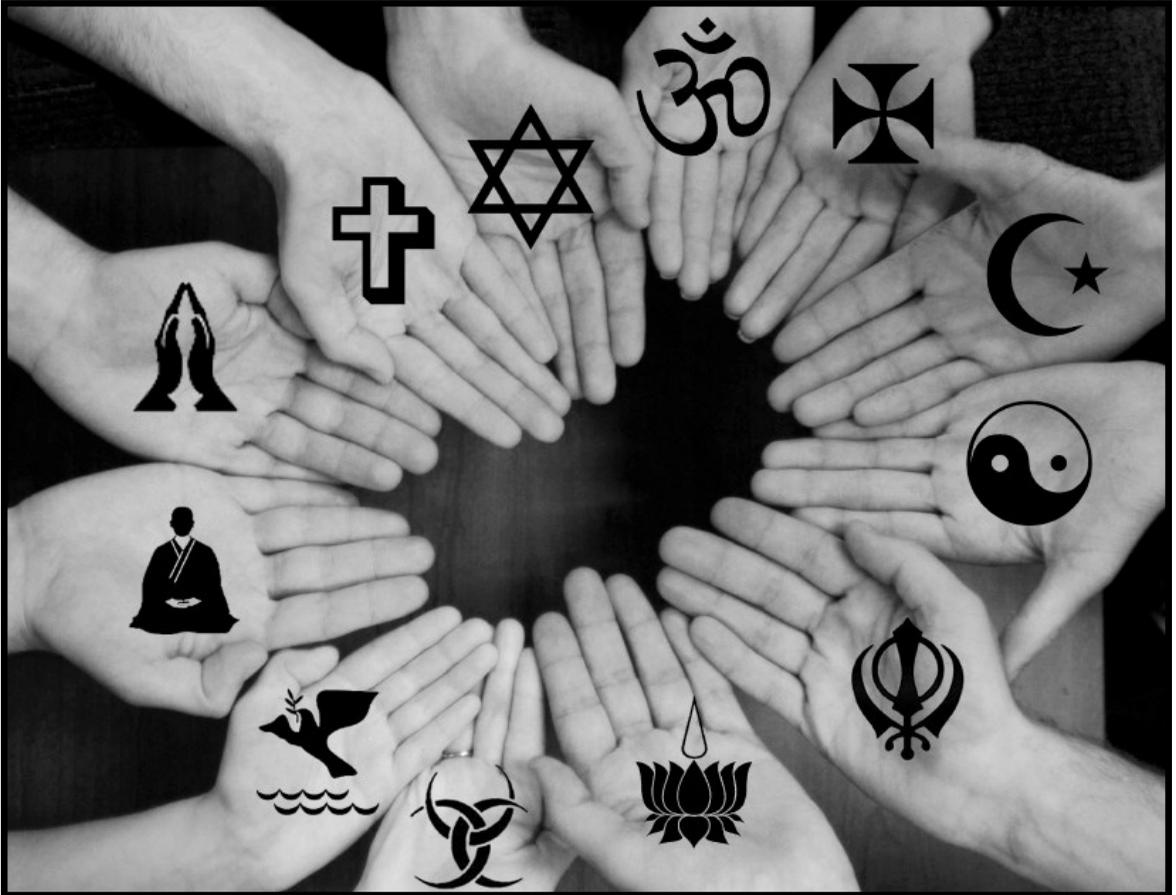




"An inclusive community, celebrating God's unconditional love through engaging worship and faithful service"



May 22, 2022

"How Will We Be Christian Pluralists?"

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 & Lantern Lighting

“Morning”

Gast

Addison Albright, *Acolyte*

A flame represents the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome

Pastor Clare Gromoll

*****Opening Hymn**

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”
Vs. 1 & 2

#4, NCH
see next page

*****Call To Worship**

Mark Stephan

One: Paul had a vision in the night: “Come to Macedonia and help us.”

All: Open us to your call to go to new places, O God.

One: Paul talked theology with the women at the river.

**All: Open us to share faith with those we meet, whoever and
wherever they are.**

One: Lydia listened to the good news Paul brought.

