



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



March 27, 2022

"Will We Co-Create Second Chances?"
Fourth 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*

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude & Candle Lighting

“There is a Redeemer”

*M. Green
Addison Albright, Acolyte*

Candles represent the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome

Pastor Clare Gromoll

*****Opening Hymn**

“O My Soul, Bless Your Creator”

#13

Vs. 1, 4, 5

*****Call To Worship**

Rolf Dittmann

One: It's spring – a good time for emerging and arising.

All: It's Lent – a good time for changes and life-altering decisions.

One: As the snow recedes, we see life altering all around us.

All: Crocuses appear, coloring and brightening the soggy grass.

One: The ball and bat that were left outside last fall also reappear.

All: We remember the cycles of life and the long distances we travel.

One: Springtime & Lent remind us of whom we serve and whose we are.

All: Let us worship God together.

Choral Anthem

“Ubi Caritas”

by Michael John Trotta

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est
Where charity and love are, there God is

***Sitting or standing

Acknowledging Our Humanness & God's Grace

Prayer of Longing

O God, be our companion and guide on this journey of life. Show us where to go. From birth to death, grant us your peace. We thank you for each companion along the journey of faith. We pray for all beings with whom we travel on this planet as it makes its rounds of the sun. Bring us together to a new world of peace – through Jesus Christ, who lived and died that all might be one. 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 **Calvin** (Vandre), **Keely** (Vandre), **Payton**,
Phillip & Jensen (Wright) & **Melissa** (Stephan)*

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

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.**

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 or via baby monitor in the Nursery downstairs*

Scripture Readings

Psalm 32 ~ NRSV

(NCH)

*All join in the refrain
Cantor sings the verses*

cont. on pg. 5...

****Sitting or standing*

Response

Antiphon: Emma Lou Diemer, 1994

$E\flat$
Gm
 $A\flat M7$
 $B\flat$
 $E\flat$

Unison

Stead - fast love sur - rounds those who trust in God.

\mathcal{R}

¹Happy are those whose transgression
is forgiven,
whose \acute{s} in is covered.

²Happy are those to whom God
imputes \acute{n} o iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is \acute{n} o
deceit.

³While I kept silence, my body
wasted away
through my groaning \acute{a} ll day long.

⁴For day and night your hand was
heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the
heat of summer. \mathcal{R}

⁵Then I acknowledged my \acute{s} in to you,
and I did not hide \acute{m} y iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my
transgressions to God,"
and you forgave the guilt \acute{o} f my
sin.

⁶Therefore let all who are faithful offer
prayer to you;

at a time of distress, the rush of
mighty waters \acute{s} hall not reach them.

⁷You are a hiding place for me; you
preserve \acute{m} e from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries \acute{o} f
deliverance. \mathcal{R}

⁸I will instruct you and teach you the
way \acute{y} ou should go;
I will counsel you with my \acute{e} ye
upon you.

⁹Do not be like a horse or a mule,
without \acute{u} nderstanding,
whose temper must be curbed with
bit and bridle, else it will \acute{n} ot stay
near you.

¹⁰Many are the torments \acute{o} f the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those
who \acute{t} rust in God.

¹¹Be glad in God and re \acute{j} oice, O
righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright
in heart. \mathcal{R}

Meanwhile, the tax collectors and the “sinners” were all gathering around Jesus to listen to his teaching, at which the Pharisees and the religious scholars murmured, “This person welcomes sinners and eats with them!”

Jesus then addressed this parable to them: “A man had two sons. The younger of them said to their father, ‘Give me the share of the estate that is coming to me.’ So the father divided up the property between them. Some days later, the younger son gathered up his belongings and went off to a distant land. Here he squandered all his money on loose living.

