



*"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*

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude & Candle Lighting

“People of God”

Watson

Jonah Gromoll, Acolyte

A flame represent the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome

Pastor Clare Gromoll

***Call To Worship

Sharri Kinhead

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”

#28, NCH

1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the splen-dor of the skies,
2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,
4 For the good that love in-spires, for a world where none ex-clude,

For the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,
For a faith that nev-er tires, and for ev-ery heart re-newed,

Refrain

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

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?"

Prayer Hymn

“Spirit of the Living God” - sung twice

#283 NCH

F Gm D Gm F Dm C F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me;

F Gm D Gm F Bb/C C7 F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Bb F G7 C

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

F Gm D Gm F Dm C7 F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

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.**

Invitation to the Offering



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! 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

***Sitting or standing

♩=132

Draw the cir-cle_ wide. Draw it wid - er still. Let this be our_

song, no one stands a - lone, stand - ing side by side, draw the cir-cle_

To verses Last time, Fine

wide._____ wide._____

1. God the still - point of the cir - cle, 'round whom all cre -
 2. Let our hearts touch far hor - i - zons, so en - com - pass
 3. Let the dreams we_ dream be larg - er, than we've ev - er

- a - tion turns; noth - ing lost, but
 great and small; let our lov - ing
 dreamed be - fore; let the dream of

held for - ev - er in God's gra - cious arms. _____
 know no bor - ders, faith - ful to God's call. _____
 Christ be in us, o - pen ev - 'ry door. _____

*****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.



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



Memorial Day Parade **May 30!**

*Practicing radical hospitality | refreshments,
drop-in Holy Communion
& blessing of animals!*

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 cindysiegel98@gmail.com.



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



MAY 21 • 10AM-5PM

PLANT SALE
●
LIVE MUSIC
●
FOOD
●
ARTISTS



AUCTION
●
RAFFLE
●
GAMES
●
CRAFTERS

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 ...



BAKE SALE

Please contact Jill Greenhalgh
651-343-2254





FOR THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE

Join us in a unified circle of prayer.
We focus our energy for a brief time together.
Hearts ground, center & envision healing.
Every participant contributes to our impact.
Please come, rain or shine.

Sponsored 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)



People's Congregational Church

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