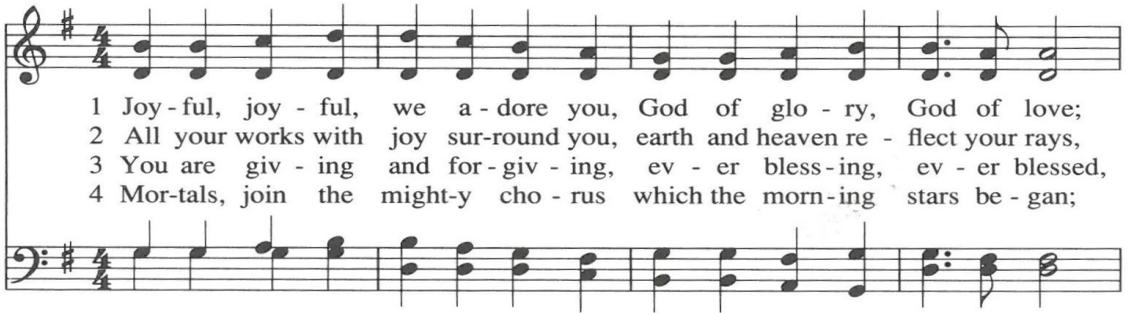
All: Open us to hear the new message of Christ’s love and justice.

One: Lydia convinced Paul to stay at her home.

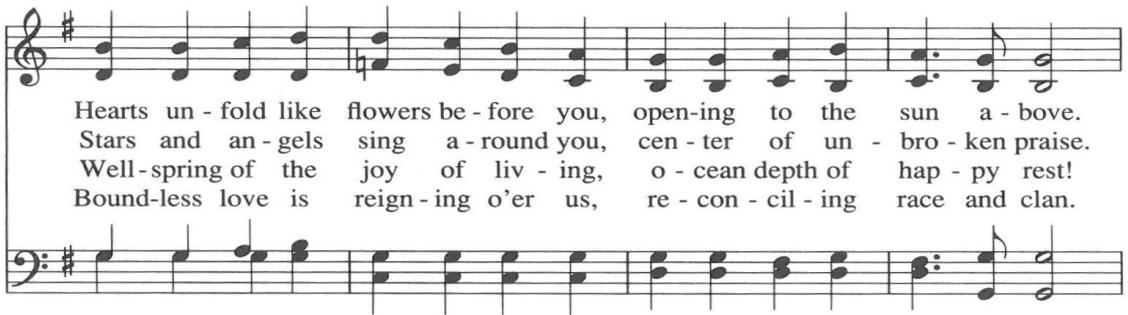
All: Open us to change our plans for the sake of the gospel. Amen.

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”

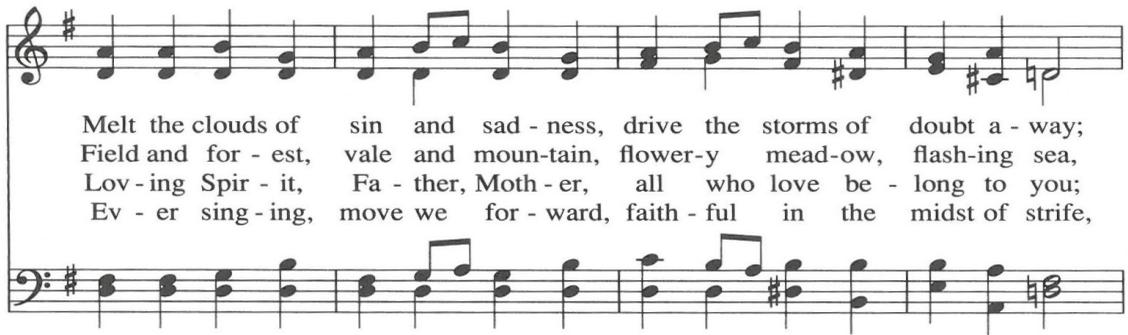
Vs. 1 & 2



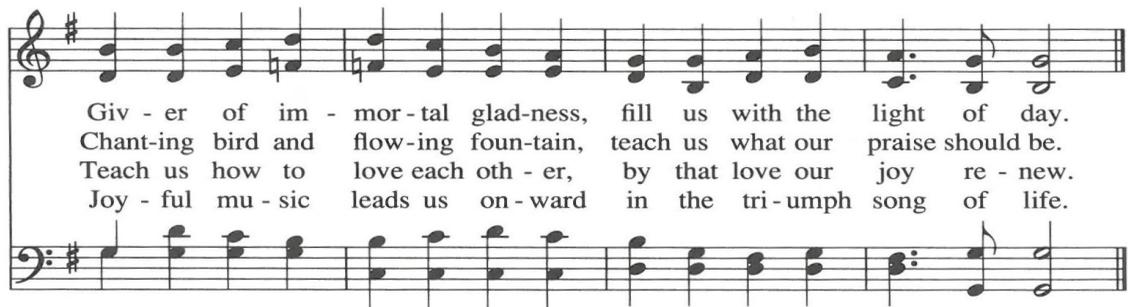
1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore you, God of glo - ry, God of love;
2 All your works with joy sur-round you, earth and heaven re - flect your rays,
3 You are giv - ing and for-giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blessed,
4 Mor-tals, join the might-y cho - rus which the morn-ing stars be - gan;



Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore you, open-ing to the sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a - round you, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!
Bound-less love is reign - ing o'er us, re - con - cil - ing race and clan.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the storms of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
Lov - ing Spir - it, Fa - ther, Moth - er, all who love be - long to you;
Ev - er sing - ing, move we for - ward, faith - ful in the midst of strife,



Giv - er of im - mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
Chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, teach us what our praise should be.
Teach us how to love each oth - er, by that love our joy re - new.
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us on - ward in the tri-umph song of life.

Choral Anthem

“You Are the One”

by Thomas Keesecker

You are the green, the blossom in the grasses.
You are the seed that travels in the air.
You are the bread, the harvest of the vineyard.
You are the joy of beauty ev'rywhere.

You are the nest far higher than the eagle.
You are the rock, the anchor of the soul.
You are the love enthroned in highest heaven.
You are the tree we see from far below.

You are the time we never knew before us.
You are the Alpha, ages in the past.
You are the hope, the days that lie before us.
You are the love we know as life at last.

You are the cave that hides us in the mountain.
You are the friend beside us in the night.
You are the spring to feed us from the fountain.
You are the sun to heal us in your light.

You are the door that opens into treasures.
You are the light, the beauty we will see.
You are the sum of all the holy graces.
You are the One, the holy Trinity. Amen.

Acknowledging Our Humanness & God's Grace

*****Prayer of Longing**

God of heaven and Earth, you guard our coming and going forth, our times of tender reflection and our moments of turmoil. Our lives are fragile. We violate each other in personal relationships, as nations, as inept keepers of life's beauty. Sharpen our sensitivities. Stir in us preferences for listening over speaking, for tenderness over aggression, for solidarity and community over alienation. Deepen for us the meaning of the resurrection, that we not only speak words of transformation but embody those words in our lives. Healer, Renewer, Sustainer, Source of hope and joy, we offer thanks and praise. Alleluia, Alleluia, Amen.

*****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

Children 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), **Jill** (Greenhalgh)
& **Edith** (Lisbeth Stokes)*

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 *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 sounds and movements in worship

*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 **John 14: 22-29** ~ *The Inclusive Bible*

Judas—not Judas Iscariot—said, “Rabbi, why is it that you’ll reveal yourself to us, and not to the whole world?”

Jesus answered, “Those who love me will be true to my word, and Abba God will love them; and we will come to them and make our dwelling place with them. Those who don’t love me don’t keep my words. Yet the message you hear is not mine; it comes from Abba God who sent me. This much have I said to you while still with you; but the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit whom Abba God will send in my name, will instruct you in everything and she will remind you of all that I told you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; but the kind of peace I give you is not like the world’s peace. Don’t let your hearts be distressed; don’t be fearful. You’ve heard me say, ‘I am going away but I will return.’ If you really loved me, you would rejoice because I am going to Abba God, for Abba is greater than I. I tell you this now, before it happens, so that when it happens you will believe.”

Acts: 16: 9-15 ~ *The Inclusive Bible*

Then one night Paul had a vision. A Macedonian stood before him and said, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” After this vision, we immediately made efforts to get across to Macedonia, convinced that God had called us to bring them the Good News.

We put out to sea from Troas and set a course straight for Samothrace, and the next day on to Neapolis; from there we went to Philippi, which is one of the bigger cities in Macedonia and a Roman colony, and spent a few days there.

On the Sabbath we went along the river outside the gates, thinking we might find a place of prayer. We sat down and preached to the women who had come to the gathering. One of them was named Lydia, a devout woman from the town of Thyatira who was in the purple-dye trade. As she listened to us, Christ opened her heart to accept what Paul was saying.

After she and her household were baptized, she extended us an invitation: “If you are convinced that I am a believer in Christ, please come and stay with us.” We accepted.

Morning Message

"How Will We Be Christian Pluralists?"

