

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



May 15, 2022 **"Will We Expand With God's Love?"** Special Congregational Meeting Day

The Love of God Gathers Us

Gathering Music

We greet those around us or sit quietly as we settle into sacred time and space

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude & Candle Lighting

"People of God"

Watson

Jonah Gromoll, Acolyte

Pastor Clare Gromoll

Sharri Kinkead

A flame represent the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome

***Call To Worship

One: This is a day to celebrate new life!

- All: We open our ears to the sounds of God's world and open our eyes to the beauty of creation.
- One: We are gladdened by the green grass and budding trees, and by the music of birds and breeze.
- All: We remember Jesus, who welcomed all people and recognized the value of each one.

One: Jesus is alive! His spirit lives in us.

All: We are accepted and loved. Let us rejoice and worship our Creator God.

***Opening Hymn

"For the Beauty of the Earth"



Acknowledging Our Humanness & God's Grace

***Prayer of Longing

God of all, each day overflows with the beauty of life – growing plants and bursting blossoms, relationships which nurture and challenge, compassion shared, and justice in the making. Each day is full of meaning, yet many times we do not notice it. Too often we scurry to and fro without appreciation, delight, or sense of purpose. Call us, O God, out of isolation and into the beauty of life lived in love. Move us toward you and toward one another. Amen.

prayerful silence

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

We share the peace with those gathered with us now (in-person, virtually) We extend the peace later 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 to bring their chairs forward with them

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 John (Norheim) & Walter (Vandre)

Learning To Sing with the Earth

"Garden Song" by David Mallett

Michael teaches us the refrain, which we sing together Feel free to join in on the verse as well!

Refrain:

Inch by inch, row by row, Gonna make this garden grow. All it takes is a rake and a hoe, and a piece of fertile ground.

Inch by inch, row by row, Someone bless these seeds I sow, Someone warm them from below, Till the rain comes tumblin' down.

Verse:

Plant your rows straight and long Temper them with prayer and song And Mother Earth will make you strong If you give her love and care

Repeat refrain

Blessing One Another

Seated, we open our arms to the children

Children : God be with you All: And also with you

Children (age 3+) follow leaders to Children's Activity or remain in worship

Sung Affirmation

see page 6

We sing as they follow leaders or return to families

Sung Affirmation We sing as they 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

Lisa, our Childcare Provider, invites infants and toddlers to join her at our nearby "Outdoor Nursery" blanketed play space (Adult family members are also welcome!)

Scripture Readings Acts 11: 1-18 ~ The Inclusive Bible

The apostles and the community in Judea heard that Gentiles, too, had accepted the word of God. As a result, when Peter went up to Jerusalem, some of the Jewish believers took issue with him. "So you have been visiting the Gentiles and eating with them, have you?" they said. Peter then explained the whole affair to them step by step from the beginning.

"One day when I was in the town of Joppa, I fell into a trance while at prayer and had a vision of something like a big sheet let down from heaven by its four corners. This sheet came quite close to me. I watched it intently and saw all sorts of animals and wild beasts – everything possible that could walk, crawl or fly. Then I heard a voice that said to me, 'Now, Peter, make your sacrifice and eat.' I replied, 'I can't eat my God. Nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth!' And a second time the voice spoke from heaven, 'Don't call profane what God has made clean.' This happened three times, then the sheet and what was in it was drawn up to heaven again.

Just at that moment, three couriers stopped outside the house where we were staying; they had been sent from Caesarea to fetch me, and the Spirit told me to have no hesitation about returning with them. These six believers came with me as well, and we entered Cornelius' house. He told us he had seen an angel standing in the house who had said, 'Send messengers to Joppa and bring back Simon, known as Peter; he has a message for you that will save you and your entire household.'

I had hardly begun to speak when the Holy Spirit came down on them in the same way she came on us in the beginning, and I remembered what Christ had said: 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' I realized then that God was giving them the same gift that had been given to us when we came to believe in our Savior Jesus Christ. And who am I to stand in God's way?"

This account satisfied them, and they gave glory to God, saying, "God has granted the repentance that leads to life-even to Gentiles!"

Morning Message

"Will We Expand with God's Love?"



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 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.



Offertory

"A Perfect Heart"

McGuire

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

Please consider leaving a gift in the offering basket as you depart, scanning the QR code to give electronically, or mailing 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!

