



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



March 6, 2022

*"Will We Go Where Spirit Leads?"  
First 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**

“Thy Holy Wings”

*Swedish Tune*

Sam & Jonah Gromoll, acolytes

*Candles represent the light of Christ among us*

### **Words of Welcome**

Pastor Clare Gromoll

### **\*\*\*Call to Worship**

Mary Maren Bjork

One: God calls us away from the tumult of the world, that we may focus our thoughts on things that are lasting.

**All: In God’s presence we see our lives more clearly; the broken pieces are brought back together.**

One: God calls us out of loneliness into a life of community.

**All: Worshiping together, caring about one another, we find out what it means to be truly human.**

One: But God will send us back into the world’s confusion and busyness, its brokenness and isolation.

**All: We will go with serenity and joy, strengthened to be God’s servants—the bearers of peace.**

### **\*\*\*Opening Hymn**

“Strengthen All the Weary Hands”

#612

*Vs. 1-2*

## Acknowledging Our Humanness & God's Grace

### **\*\*\*Prayer of Longing**

**O God, as we move into this Lenten journey to Jerusalem, the past and present are familiar in comparison with the unknown future. We too often meet pressing human need with fear, pain and inaction. In a chorus with worshipers everywhere, we confess that we have fallen short and live in a state of brokenness and alienation. O God, our Sustainer and Redeemer, help us discover our gifts of power, talent, and energy—that we might bring healing into a broken world. Forgive our sin, strengthen our resolve, and renew us in your ever-vibrant Spirit. 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 front row pews) 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 Joe (Legato), Mary Ann (Litfin), Michael (Bjork)  
& Claire (Stokes)*

## **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.**

## **Scriptures** Psalm 91: 1-2, 9-16 & Luke 4: 1-13 ~ *The Inclusive Bible*

### **Psalm**

**You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High and pass the night in the shadow of Shaddai, say**

**“God, my refuge and my mountain fortress, my God in whom I trust!”**

**For God Says: “Because you have made me your refuge and have me as your stronghold,**

**no evil will befall you, and no disaster will come near your tent.**

**For I will command my angels to guard you wherever you go.**

**They’ll carry you in their hands so you don’t hurt your foot on a stone.**

You'll tread on the young lion as easily as one does a cobra; you'll trample down both lion and serpent.

**Because you love me, I will deliver you; I will rescue you because you acknowledge my Name.**

You will call upon me, and I will answer you; I will be with you in trouble; I will deliver you and honor you.

**I will satisfy you with a long life and show you my salvation."**

### Luke

Jesus returned from the Jordan filled with the Holy Spirit, and the Spirit led him into the desert for forty days, where he was tempted by the Devil. Jesus ate nothing during that time, at the end of which he was famished.

The Devil said to Jesus, "If you are God's Own, command this stone to turn into bread." Jesus answered, "Scripture has it, '*We don't live on bread alone.*' "

Then the Devil took Jesus up higher and showed him all the nations of the world in a single instant. The Devil said, "I'll give you all the power and the glory of these nations; the power has been given to me and I can give it to whomever I wish. Prostrate yourself in homage before me, and it all will be yours." In reply, Jesus said, "Scripture has it: '*You will worship the Most High God; God alone will you adore.*' "

Then the Devil led Jesus to Jerusalem, set him up on the parapet of the temple and said, "If you are God's Own, throw yourself down from here, for scripture has it, '*God will tell the angels to take care of you; with their hands they'll support you, that you may never stumble on a stone.*' " Jesus said to the Devil in reply, "It also says, '*Do not put God to the test.*'" When the Devil had finished all this tempting, Jesus was left alone. The Devil awaited another opportunity.

**Morning Message** "Will We Go Where Spirit Leads?"

## Responding To God's Love

### Prayer Hymn "If You Will Trust in God to Guide You"

CH #565

1. If you will trust in God to guide you, and hope in God through  
2. God will embrace your pain and weep-ing, your help-less an - ger  
3. Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un-swerv-ing; so do your own part

all your ways, God will give strength, what - e'er be - tide you,  
and dis - tress. If you are in God's care and keep-ing,  
faith - ful - ly, and trust God's word; though un - de - serv-ing,

and bear you through the e - vil days. Who trusts in God's un -  
in sor - row will God love you less? For Christ, who took for  
you'll find God's pro - mise true to be. God nev - er will for -

chang - ing love builds on the rock that will not move.  
you a cross, will bring you safe through ev - ery loss.  
sake in need the soul that trusts in God in - deed.

