



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



May 29, 2022

*"Will We Carry Jesus' Message Forward?"*  
Memorial Day Weekend | Ascension Sunday

## 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 & Lantern Lighting

“Remember”

*J.M. Stevens*

*Sam Gromoll, Acolyte*

*A flame represents the light of Christ among us*

### Words of Welcome

*Pastor Clare Gromoll*

### \*\*\*Prayer of Gathering

*Mindy Peters*

**Great and loving God, we come to worship aware that we sometimes feel you have abandoned us or left us to fend for ourselves. We rely upon your ever-presence, yet suspect your absence. Encourage us, O God, when we doubt your promise to be with us always. In our worship, grant us gifts of discernment and hope. Enable us to recognize your workings in the commonplace and the everyday. Open us to faith, Help us to perceive not only what is, but also what, by your grace, might be. We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### \*\*\*Opening Hymn “Come and Find the Quiet Center”

*#575, Chalice Hymnal  
Rolf Dittmann, cantor*

Unison

1. Come and find the qui - et cen - ter in the crowd - ed life we  
2. Si - lence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the  
3. In the Spir - it let us trav - el, o - pen to each oth - er's

\*\*\*Sitting or standing

F F B $\flat$

lead, find the room for hope to en - ter, find the  
 pace, God it is who speaks and names us, knows our  
 pain, let our loves and fears un - rav - el, cel - e -

C7 F Am7

frame where we are freed: clear the cha - os and the  
 be - ing, touch - es base, mak - ing space with - in our  
 brate the space we gain: there's a place for deep - est

Dm Am7 Dm Am7 B $\flat$  (C7)

clut - ter, clear our eyes, that we can see all the  
 think - ing, lift - ing shades to show the sun, rais - ing  
 dream - ing, there's a time for heart to care, in the

F B $\flat$  C7 F

things that real - ly mat - ter, be at peace, and sim - ply be.  
 cour - age when we're shrink - ing, find - ing scope for faith be - gun.  
 Spir - it's live - ly schem - ing there is al - ways room to spare!

## Acknowledging Our Humanness & God's Grace

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

**Gracious God, you encourage us with your love, bringing new life out of death. We confess that we need your life-giving power in our lives and in our relationships. We have hurt others and been hurt by them. We are often angry or afraid. We are not sure when to assert our needs and when to care for others' needs. We continue to live in ways which do not lead to peace and justice. Forgive us, O God. Pour your Spirit of wisdom and healing upon us, that by our lives and our loving, we may glorify you, through Jesus Christ the Risen One. 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**

*Children bring their chairs forward*

**Sung Invitation**     *We sing as our 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 **Jill** (Greenhalgh), **Edith** (Lisbeth Stokes),  
**Bob** (Iverson), **Deb** (Francis) & **Sue** (Favilla)*

### **Blessing One Another**

*Seated, we open our arms to the children*

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

*Children may stay in worship (we welcome their sounds and movements)  
or move to the playground with our Childcare Provider, Lisa*

*( if 3 or more children, we ask that a second adult join the group)*

**Sung Affirmation**     *We sing as children depart 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.**

### **Scripture Readings**

*see page 6*

### **Acts 1: 1-9** ~ *The Inclusive Bible*

In my earlier account, Theophilus, I dealt with everything that Jesus had done and taught, from the beginning until the day he was taken up, after he had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After the Passion, Jesus appeared alive to the apostles—confirmed through many convincing proofs—over the course of forty days, and spoke to them about the reign of God.

On one occasion, Jesus told them not to leave Jerusalem. “Wait, rather, for what God has promised, of which you have heard me speak”, Jesus said. “John baptized with water, but within a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

While meeting together they asked, “Has the time come, Rabbi? Are you going to restore sovereignty to Israel?”

Jesus replied, “It’s not for you to know times or dates that Abba God has decided. You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; then you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and even to the ends of the Earth.” Having said this, Jesus was lifted up in a cloud before their eyes and taken from their sight.

