of Longing**

One: Wise and powerful God, you have given us your light and truth to guide us through confusion, yet we have relied on our human wisdom and lost our way.

All: You offer to share our burdens and give us your strength, yet we trust in our own efforts and find ourselves exhausted.

One: Bring us back into your presence, O God.

All: Overcome our separation from one another and from you.

One: By your Word and Spirit, fill us with the gifts that equip us to meet life's demands.

All: May we live as your people in the world, embodying the confidence and joy of Jesus the Christ, in whose name we pray.
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 Désirée 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 **Jim** (Purnick), **Jonah** (Gromoll), **Calvin** (Vandre) &
Keely (Vandre)*

Blessing One Another

Seated, we open our 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

We welcome our children's sounds and movements

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

Sung Affirmation *We sing as our children follow leaders or 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.**

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 55: 1-13 ~ *The Inclusive Bible*

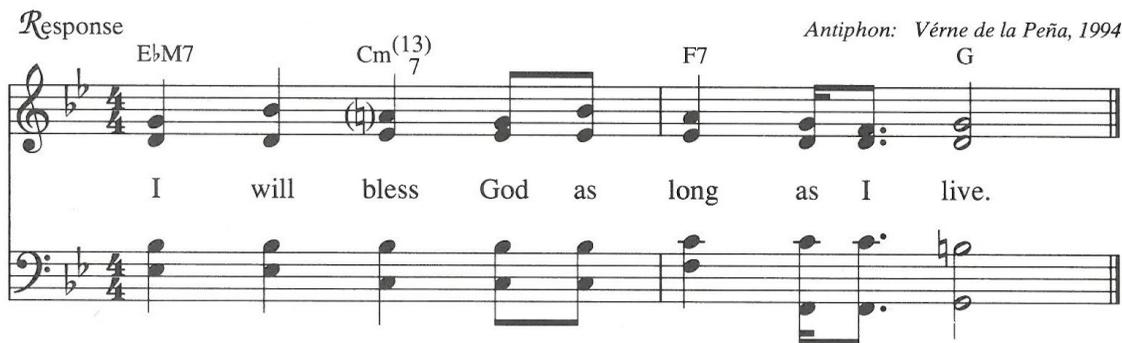
“All you who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come buy food and eat! Come, buy wine and milk, without money, without price! Why spend your money for what is not bread, your wages for what fails to satisfy? Heed me, and you will eat well, you will delight in rich fare; bend your ear and come to me, listen, that you may have life: I will make an everlasting Covenant with you—in fulfillment of the blessings promised to David. See, I have made of you to be a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander of the nations. See, you will summon nations you never knew, and nations that never knew you will come hurrying to you—for the sake of God, the Holy One of Israel, who will glorify you. Seek me, God, while I may still be found, call upon me while I am near! Let the corrupt abandon their ways, the evil their thoughts. Let them return to God, and I will have mercy on them; return to God, for I will freely pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways, my ways,” says God.

“As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts. For just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the sower and bread for food, so will my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it will not return to me empty, but will carry out my will, achieving the end for which I sent it. And you will go out joyfully, and be led out in peace; the mountains and hills before you will break into cries of joy, and all the trees in the countryside will clap their hands. The cypress will grow in place of the thorn bush, the myrtle will replace the briars; and they will stand as a memorial to God, an everlasting sign never to be destroyed.”

Psalm: 63: 1-3 ~ pg. #660

All join in the refrain
Cantor sings the verses

Response Antiphon: Vérne de la Peña, 1994



I will bless God as long as I live.

R

¹O God, you áre my God.

I seek you, my soul thírsts for you;

my flesh fáints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where
there ís no water.

²So I have looked upon you ín the
sanctuary,

beholding your pówer and glory.

³Because your steadfast love is bettéer
than life,

my líps will praise you.

⁴So I will bless you as long ás I live;

I will lift up my hands and call ón
your name. *R*

⁵My soul is satisfied as with á rich
feast,

and my mouth praises you with
jóyful lips

⁶when I think of you ón my bed,
and meditate on you in the watches
óf the night;

⁷for you have béen my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I
síng for joy.

⁸My soul clíngs to you;
your mighty hánd upholds me. *R*

Luke 3: 1-9 ~ *The Inclusive Bible*

On the same occasion, there were people present who told Jesus about some Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their own sacrifices.