After everything was spent, a great famine broke out in the land, and the son was in great need. So he went to a landowner, who sent him to a farm to take care of the pigs. The son was so hungry that he could have eaten the husks that were fodder for the pigs, but no one made a move to give him anything. Coming to his senses at last, he said, ‘How many hired hands at my father’s house have more than enough to eat, while here I am starving! I’ll quit and go back home and say, “I’ve sinned against God and against you; I no longer deserve to be called one of your children. Treat me like one of your hired hands.”’” With that, the younger son set off for home.

While still a long way off, the father caught sight of the returning child and was deeply moved. The father ran out to meet him, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him, ‘I’ve sinned against God and against you; I no longer deserve to be called one of your children.’ But his father said to one of the workers, ‘Quick! Bring out the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. Take the calf we’ve been fattening and butcher it. Let’s eat and celebrate! This son of mine was dead and he has come back to life. He was lost and now he’s found!’ And the celebration began.

Meanwhile the elder son had been out in the field. As he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. He called one of the workers and asked what was happening. The worker answered, ‘Your brother is home and the fatted calf has been killed because your father has him back safe and sound.’

cont. on pg. 7...

The son got angry at this and refused to go in to the party, but his father came out and pleaded with him. The older son replied, ‘Look, for years I’ve done every single thing you asked me to do. I never disobeyed even one of your orders, yet you never gave me so much as a kid goat to celebrate with my friends. But then this son of yours comes home after going through your money with prostitutes, and you kill the fatted calf for him!’

‘But my child!’ the father said. ‘You’re with me always, and everything I have is yours. But we have to celebrate and rejoice! This brother of yours was dead and has come back to life. He was lost and now he’s found.’”

Morning Message "Will We Co-Create Second Chances?"

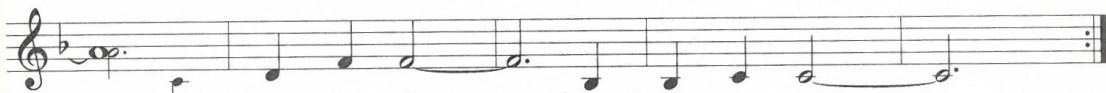
Prayer Hymn

“Hosea”

Gather Hymnal #386

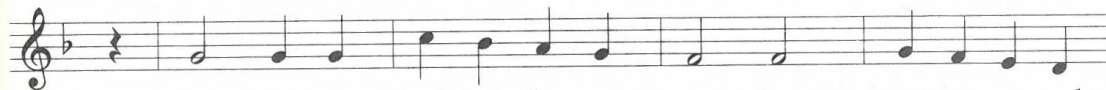


1. Come back to me with all your heart.
 ζ Trees do bend, 'though straight and tall;
 2. The wil - der - ness will lead you
 In - teg - ri - ty and jus - tice,
 3. ζ You shall sleep se - cure with peace;



Don't let fear keep us a - part.
 so must we to oth - ers' call.
 to your heart where I will speak.
 With ten - der - ness, ζ you shall know.
 faith - ful - ness will be your joy. *(To refrain)*

Refrain



Long have I wait-ed for your com - ing home to me and



liv - ing deep - ly our new life.

D.C.

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)*

One: God, in your love,

All: Hear our prayer

Musical Interlude

We listen for our own prayers to quietly arise

Prayer of Jesus

**Our Father and Mother who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name.**

Thy kin-dom come. Thy will be done on Earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

For thine is the kin-dom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" *African American tune*

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”

By John Mueller

sung twice

**Praise, God, for these gifts;
we lift them up for heaven’s blessing.
Praise God, for these gifts;
we lift them up to serve you, Lord.**

*****Prayer of Dedication**

O God, through the offering of these gifts may we become a more open people...

open-minded in hearing your Word and wisdom,

open-hearted in healing a broken world,

open-handed in heeding your call for charity and enacted love.

With thanks for all good gifts, we present a portion of our substance and the whole of ourselves. Amen.

Going Forth to Share God’s Love

*****Closing Hymn “Lord of All Hopefulness”**

Gather Hymnal #578

cont. on pg. 10...