### **Ephesians 1: 15-23** ~ *The Inclusive Bible*

From the time I first heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of the holy ones, I have never stopped thanking God for you and remembering you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Savior Jesus Christ, the God of glory, will give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation, to bring you a rich knowledge of the Creator.

I pray that God will enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see the hope this call holds for you—the promised glories that God's holy ones will inherit, and the infinitely great power that is exercised for us who believe. You can tell this from the strength of God’s power at work in Jesus, the power used to raise Christ from the dead and to seat Christ in heaven at God's right hand, far above every sovereignty, authority, power or dominion, and above any other name that can be named—not only in this age, but also in the age to come. God has put all things under Christ’s feet and made Christ, as the ruler of everything, the head of the church, and the church is Christ’s body; it's the fullness of the One who fills all of creation.

**John 17: 18-23, 26 ~ *The Inclusive Bible***

**“As you have sent me into the world,  
so I have sent them into the world;  
I consecrate myself now for their sakes,  
that they may be made holy in truth.  
I don’t pray for them alone.  
I pray also for those  
who will believe in me through their message,  
that all may be one,  
as you, Abba, are in me and I in you;  
I pray that they may be one in us,  
so that the world may believe that you sent me.  
I have given them the glory you gave me  
that they may be one, as we are one—  
I in them, you in me—  
that they may be perfect in unity.  
Then the world will know that you sent me,  
and that you loved them as you loved me.  
To them I have revealed your Name,  
and I will continue to reveal it  
so that the love you have for me  
may live in them,  
just as I may live in them.”**

## **Morning Message**

**"Will We Carry Jesus' Message Forward?"**

**Prayer Song**    **“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”**  
*sung three times*

*#305 Chalice Hymnal  
see page 6*

**“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”**  
*sung three times*

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray - ing, Lord, send your spir - it

The first system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a 2/2 time signature. It features a series of chords and a melodic line. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are placed between the two staves.

in this place; Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray - ing,

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. It maintains the same musical notation and key signature. The lyrics are placed between the two staves.

send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace. grace!

1 (optional) Final

The third system of music concludes the hymn. It includes an optional ending and a final ending. The top staff has a box labeled "1 (optional)" and another box labeled "Final". The lyrics are placed between the two staves.



## 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.*

*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 as own prayers quietly arise*

### Prayer of Jesus

*We are welcome to speak names of God that are true for us  
(Father, Mother, Parent, Creator, Friend)*

**Our Father and Mother who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name.**

**Thy kin-dom come. Thy will be done on Earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:**

**For thine is the kin-dom, and the power, and the glory, forever.**

**Amen.**

## Invitation to the Offering



**Offertory**                    “This is a Time to Remember”

*B.J. Leech*

*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” 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**

**Loving God, comfort of the grieving, peace of the troubled, we turn  
to you. Bring to our minds awareness of what it means to live in  
Christ’s presence. Give us heart to love and to risk as your friends.  
Send your Spirit to guide us in everything, through the word and  
promise of Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

### Going Forth to Share God’s Love

**\*\*\*Closing Hymn**            “Eternal Christ, You Rule”

*Vs. 1, 3, 5*

*#302, NCH  
see next page*

**\*\*\*Benediction**

# “Eternal Christ, You Rule”

Vs. 1, 3, 5

*Unison*

1 E - ter-nal Christ, you rule keep-ing com - pa - ny with pain;  
 2 E - ter-nal Christ, you rule speak-ing par - don from the cross;  
 3 E - ter-nal Christ, you rule tak - ing chil - dren by the hand;  
 4 E - ter-nal Christ, you rule fast - ing for - ty days a - lone;  
 5 E - ter-nal Christ, you rule keep-ing com - pa - ny with pain;

en - dur-ing rid - i - cule, re - ject - ed, still you reign.  
 for - giv - ing pound-ed nails; death did its worst and lost.  
 the proud re - turn to school; the meek re - ceive the land.  
 the tempt-er played the fool, ex - pect - ing bread from stone.  
 with love and truth as tools, come build in us your reign.