Jesus replied, “Do you think these Galileans were the greatest sinners in Galilee just because they suffered this? Not at all! I tell you, you’ll all come to the same end unless you change your ways. Or take those eighteen who were killed by a falling tower in Siloam. Do you think they were more guilty than anyone else who lived in Jerusalem? Certainly not! I tell you, you’ll all come to the same end unless you change your ways.”

Jesus told this parable: “There was a fig tree growing in a vineyard. The owner came out looking for fruit on it, but didn’t find any. The owner said to the vine dresser, ‘Look here! For three years now I’ve come out in search of fruit on this fig tree and have found none. Cut it down. Why should it clutter up the ground?’ “In reply, the vine dresser said, ‘Please leave it one more year while I hoe around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine; if not, then let it be cut down.’”

Morning Message

Prayer Hymn

“In the Bulb There Is a Flower”

#433

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*

*To include a prayer in our Prayer Corner in coming days,
please share it with Pastor Clare (by email, phone call or text message)
as she returns on Tuesday*

One: God, in your love,

All: Hear our prayer

Musical Interlude

We listen for our own prayers to quietly arise

Prayer of Jesus

**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

“Weave”

Crow

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;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen**

***Prayer of Dedication

For the wondrous gift of life, we are thankful, O God. Your generous outpouring of grace reminds us of the fruitful life we are called to bear. May these gifts we bring to you this morning embody our desire to share and contribute to your coming reign among us. Amen.

Going Forth to Share God’s Love

*****Closing Hymn “Mountain Brook with Rushing Waters”**
Vs. 1, 3, 4 *Chalice Hymnal #590*

cont. on pg. 10...

Mountain Brook with Rushing Waters

1. Moun - tain brook with rush - ing wa - ters, ea - gle perched in
 2. Pure the wa - ter fresh - ly flow - ing toward its o - cean
 3. Wav - ing fields of wheat and bar - ley, gi - ant ap - ples
 4. Keep us faith - ful in the strug - gle to con - serve earth's

loft - y tree, flower - ing hill - side in the spring - time,
 des - ti - ny, clean the air of God's cre - a - tion,
 jui - cy red, cat - tle graz - ing in the pas - ture;
 threat - ened store as we fight to save the for - est,

white-tailed deer a - lert and free! Beau - ty, beau - ty
 rich the soil, the mine, the sea. "Earth is good!" God's
 by God's boun - ty we are fed! Well sup - plied the
 clean the stream, pro - tect the shore. God and hu - mans

all a-round us! Ju - bi - la - te! Sing for joy! Help us, God, pre-
 word pro-claimed it. Ju - bi - la - te! Sing for joy! Save us, God, from
 world a-round us! Ju - bi - la - te! Sing for joy! May no greed or
 work to- geth - er, Ju - bi - la - te! Sing for joy! Part-ners work-ing

serve earth's splen-dor for to - mor - row's world to see.
 waste - ful liv - ing, from pol - lu - tion's trag - e - dy.
 war - ring mad - ness scorch the earth or rob our bread.
 till as stew - ards we can say, "Earth's good!" once more.

*****Benediction**

*****Sung Response "Let There Be Peace on Earth"**

*Jill Jackson-Miller
& 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

"The Lord Bless You and Keep You"

Lutkin

PRAYER CORNER

Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:

*For peace and love for the soul of **Mary Ann Litfin's** former husband and father of her two children. Abe Abu- Saba, who died in an Italian hospital, on March 14th, 77 years old.

*For continued healing for **Milan Horak** after his shoulder surgery last week.

*We rejoice with Michael Bjork and the family of his kindergarten student **Olivia** as she returns to school, continuing to heal and recover after suffering several strokes.

*We celebrate birthdays with **Jim Purnick** (13th), **Jonah Gromoll** (5 yrs. old on the 18th), Calvin Vandre (7 yrs. old on the 21st) & **Keely Vandre** (23rd). We also celebrate anniversaries with **Stan & Barb Hillard** (19th) & Carol & **Tom Dusbabek** (26th).

And in the wider community...

*For the continued wellbeing of our congregation. Knit us together in new ways during our Lenten journey and beyond.