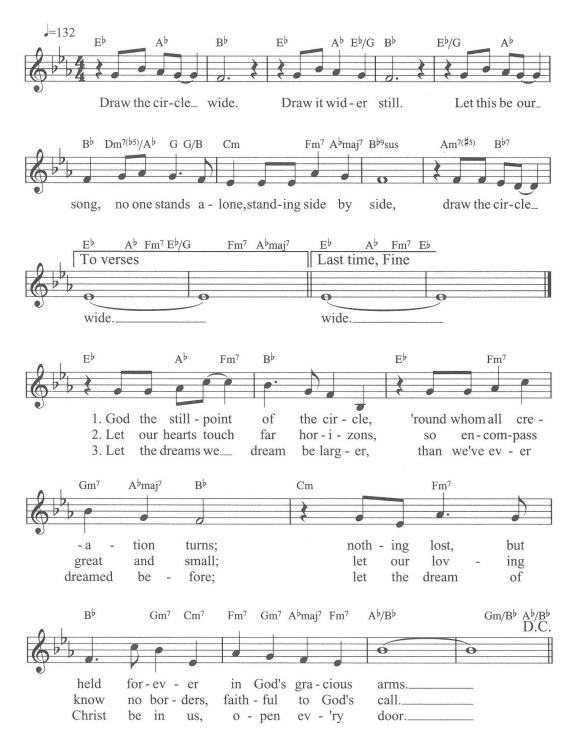
***Prayer of Dedication

Amazing God, you resurrect your Christ every time we embody your love. With the dawning of each new day, awaken us to new opportunities to love and serve. Use our gifts to your glory. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Going Forth to Share God's Love

*****Closing Song** "Draw the Circle Wide" #123 Sing! Prayer and Praise see next page

***Benediction



*****Sung Response**

Irish Blessing Sung twice

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** "Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing"

Fawcett

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

All are welcome to move indoors... 10:30 brunch, 11:00 congregational meeting

PRAYER CORNER

Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:

*For Laura Mayaka, preparing for knee replacement surgery on May 18th.

*We celebrate birthdays with John Norheim (10th) & Walter Vandre(4 yrs/20th)

And in the wider community...

*As we face into a likely overturning of Roe v. Wade, may God's powerful love surround women navigating challenging reproductive choices and those who deliver courageous, skilled, compassionate healthcare to women in difficult circumstances. May we find courageous and grace-filled ways to engage with others on this topic.

*In the midst of the ongoing genocide in Ukraine, may refugees be met with welcome and resources. May the violence come to an end. May our St. Croix Valley Prayer Circle be a place of welcome and spiritual empowerment.

*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.

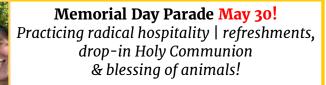


THIS WEEKEND

People's Backyard Potlucks Tuesday, June 7, 5:30-7:00pm

At the home of Pastor Clare, Sam & Jonah 1017 Carlton Dr. Shoreview, MN 55126

Please let Pastor Clare know if you would like host in July or August



Cindy Seigel will set up a canopy on the church lawn with free coffee, lemonade & treats for all. Pastor Clare and sons will bless animals and offer Holy Communion to anyone who wants it.

The parade starts at 8:30 am on highway 95 in front of the Legion.

This is Bayport's 100th birthday! **Helpers are needed**, particularly with 7:30 am set-up. It's a great reach-out to the community opportunity. Donations of cookies, bars, donuts, etc are welcome & needed. Any questions/comments? Call/text 651-343-3270 or email <u>cindysiegel98@gmail.com</u>.



Note from the May Festival Co-Chairs

"We need volunteers!"

In just 6 days, the May Festival will be here! The planning team has been meeting for several months. Now we need volunteers on the "day of." Please plan to help in a myriad of ways, including:

*Friday afternoon set-up *Saturday morning set-up *clean-up at the end of the day on Saturday *assist with plant sales *assist with cashiering *assist with the silent auction *contribute to the bake sale *provide exhibitor hospitality (fetch refreshments, "booth sit") *greeter (welcome guests in our "friend-raising" spirit)

There are sign-up sheets downstairs at church Or feel free to just call Sue Favilla (612-381-4996), or Jane Hanson (715-294-0506). Thank you very much!

Please purchase and sell 50/50 raffle tickets!

Please see Claire Spilseth this Sunday, before or after worship Or pick up tickets at our church offices, Tuesday-Thursday, 9am-4pm Or self serve from a bin on Kimberly's office door





Check out our Lawn signs and banners around town!



Contribute a Consumable Plinko prize! ASAP, please! Could you contribute one of these consumable prizes? -Bottles of wine -Bottles of non-alcoholic products (ideas: pure maple syrup, ginger beer, sparkling beverages, olive oils, specialty drinks, Bloody Mary mix, etc.) To contribute a prize, please contact Claire Spilseth (651-439-5568) or Mark Stephan (651-492-7722) Volunteers Needed for ...



DAKE SALE Please contact Jill Greenhalgh

651-343-2254





Sponsered by People's Congregational Church, Bayport peoplescongregational.org Questions? Call Mary Ann (malitfin@gmail.com | 612-382-9920) **St. Croix Valley Prayer Circle** People of all faiths & paths

June 1 | 6:30 pm

Questions? Contact Mary Ann: (malitfin@gmail.com 612-382-9920)

Thank you for all who made today wonderful: Choir Dir. Michael Bjork, Worship Accompanist Sharon Neuenfeldt (beautiful music), Kris Strasburg (greeter), Sharri Kinkead (liturgist), Jonah Gromoll (acolyte), Kathy Iverson & Carol Dusbabek (brunch), Paul, Bob & Mark (tech), Carol, Sue & Claire (children's activity), Lisa Culbertson (childcare provider)



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