*Hymnwriter Daniel Charles Damon credits a sermon given by United Church of Christ minister Ansley Coe Throckmorton at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California, as his inspiration for this text. To the question, “How does Christ rule?” Throckmorton replied, “By keeping company with pain.”*

Tune: THROCKMORTON 6.7.6.6.  
 Dan Damon, 1990

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**\*\*\*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**

“Wherever You Go”

*Hamm*

*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  
*Pull your chair over to the big tree to join us.*

**PRAYER CORNER**

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

\*With **Michael Bjork** (our choir director and an elementary music teacher), we pray for **students** to have access to sufficient food, shelter and other stabilizing factors as the school year comes to an end and they move into summer vacation. We also lift a prayer of gratitude for all **educators and caregivers** of children and youth.

\*For the **Bacon** family, friends of **Cheri & Bob Schwartz**, as they experience pregnancy complications.

\*For **Pastor Rich Larson**, whose 26 years in ministry with our neighbors at Bethlehem Lutheran Church came to a close on May 22nd. May he find rest and new energy as he moves into retirement. May the people of Bethlehem have a fruitful interim time.

\*We give thanks for our recent first annual **People's May Festival**—for our collaborative energy, for all the good it created, and for every person we welcomed to People's Park.

\*We celebrate birthdays with **Jill Greenhalgh** (27th) & **Edith Lisbeth Stokes** (2 yrs/28th), **Bob Iverson** (29th), **Deb Francis** (2nd) & **Sue Favilla** (3rd) and the anniversary of **Jim & Shizuko Purnick** (2nd).

*And in the wider community...*

\*On this Memorial Day weekend, we remember many of our families, friends and neighbors who have experienced a loved one dying while actively serving in our military. God, wrap all of their survivors in your loving arms as they grieve in their own ways and timing. And may we build your beloved community in which war will cease.

\* On May 24th, 19 young students and 2 teachers were killed when a teenaged young adult opened fire at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, TX (the 212th mass shooting in this land in 2022, the 27th school shooting in 2022. Even as we long for a day when fear, hate and suffering cannot easily take up arms and destroy lives; may we take bold action by urging legislative reform that creates more sensible gun control.

\*In the wake of vandalism and burglary at Minnesota Da'wah Institute (a mosque under construction in St. Paul), may support surround that particular community and may we all be empowered to practice respect toward people of religious traditions other than our own.

\*In the aftermath of the terrorist attack at Tops Supermarket (in Buffalo, NY) in which white supremacy emboldened the killing of ten black persons and wounded more, and being reminded of how intersecting injustices of racism and poverty create food deserts, may we find a way to build a just society in which we demonstrate that all lives matter.

\*May the Love of God enfold all women navigating difficult reproductive choices and those who deliver courageous, compassionate healthcare to women. May we know courage and grace as we engage with others on this sensitive topic.

\*As genocide and warfare continue in Ukraine, may refugees be met with welcome and resources. May our St. Croix Valley Prayer Circle be a place of spiritual empowerment and part of ending the war.

\*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.



## May Festival Gratitude

*We have attempted to list here all members and active friends of our church who participated in any way. As per above, we are also reaching out directly to folks in the wider community to supported us in specific ways. Please let us know if we missed you or another!*

**More than 75 members and active friends of our congregation**

75 of us (of all ages)

attended and/or participated in some way, joined by several hundred others from the wider community!

**Bake Sale Contributors** | Dawn Fetter, Jill Greenhalgh, Aidan Gromoll, Jane Hanson, Kathy Iverson, Diane Legato, Lori Mildon, Sharon Neuenfeldt, Cindy Parsons, Paula Richey, Cheri Schwartz, Cindy Siegel.

