



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



April 3, 2022

"Will We Love In New Extravagant Ways?"
New Members Sunday | Fifth 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 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” *arr Ferrke
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: Holy Spirit of God, you gather the whole church into one body.

**All: Gather us once again in your presence and strengthen the bonds
of affection that hold your people together.**

One: Bless us with grace to cooperate with one another in love
and service;

All: May we be signs of your uniting love in our fractured world.

One: May we show compassion toward others, face challenges with
imagination, and counter disappointments with prayerful trust.

All: May we, your church, bring forth your will and your reign. Amen.

*****Opening Hymn** “This is the Day of New Beginnings” #417
Vs. 1, 2, 4

Acknowledging Our Humanness & God's Grace

*****Prayer of Longing**

O God, we give thanks as we welcome new members among us today. We thank you for their life stories, their faith journeys, their diversity of gifts. May we be zealous in our willingness to listen and learn. Make us open to new perspectives, we pray. Help us to provide a nurturing environment for one another. Guide us to take time for one another as we continue to develop a shared faith and a common history. Bless us, O God, as we worship together and seek to be your partners in ministry. 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 Payton, Phillip , Jensen (Wright) & Melissa (Stephan)

Hearing From Friends Who Are Becoming New Members

What do Mary Ann, Bob & Cindy value building with us in our church?

Special Music

“Build Up”

by Hans Anderson

All are invited to join in the refrain

**Build up, prepare the way.
Remove the obstructions from my people’s way.
Build up, prepare the way.
God is near. God is here today.**

Break the chains of injustice.

Let the oppressed go free.

Share our homes with the homeless and our bread with the hungry.

Refrain

God sees all our destruction; how we get in love’s way.
Still God comes and meets us with a steady, healing embrace.

Refrain

Then your light will break forth like the dawn.
And your healing will break into song.

Refrain

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

Isaiah 43: 16-21

Thus says God, who made a road through the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who led chariots and warriors to their doom, a mighty army fallen, never to rise again, snuffed out and extinguished like a wick:

“Forget the events of the past, ignore the things of long ago! Look, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth—can’t you see it? I’m making a road in the desert and setting rovers to flow in the wasteland. Wild beasts will honor me—the jackals and the ostriches—for I will put water in the desert and rivers in the wasteland for my chosen people to drink, these people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.”

Psalm 126 ~ NRSV

#707-708

All join in the refrain, Cantor sings the verses

John 12: 1-8 ~ *The Inclusive Bible*

Six days before Passover, Jesus went to Bethany, the village of Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they gave a banquet in Jesus' honor, at which Martha served. Lazarus was one of those at the table. Mary brought a pound of costly ointment, pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus, wiping them with her hair. The house was full of the scent of the ointment.

Judas Iscariot, one of the disciples—the one who was to betray Jesus—protested, “Why wasn’t this ointment sold? It could have brought nearly a year’s wages, and the money been given to poor people!” Judas didn’t say this because he was concerned for poor people, but because he was a thief. He was in charge of the common fund and would help himself to it.

So Jesus replied, “Leave her alone. She did this in preparation for my burial. You have poor people with you always. But you won’t always have me.”

Meanwhile a large crowd heard that Jesus was there and came to see not only Jesus, but also Lazarus, whom he raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to kill Lazarus as well, since it was because of him that many of the people were leaving them and believing in Jesus.

Morning Message "How Will We Love In New Extravagant Ways?"

Prayer Hymn

"Said Judas to Mary"

#210

Vs. 1, 2, 4

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

*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

“Thank You for the Cross”

Spiro

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!**

***Prayer of Dedication

**Creative and generous God, from whom new possibilities spring,
make a way for us where there has been no way. We give thanks as
you quench the drought of our spirits with the living water of your
boundless love. Free us to offer our whole selves in return,
participating fully in your newness of life. Amen.**

Receiving Our New Members

Do you seek to continue your journey of faith, following the ways of God as lived out and revealed in Jesus the Christ, knowing you have the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the love and support of this community?

Do you promise, with the grace given you, to covenant with these people – the congregation of People’s Congregational Church – by worshipping together and supporting our wider mission with your presence, talent, and financial support?

And do you promise to open your heart and mind in love to all these siblings in Christian faith, knowing that together we may do more than alone?

*****Laying On of Hands & Covenanting Together**

Rolf Dittmann, *Moderator*

*Pastor Clare invites us forward to lay hands on our new members
Please place a hand on a shoulder, maintaining an arm's length distance between people*

One: We gladly welcome you into this Christian community.
Enfolding you with our love and committing ourselves to your care, we seek to be partners in ministry with you.