## 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

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:  
the hallowing of your name echo through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come  
on Earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.  
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.  
Amen.**

## Invitation to the Offering

### Offertory

“Amazing Love”

*Kendrick*

### \*\*\*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, you know us through and through. You know the many choices we face each day. We choose between right and wrong and between greater and lesser evils. We choose what will be important to us in life. As you strengthened Jesus to choose rightly when he was tempted in the wilderness, so strengthen us through your Spirit's presence. When we face temptation, may we walk in the paths most pleasing to you. We dedicate our offerings to your work of love and justice. Amen.**

**Going Forth to Share God's Love**

**\*\*\*Closing Hymn "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"**

*CH #614  
see page 9*

**\*\*\*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**

**"Grace, Love and Fellowship"**

*Fettke*

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

**\*\*\*Sitting or standing**

*With a backbeat* G C G Am7 G

1. I'm gon-na live so God can use me  
(I'm gon-na live so) (God can

G7 C G7 C Am G C

use me,) an - y time (yes an - y time) and an - y - where (yes an - y -

G G C G B7

where) I'm gon-na live so God can use me  
(I'm gon-na live so)

Em C G A7 D7 G C G

an - y time (an - y time,) and an - y - where. (yes an - y - where).

2. I'm gonna work...

3. I'm gonna pray...

4. I'm gonna sing...

## **PRAYER CORNER**

*Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:*

\*Mary Ann Litfin's sister's friend **Deb**, as she transitions from this life to the next.

\***Lisa Moriarty**, friend of our congregation and designer of our labyrinth, supporting her brother Rolf as he adjusts to a terminal diagnosis of metastasized cancer.

\*For **Aidan Gromoll**, recovering from a mild Covid infection before returning from Romania to the US on March 10th.

\*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.

\*With gratitude and thanksgiving, Jill Greenhalgh and Rolf Dittmann celebrate their sons **Drew & Luke Dittmann** beginning new jobs.

\*Comfort for the family of **Mark Jacobson**, who passed away. Mark has been part of our extended People's Congregational Church family.

\*We celebrate birthdays with **Joe Legato** (28th), **Mary Ann Litfin** (2nd), **Mike Bjork** (4th) and **Claire Stokes** (5th).

*And in the wider community...*

\*For the well-being and safety of the people of Ukraine. May we do our part to elect leaders who will work within the global community to lay down our weapons and build justice-based peace, mitigating suffering anywhere it is caused by oppressive abuse of power.

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

\*We offer a shout of joy in celebration of President Biden her-storic nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to become the first Black woman and the 116th Associate Justice on the United States Supreme Court.



## Easter Flowers

Let's create a beautiful garden in our Sanctuary on Easter Sunday! Members and friends are invited to each place our own orders online to contribute flowers to our Easter garden. We will each take our flowers home or to loved ones after worship on April 17th.

To place an order for Easter flowers:

1. Go to [www.gertensfundraising.com](http://www.gertensfundraising.com)
2. Enter Store ID code (**63**) into the text field; click 'Enter ID to Continue'
3. Choose from among 11 different flowering plants!
4. After you have placed your order, please contact Kimberly to name any loved ones you wish to remember or honor with your flowers.

If you can not access the internet to order your flowers, please contact Kimberly for assistance. **THE LAST DAY to order is March 9.**



## New Member Sunday

Our next New Member Sunday will be either **March 27 or April 3.**

Mary Ann Litfin is ready to covenant with our congregation in the mutual commitment of membership.

If you would like to consider covenanting in membership alongside Mary Ann, please contact Pastor Clare to arrange for further conversation.

651-600-6409 ~ [pastor@peoplescongregational.org](mailto:pastor@peoplescongregational.org)

## Faith Conversations

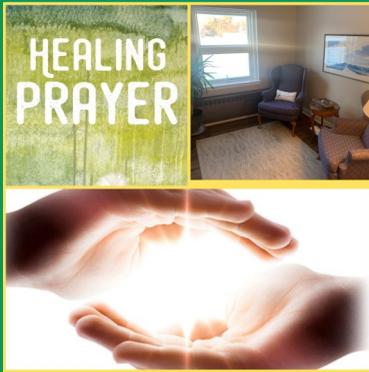


## Faith Conversations

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:** Sacraments | A Tapestry of Traditions



## NEW! - Healing Prayer

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

Thank you for all who made today wonderful: Music Dir. Michael Bjork, & Worship Accompanist Sharon Neuenfeldt (beautiful music), Sam & Jonah Gromoll (acolytes) Mary Maren Bjork (liturgist), Kathy & Bob Iverson (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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