*****Sitting or standing**

Lord of All Hopefulness



1. Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2. Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3. Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4. Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



Whose trust, e - ver child-like, no cares can de - stroy,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
Your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace,
Whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm,



Be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

*****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**

“God Will Guide Thee”

trad American

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 | 10:45 am Antiracism Collective sacred conversation*

PRAYER CORNER

Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:

*For healing and resilience for Jennifer Halvorson-Albright's friend **Angel**, who is undergoing chemotherapy for stage 3 cancer and soon begins radiation.

*We celebrate with Pat Mazzitello and Nat Graf as their youngest grandchild **Milo** turned one year old on March 19th!

*For continued healing for **Sam Gromoll** after successful procedures under anesthesia to relieve styes in his eyelids.

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

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

*We celebrate birthdays with **Calvin Vandre** (7 yrs. old on the 21st) & **Keely Vandre** (23rd), **Payton**, **Phillip** & **Jensen Wright** (1st) & **Melissa Stephan** (2nd).

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 hosting refugees. May we give what we can financially to assist the most vulnerable in the war. May there be justice-based peace sooner than soon.

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

*For all in need of healing as we cope with physical, mental and chemical health challenges. May we feel God's healing touch in new ways.



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

An important part of our May Festival fundraiser/ friendraiser is the GERTEN'S PLANT SALE! Many aspects of the May Fest require help from our church community. This is the simplest way to help right now!

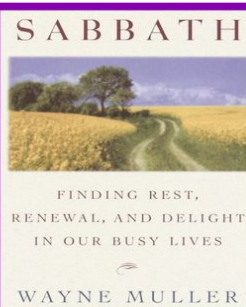
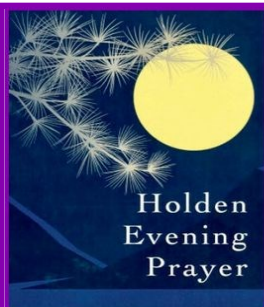
See Mid-Week for more details. We receive 30% of all plant sales and 15% of all gift card sales!! AND you will have beautiful plants for your summer garden!! Contact Kimberly for electronic or paper copies of the plant sale flyer to share with neighbors and friends.

THE LAST DAY to order is April 6.

Please post several May Fest event flyers in local spots (see clipboard in the Narthex or during fellowship)

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

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



Soup Supper



Wednesdays
in Lent

Wednesday Evenings In Lent March 30 - Happiness

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.



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) - 2 (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



PCC Peace Community Garden

@ People's Park

Plots are now available! See the Mid-Week for the downloadable registration form or stop by the office to sign up.

~ Don Savage and his tomato plants

"This is a book that may save your life. *Sabbath* offers a surprising direction for healing to anyone who has ever glimpsed emptiness at the heart of a busy and productive life."

—Rachel Naomi Remen, M.D., author of *Kitchen Table Wisdom* and *My Grandfather's Blessings*

SABBATH



FINDING REST,
RENEWAL, AND DELIGHT
IN OUR BUSY LIVES



WAYNE MULLER

Author of How, Then, Shall We Live?

People's Book Club

Thursday, March 31 6:30-8:00pm

(downstairs in our
Fireside Room & Zoomed)

Please let Pastor Clare know if you will
join us for the discussion.

Valley Bookseller has stocked copies of
the book for us at a 15% discounted price!



New Member Sunday

April 3

Mary Ann Litfin will covenant with our congregation in
the mutual commitment of membership.

If you would like to consider
covenanting in membership in coming months,
please contact Pastor Clare to arrange
for further conversation.

651-600-6409 ~ pastor@peoplescongregational.org

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), Rolf Dittmann (liturgist), Addison Albright (acolyte) Paul, Bob & Mark (tech), Carol, Sue & Claire (Children's Activities) Aidan Gromoll & Claire Spilseth, (Fellowship) 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

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