Prayer Song

“Every Step of The Way”

*#123 Sing! Prayer and Praise
See page 6*

“Every Step of The Way” ~ *Leaders sing once, then all sing twice more*

♩=128
F C/E Dm C B♭ Dm/A C/G Gsus G

Cmaj⁹ G/B Am Am/G

Help me do the jus - tice to be

Dm⁷ Gsus G C G/B

done to - day. Help me love kind -

Am Am/G Dm⁷

- ness in all I do and say.

Gsus G Em⁷ F C#dim Dm⁷ Gsus

— Help me walk hum-bly with you, O God I pray

G F

— ev - 'ry step of the way,

Dm⁷ C/E F/G C

— ev - 'ry step of the way.

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

**Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,
Holy and blessed is your true name.
We pray for your reign of peace to come,
We pray that your good will be done,
Let heaven and Earth become one.
Give us this day the bread we need,
Give it to those who have none.
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,
From each one to each one.
Lead us to holy innocence
Beyond the evil of our days —
Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:
Forever your name is All in One. Amen.**

Invitation to the Offering



Offertory

“Enter My Heart”

Martin

*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;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen**

***Prayer of Dedication

**Spirit of Life, in whom we live and move and have our being, we
thank you for your presence among us and in your whole creation.
Fill us with your power. May our truthful words, just actions, and
shared life witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ, in whose
name we pray. Amen.**

Going Forth to Share God’s Love

***Closing Hymn “Shall We Gather at the River”

Vs. 1 & 4

*#597, NCH
see next page*

***Benediction

“Shall We Gather at the River”

Vs. 1 & 4

1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
3 As we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - ery bur - den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;

with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain

Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er,

Gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

*****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**

“Peace”

J.A. Rose

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

All are welcome to linger on the lawn after worship

10:30 am Fellowship

10:30-10:45 am Prayers for Healing

We share healing power with one another when we name our need for the touch of God's healing love! We offer each other prayers for healing (silent, caring physical presence). Pull your chair over to the big tree to join us.

10:45-11:45 am Antiracism Collective sacred conversation

Child care provided

PRAYER CORNER

Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:

***Laura Mayaka**, healing after a knee replacement on Wednesday.

*We give thanks for a vibrant May Festival yesterday, grateful for every person who attended! We thank all volunteers for tremendous efforts, most particularly the **May Festival Planning Team**.

*For **Pastor Rich Larson** on this last day of 26 years in ministry with Bethlehem Lutheran Church. We wish him well in retirement! We look forward to continued love and collaboration with the people of BLC.

*We celebrate birthdays with **John** Norheim (10th), **Walter** Vandre (4 yrs/20th), **Jill** Greenhalgh (27) & **Edith** Lisbeth Stokes 2 yrs/28th).

And in the wider community...

*In the aftermath of the recent mass shooting in which white supremacy emboldened the killing of ten black persons and wounded three more, may we find the way to build a just society where all lives matter.

*Given the current growth in cases of coronavirus in Washington County, we pray that all of us will do what is necessary to keep one another safe.

*As we face into the likely overturning of Roe v. Wade, may Love surround women navigating difficult reproductive choices and those who deliver courageous, compassionate healthcare to women in various circumstances. May we find courageous and grace-filled ways to engage with others on this sensitive 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 who cope with physical, mental and chemical health challenges. May we feel God's healing touch in new ways.



Memorial Day Parade **May 30!**

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

Cindy Siegel 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.



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

ST. CROIX VALLEY PRAYER CIRCLE
June 1 | 6:30 pm
@People's Park
1003 5th Ave. N.
Bayport
(BY BARKER'S ALPS)
People of all faiths & paths

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)

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**Thank you,
May Fest Planning Team**

You Are Awesome!

**Sue Favilla & Jane Hanson
(co-chairs)**

Mary Binger

Sharon Binger

Pat Mazzitello

Mindy Peters

Claire Spilseth

With support from:

Pastor Clare Gromoll

Kimberly Jackson

**Thank you for all who made today wonderful: Choir Dir. Michael Bjork,
Worship Accompanist Sharon Neuenfeldt, Rolf Dittmann (cantor)
Mark & Michele Stephan (greeters), Mark Stephan (liturgist), Addison Albright
(acolyte), Joe & Diane Legato (fellowship), Paul, Bob & Mark (tech),
Carol, Sue & Claire (children's activity), Childcare Provider, Lisa Culbertson**



People's Congregational Church

**Rev. Clare Gromoll, Pastor ~ pastor@peoplescongregational.org
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