

**ST. CROIX VALLEY PRAYER CIRCLE**  
 July 7 | 6:30 pm  
 @People's Park  
 1003 5th Ave. N.  
 Bayport  
 (BY BARKER'S ALPS)  
*People of all faiths & paths*

**WOMEN'S AUTONOMY**  
*embodied, empowered*


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)

Pastor Clare will be out of the office  
 in June:


**June 21-24** (vacation, unavailable)

**June 25-28**  
 (NACCC Conference |  
 will be checking email)



Thank you for all who made today wonderful: Choir Dir. Michael Bjork, Worship Accompanist Sharon Neuenfeldt, Claire Bjork, Mary Bjork, Mike Bjork and Keely Vandre (music), PCC Choir, Carol Dusbabek & Claire Spilseth (greeters), Mary Bjork, Lori Mildon, Mindy Peters, Jenni Shaller, Kris Strasburg (worship planners), Mary Binger, Claire Bjork, Michael Bjork, Rolf Dittmann, Sharri Kinhead, Mindy Peters, Cheri Schwartz, Dale Shaller, Eric Vandre, Keely Vandre (ARC Readers), Addison Albright (acolyte), ARC, Jackie Savage, Jill Greenhalgh, & Rolf Dittmann (fellowship), Paul, Bob & Mark (tech), Lisa Culbertson (childcare Provider)



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

# JUNETEENTH!

**June 19, 2022**



*Ekua Holmes, May We Forever Stand*

**"FREEDOM IS NOT FREE"**  
 Reverend Pamela Ngunjiri

*This special service commemorates the 157th anniversary of Juneteenth, the long-delayed day of freedom for the last of America's enslaved people, and celebrates the year of racial justice learning and exploration completed by members of the People's Antiracism Collective (ARC).*

**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**      "Deep River"      *African American spiritual*

*Addison Albright, Acolyte*

*The flame represents the light of Christ among us*

**Choral Anthem** "Do Not Leave Your Cares at the Door"

*Music: Elizabeth Alexander Words: Norman V. Naylor*

Come on in; you are welcome here;  
And do not leave your cares at the door.  
Bring your pain and sorrow and joy,  
There's a place for them upon the altar of life.  
Be open to forgiveness and transformation  
—Come on in; you are welcome here;  
And do not leave your cares at the door.  
This is a place of grace,  
Of losing and finding the way upon the winding road,  
Meeting and parting, stumbling and starting over.  
Every story is sacred here, even yours.  
Do not leave your cares at the door.  
Do not leave them there when you come into this place.  
Be open to forgiveness and transformation  
—Come on in; you are welcome  
here; And do not leave your cares  
at the door. Amen.

\*\*\*Sitting or standing

*And in the wider community...*

\*We give thanks that, wherever we go and wherever we pause, we witness people reaching across potential divides to build community.

\*As hearings unfold related to the Select Committee Investigation of the January 6, 2021 attack on the US capitol, may justice be served.

\*We give thanks for our developing relationship with the MN Conference UCC and trust God to guide the work of our wider UCC and NACCC.

\*During Pride Month, we focus on recognizing bravery and vulnerability within the LGBTQ+ community. May we be reminded of our belovedness, knowing the image of God is present in each of us as we emerge into the fullness of our gender identities and sexual orientations.

\*As coronavirus surges, may we each do what is necessary to keep protecting the youngest and immunocompromised among us.

\*As genocide and warfare continue in Ukraine, may refugees be met with welcome and resources. We pray for wellbeing for Pastor Clare's sister **Aidan**, providing medical care to refugees in Moldova for the month of June.

\*As our epidemic of gun violence continues, may our legislators hear and honor the cries of the people (particularly the call to action by youth and children through March For Our Lives). May we work hard to find common ground where responsible gun owners can pursue hobbies but high-capacity assault rifles cannot be easily accessed by anyone. For our elected leaders, clarity of conscience and courage to do good.

**Prayer Cards**

If you voice a prayer for a loved one today, we welcome you to start a card for us to sign during fellowship.

*(prayer cards on shelf of entrance sign)*

Please take the signed card with you as you leave, stamps provided.

## PRAYER CORNER

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

\*We hold space for hope with **Mary Ann Litfin** as her estranged daughter **Natasha** opens her home once again to family members.