**Plant Sale Contributors & Organizers** | Mary Binger, Andi Favilla, Sue Favilla, Dawn Fetter, Pastor Clare, Jane Hanson, Pat Mazzitello, Lori Mildon, Mindy Peters, Claire Spilseth.

**Plinko Prize Contributors** | Sharon Binger, Carol Dusbabek, Andi & Peter Favilla, Jane Hanson, Pat Mazzitello, Sharon Neuenfeldt, Mindy Peters, Claire & Paul Spilseth, Mark & Michele Stephan, Betsy & Bill Stokes, Kris Strasburg.

**Silent Auction Contributors** | Rolf Dittmann, Sue Favilla, Dawn & Jere Fetter, Aidan Gromoll, Pastor Clare, Jane Hanson, Diane Legato, Mary Ann Litfin, Laura Mayaka, Lori Mildon, Walt & Paula Richey, Claire Spilseth, Betsy Stokes

**People's Crafters** | Carol Dusbabek, Jere Fetter, Barb Hilliard, Sharri Kinkead, Pat Mazzitello, Lori Mildon, Mindy Peters, Mark Stephan.

**Exhibitor Recruitment & Communications** | Mindy Peters, Pastor Clare, Kimberly Jackson, Sue Favilla, Jane Hanson

**Advertising & Sponsor Relations** | Kimberly Jackson, Pastor Clare, Mary Binger, Sue Favilla.

**Educational Moment Leaders** | Mary Maren Bjork, Mary Ann Litfin, John Norheim, Paul Spilseth.

**Set-up, During-event, & Clean-up Volunteers** | Mary Binger, Sharon Binger, Mary Maren Bjork, Lisa Culbertson & Ted, Rolf Dittmann, Andi Favilla, Louis Favilla, Sue Favilla, Dawn & Jere Fetter, Aidan Gromoll, Pastor Clare, Jane Hanson, Irene Horak, Bob & Kathy Iverson, Sharri Kinkead, Tuner Law, Mary Ann Litfin, Janet Minea, Mindy Peters, Paula Richey, Jackie Savage, Cheri Schwartz, Cindy & John Siegel, Dale Shaller & Jenni Shaller, Claire & Paul Spilseth, Mark & Michele Stephan, Kris Strasburg,

**Bake Sale Leadership** | Jill Greenhalgh

**Music Coordination** | Michael Bjork & Matt Wulff

**Fun & Games Leadership** | Sharon Binger, May Pole crafted by Claire Spilseth.

**Plinko Leadership** | Mark & Michele Stephan

**Raffle Leadership** | Claire Spilseth, with many tickets sold by Jackie Savage and Cheri Schwartz.

**Silent Auction Leadership** | Claire Spilseth, assisted by Dawn Fetter

**Event Logistics** | Sue Favilla & Jane Hanson, assisted by Andi Favilla and Satoko Muratake

**Planning Team** | Sue Favilla & Jane Hanson (co-chairs), Mindy Peters, Claire Spilseth, supported by Kimberly Jackson and Pastor Clare



**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](http://peoplescongregational.org)  
 Questions? Call Mary Ann ([malitfin@gmail.com](mailto:malitfin@gmail.com) | 612-382-9920)



**Memorial Day Hospitality**

**May 30, beginning at 8 am**

**Stop by our church lawn!**

**\*Free refreshments**

**\*Blessings for pets**


**\*Drop-in Holy Communion  
 (open to all)**

**Happy 100th birthday, Bayport!**

Thank you for all who made today wonderful: Choir Dir. Michael Bjork,  
 Worship Accompanist Sharon Neuenfeldt, Rolf Dittmann (cantor)  
 Kris Strasburg (greeter), Mindy Peters (liturgist), Sam Gromoll (acolyte),  
 Aidan Gromoll (fellowship), Paul, Bob & Mark (tech),  
 Childcare Provider, Lisa Culbertson



**People's Congregational Church**

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