All: **In the power of God’s Spirit, let us mutually encourage each other to trust God and strengthen one another to serve others, that Christ’s church may — in all things — stand faithful.**

*****Presentation of Membership Certificates & Gifts**

Going Forth to Share God’s Love

*****Closing Hymn** “In the Midst of New Dimensions” #391

*****Benediction**

*****Sung Response** “Let there be peace on Earth”

By 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** “Let the Peace of Christ Rule Your Heart” *Cagle*

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

*All are welcome to join us downstairs after worship for 10:30 am brunch &
10:45 am Learning Session 1 | History of Congregationalism & United Church of Christ*

Meet our new members!



Mary Ann Litfin is a retired hospital RN. Using her healing touch practitioner training, she leads our Tai Chi Group on Tuesday mornings and Healing Prayer sessions after services. She loves being with her son and grandchildren, camping, and visits to Lake Superior and Arizona.

What drew Mary Ann to join People's? *"Your dynamic, authentic, electric Pastor Clare and the warmth and openness of church members, the music, a spirituality that speaks to me, meaningful services and willingness to try new things."*

Cindy Parsons uses her degree work in psychology & human development in her job as Director of The Connect Center, serving Washington County with a mission of supporting more secure and connected lives for youth with unstable housing and low-income families. Beyond work; she loves gardening, cooking, reading, hiking, and writing.

What drew Cindy to join People's? *"I like a small church, a friendly church, a joyful church, a church that is mission-oriented. People's Congregational Church is all of those."*



Bob Dickie has used his degrees in political science, international relations, and law to service as a public defender and private practice attorney. With spouse Cindy, he co-founded The Connect Center and servers as its Communications and Development Director. Bob likes to boat, hike, camp and read.

What drew Bob to join People's? *"It's a safe place, far enough away from work responsibilities, yet close to home. I bring some skills and experience with church buildings and finances that could be helpful. I have grown to enjoy the company of other members."*

PRAYER CORNER

Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:

***Pat Mazzitello**, recovering from carpal tunnel & shoulder surgery on Thursday.

*For Bob Dickie & Cindy Parsons' friend **Bill**, recently diagnosed with Parkinson's; and for their friend **Mark**, undergoing chemotherapy.

*For **Harry Martin** (former member of our congregation), who is experiencing significant physical health challenges and receiving hospice care. Pastor Clare is in touch with Harry and spouse Cecilia.

*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 **Mary Ann Litfin** and her two children as they grieve the death of their father Abe Abu-Saba, who died in Italy earlier this month.

*We celebrate birthdays with **Payton , Phillip & Jensen Wright** (1st) & **Melissa Stephan** (2nd) and a wedding anniversary with Peter and Andi Favilla (8th)

And in the wider community...

*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. For sufficient resources for thousands of households hosting refugees. May we each discern what our part can be in assisting the most vulnerable in the context of the war.

*For fairness and increased respect in the Supreme Court confirmation process for Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson.

*In the wake of the collapse of an enormous ice shelf in Eastern Antarctica (due to temperatures 70 degrees warmer than normal), may we each examine how faithfully we are acting in solidarity with the whole Earth community for the wellbeing of our climate.

*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 almost over!!!

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!

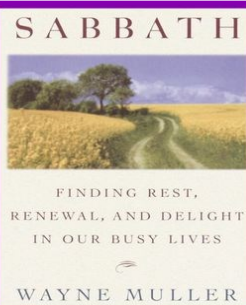
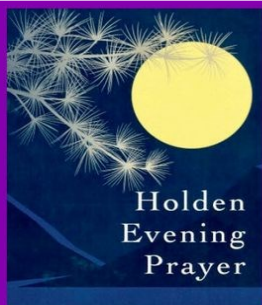
See Mid-Week for more details. We receive 30% of all plant sales and 15% of all gift card sales!! AND you will have beautiful plants for your summer garden!! Contact Kimberly for electronic or paper copies of the plant sale flyer to share with neighbors and friends.

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!")



Last Wednesday Evening In Lent April 6 - Wisdom & Consecration

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 (1)

Rehearsal for Maundy Thursday on Wed, **April 6, 7:15-8:00pm** | Liturgists only



**Good Friday Tenebrae
April 15, 7:00 pm**

Helpers needed: Greeters - 2 (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)

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

Thank you for all who made today wonderful: Music Dir. Michael Bjork, PCC Choir & Worship Accompanist Sharon Neuenfeldt (beautiful music), Cheri Schwartz (greeter), Mary Maren Bjork (liturgist), Sam & Jonah Gromoll (acolytes) Paul, Bob & Mark (tech), Carol, Sue & Claire (Children's Activities), Sue Favilla (Fellowship)




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 | Call to Worship, Prayer of Longing, Prayer of Dedication Reprinted or adapted by permission of the publishers from Touch Holiness, ed. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. Copyright © 1990 by The Pilgrim Press. Prayer of Jesus from New Zealand Book of Prayer. Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-703858. All rights reserved.