\*We rejoice with **Claire, BJ and Edith Stokes** and their extended family upon the birth of William Paul Stokes on June 9th! All are doing well. William is named after grandfathers Bill Stokes and Paul Walthour. We look forward to surrounding William with our love!

\*We celebrate with **Jackie Savage** as she retires from 45 years of service as a bus driver with Stillwater Area Schools.

\*We celebrate with **Kaari Bjork, Jonah Gromoll and Hannah Wulff**, who have all graduated from preschool and look forward to kindergarten in the fall.

\*For Pastor Clare's brother **Sam**, his spouse **Martha**, and children **Naomi** and **Will**, emerging from COVID quarantine and recovering from symptoms.

\*We give thanks for the opportunity **Sharon Neuenfeldt's grandson** had to visit New Orleans on with a combined Stillwater High School band.

\*And for Sharon's brother, **Greg**, battling multiple myeloma and now home from the ICU, adjusting to a new blood thinner after experiencing a pulmonary blood clot.

\*For the Holy Spirit's continued guidance as our **Antiracism Collective and Rev. Pamela** lead us in commemorating Juneteenth today. For courage to embody God's love and justice in the St. Croix Valley.

\*For the **children and youth** of our congregation, families, and neighborhoods as they transition from the school year into summer vacation. May they have all the resources they need to sustain their physical and mental health. We give thanks for teachers, administrators, bus drivers, paraprofessionals and other school staff, especially our own **Michael Bjork, BJ Stokes, Claire Stokes, Jackie Savage, Lisa Culbertson**.

\*We celebrate birthdays with **Sam Gromoll** (8 yrs. on the 12), **Delores Davis & Rolf Dittmann** (17th), **Andrea Dittmann** (24th), **Luke Dittmann & Paul Spilseth** (25th) and the anniversary of **BJ & Claire Stokes** (20th).

## Words of Welcome

Pastor Clare Gromoll, ARC Members

### \*\*\*Opening Hymn "I Have a Dream, a Man Once Said"

*Pamela J. Pettitt (tune: Repton)*



1. 'I have a dream, a man once said 'where all is per - fect peace;  
2. But in this world of bit - ter strife the dream can of - ten fade;  
3. Lord, give us vi - sion, make us strong, help us to do your will;

where men and wom - en, black and white, stand hand in hand, and all u - nite,  
re - al - i - ty seems dark as night, we catch but glimps - es of the light  
don't let us rest un - til we see your love through - out hu - man - i - ty

in free - dom and in love, in free - dom and in love.  
Christ sheds on hu - man - kind, Christ sheds on hu - man - kind.  
u - nit - ing us in peace, u - nit - ing us in peace.

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

*Kenji Kuramitsu*

**Healer God, whose church predates the doctrines of white supremacy by more than a thousand years, empower us with words and wisdom to confront all racial divisions sown by colonizers and cultural elites. Teach us alongside all your saints to remember our people, all people, in our bones, to stitch their hymns and heritage into our hearts. Help us each to reconnect with the cultural heritage that birthed us instead of the violent racial categories into which we have been forced. Amen.**

**\*\*\*Response in Song**

**“Guide My Feet”**

Vs. 1, 2, 4

*African American Spiritual*  
#497 NCH

1 Guide my feet while I run this race, guide my feet  
 2 Hold my hand while I run this race, hold my hand  
 3 I'm your child while I run this race, I'm your child  
 4 Stand by me while I run this race, stand by me

Yes, my God.

while I run this race, guide my feet while I run this race,  
 while I run this race, hold my hand while I run this race,  
 while I run this race, I'm your child while I run this race,  
 while I run this race, stand by me while I run this race,

Yes, my God.

For I don't want to run this race in vain.

**Closing Hymn**

**“Oh Happy Day”**

*Phillip Doddridge/Edwin Hawkins*

**Oh, happy day (Oh, happy day)**  
**Oh, happy day (Oh, happy day)**  
**When Jesus washed (When Jesus washed)**  
**Oh, when He washed (When Jesus washed)**  
**When Jesus washed (When Jesus washed)**  
**He washed my sins away (Oh, happy day)**  
**Oh, happy day (Oh, happy day)**

**He taught me how (He taught me how)**  
**To watch and fight and pray**  
**Watch and pray**  
**And live rejoicing every day**  
**Every day**

**Closing Remarks**

**\*\*\*Benediction**

**\*\*\*Sending Song “Amen/This Little Light of Mine”**

*Sam Cooke*



Rev. Ngunjiri and Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs serve as Co-Directors of Racial Justice for the Minnesota Council of Churches. A pastor in the African Methodist Episcopal denomination, Rev. Ngunjiri has been a social worker, college professor, and is recently completing a Doctorate in Ministry focused on Racism, White Supremacy and the Christian Church. She brings eight years of experience pastoring historically Black Churches and decades of involvement in racially, culturally and ethnically diverse communities to her work.