*For the well-being and safety of Ukraine women, children and elders as they seek refuge in other lands. For the well-being and safety of civilians staying in Ukraine to defend their country. We give thanks for the thousands of households opening themselves to hosting refugees. May we give what we can financially to assist the most vulnerable in the context of the war. May there be justice-based peace sooner than soon.

*For all in need of healing, coping with symptoms of physical or mental illness. May we feel your healing touch in new ways.



**From the Antiracism Collective:
COLLECTIVE MOVIE WATCH!**

As your predominantly White church body examines the thorny issue of racism, declare that addressing and dismantling racism is not the work of one committee or task force; it will become and must be the work of the whole church body.

~ Reverend Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr., Executive Director of the Ohio Council of Churches

*If watching a film as a community is... a kind of collective dream, then **Jim Crow of the North** has used that power to take on the collective nightmare of racial disparities.*

~ Daniel Bergen, filmmaker

As the Antiracism Collective enters its fourth quarter of work, we are asking **ALL** People's people to help us measure our community engagement in the work of racial justice by taking just **ONE HOUR BETWEEN NOW AND MARCH 27** to watch the Emmy-winning film on racial housing discrimination in Minnesota, "**Jim Crow of the North**"

We are creating a visual record of our community commitment to this effort with a tally sheet posted at the church, and we ask you, we urge you, to do the following:

- 1) Watch the film
- 2) Sign the tally (and add the names of family/friends who watch, too)
- 3) If you watch, but aren't attending church between now and the 27th, please email your name/s to jkshaller@gmail.com to add to the tally.

PLEASE help us fill the tally sheet- and join our discussion of systemic racism in Minnesota after worship on March 27- to help proclaim our commitment to racial justice in the season of Lent and beyond.



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!")

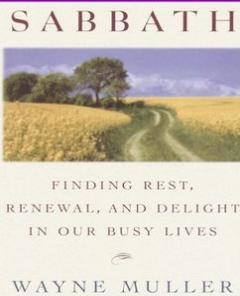
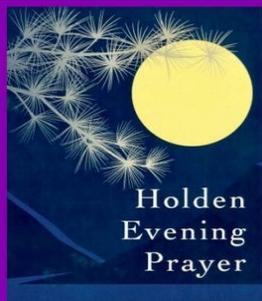
The Gertens flower and plant sale is now LIVE!!!

See Mid-Week for more details. 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.



Rev. Désirée Hartson Gold is a graduate of Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, MO. She has served UCC churches in Sacramento, CA; Baltimore, MD; and Cottage Grove, MN. She currently serves on the Covenant Subcommittee of the Minnesota Conference UCC Committee on Ministry, and she supply preaches throughout the state. She lives with her husband, daughter, and aged cat in South St. Paul.



Wednesday Evenings In Lent
March 23 Time

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

Walt Richey and Pastor Clare invite you to join us for our weekly topical discussions, inspired by Wayne Muller's Sabbath.

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: Service | The Needs Right in Front of You



Volunteers needed for special Holy Week services!

Maundy Thursday | April 14, 7:00 pm

Helpers needed:

Greeters (2), Liturgists (3),
Communion Server
(1), Tech (1)

Good Friday Tenebrae | April 15, 7:00 pm

Helpers needed:

Greeters - 2 (PCC)
Liturgists (readers) - 4 (BLC/PCC)
Sacred Drama Team (carry & move the cross, no speaking) - 4 (BLC/PCC)
Women at the Cross (simple movement, no speaking) - 3 (BLC/PCC)
Anointers
(either touching foreheads w/oil or saying words of blessing) - 2 (BLC/PCC)
Tech - 2 (PCC)

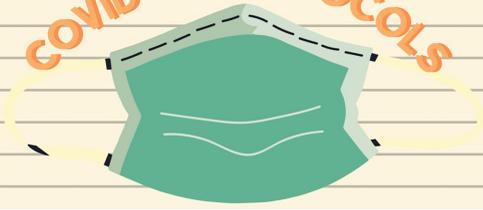
Rehearsals for Good Friday Tenebrae on **April 10 (Palm Sunday)**

11:30am-12:30pm - Sacred Drama Team and Women at the Cross

12:30-1:00pm - Liturgists

1:00-1:15pm - Anointers

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), Carol Dusbabek
(liturgist), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie &
Mark Stephan (tech), Jill Greenhalgh (Faith Conversations facilitator)



People's Congregational Church

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