## Prayers of the People

*When sharing a joy or concern for yourself, another, or a part of the world;  
please project your voice so we can hear it.*

*To include a prayer in our Prayer Corner in coming days,  
please share it with Pastor Clare (by phone or email)*

## Prayer of Jesus

*Jacob Trapp*

**O Thou, whose kingdom is within, may all thy names be hallowed.  
May no one of them be turned against the others to divide those who  
address thee.**

**May thy presence be made known to us in mercy, beauty, love and  
justice.**

**May thy kingdom come to be in the life of all humankind.**

**May it come with peace, with sharing, and in a near time.**

**Give us this day our daily bread, free from all envy and alienation,  
broken and blessed in the sharing.**

**Keep us from trespass against others, and from the feeling that  
others are trespassing against us.**

**Forgive us more than we have forgiven.**

**Deliver us from being tempted by lesser things to be heedless of the  
one great thing:  
the gift of thyself in us. Amen**

## Time of Offering

### Offertory

“Juneteenth Celebration”

*Sounds of Blackness*

*Today's special offering will be directed to the Twin Cities'  
"Sounds of Blackness."*

*Please consider leaving a gift to this ministry of love and music in the “Sounds  
of Blackness” offering container as you leave today.*

## Prayer of Dedication

\*\*\*Sitting or standing

## A Time With Children

**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 Sam (Gromoll), Delores (Davis), Rolf (Dittmann),  
Andrea (Dittmann), Luke (Dittmann) & Paul (Spilseth)*

### Blessing One Another

*Seated, we open our arms to the children*

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

*We welcome the sounds and movements of children who stay in worship  
Infants and toddlers (w/adult) are welcome to use our outdoor nursery*

*Lisa (Childcare Provider) will supervise older children on the playground  
(if 3 or more children, we ask that a second adult assist her)*

*Children under 3 on the playground must be watched by their own adult*

**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.**

## ARC Celebration

### Readings

### Recognition of ARC Participants

## Scriptures

### **Proverbs 6: 20-23** ~ *Good News Translation*

Son, do what your father tells you and never forget what your mother taught you. Keep their words with you always, locked in your heart. Their teaching will lead you when you travel, protect you at night, and advise you during the day. Their instructions are a shining light; their correction can teach you how to live.

### **Psalms 98: 4-9** ~ *New American Bible (revised edition)*

Shout with joy to the LORD, all the earth; break into song; sing praise. Sing praise to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and melodious song. With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy to the King, the LORD.

Let the sea and what fills it resound, the world and those who dwell there. Let the rivers clap their hands, the mountains shout with them for joy, Before the LORD who comes, who comes to govern the earth, To govern the world with justice and the peoples with fairness.

### **James 1: 22-25** ~ *New International Version*

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

**Morning Message**

"Freedom Is Not Free"

Rev. Pamela Ngunjiri

## \*\*\*Hymn

## "The Fire of Commitment"

*Words: Mary Katherine Morn Music: Jason Shelton*

**From the light of days remembered burns a beacon bright and clear  
Guiding hands and hearts and spirits into faith set free from fear.**

*Chorus:*

**When the fire of commitment sets our mind and soul a blaze  
When our hunger and our passion meet to call us on our way  
When we live with deep assurance of the flame that burns within,  
Then our promise finds fulfillment and our future can begin.**

**From the stories of our living rings a song both brave and free,  
Calling pilgrims still to witness to the life of liberty.**

*Chorus:*

**When the fire of commitment sets our mind and soul a blaze  
When our hunger and our passion meet to call us on our way  
When we live with deep assurance of the flame that burns within,  
Then our promise finds fulfillment and our future can begin.**

**From the dreams of youthful vision comes a new, prophetic voice,  
Which demands a deeper justice built by our courageous choice**

*Chorus:*

**When the fire of commitment sets our mind and soul a blaze  
When our hunger and our passion meet to call us on our way  
When we live with deep assurance of the flame that burns within,  
Then our promise finds fulfillment and our future can begin.**