



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



August 21, 2022

*"Will We Welcome Release, Growth and Leaven?"*

## 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 “Say It! Sing It!”

*Miller*

*Jonah Gromoll, Acolyte*

*The flame represents the light of Christ among us*

### Words of Welcome

*Pastor Clare Gromoll*

### \*\*\*Call to Worship

*Mary Maren Bjork, liturgist*

One: We are here because we have heard the call of Jesus in our lives.

**All: We are here to challenge and support one another to rise up  
and follow.**

One: We are here because we want to be God’s people.

**All: We want to learn more about what it means to be people of God.**

One: We come—seeking to be moved, changed, and made whole by the  
Spirit of the living God.

**All: Let us open our hearts to the moving of the Spirit, and prepare  
to leave this place as true disciples of Christ. Amen.**

### \*\*\*Opening Hymn “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

*#43*

*Vs. 1 - 2*

*see next page*

### Prayer Cards

If you voice a prayer for a loved one during Prayers of the People,  
we welcome you to start a card for us to sign during fellowship.

*(prayer cards on entrance sign shelf)*

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

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,  
 2 Breathe, O breathe your lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;  
 3 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all your life re - ceive;  
 4 Fin - ish, then, your new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less may we prove;

Fix in us a hum - ble dwell - ing, all your faith - ful mer - cies crown;  
 Let us all in you in - her - it, let us find your prom - ised rest;  
 Sud - den - ly re - turn, and ne - ver, ne - ver - more your tem - ples leave.  
 Let us see your great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in you;

Je - sus, you are all com - pas - sion; pure, un - bound - ed love im - part.  
 Take a - way our love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;  
 You we would be al - ways bless - ing, love you as your an - gels love,  
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,

Vis - it us with your sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
 End of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 Pray and praise for your un - fail - ing, wound - ed arms out - stretched a - bove.  
 Crowned as saints, we ev - er shall be lost in won - der, love, and praise.

*This hymn is said to have been suggested by a "Song of Venus" from Dryden's King Arthur. It is one of 6,500 written by Charles Wesley, the "sweet singer of Methodism," who was skilled at interweaving literary and scriptural images.*

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.  
 John Zundel, 1855  
 Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL  
 For another harmonization, see 368, 495

## Acknowledging Our Humanness and God's Grace

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

O God, our joy and comfort, we give thanks for all the possibilities of this day. Of the many gifts we receive from you, the flame of joy is the most precious. As we come to this hour of prayer, we also bear in our hearts the sorrows of our world. Comfort us with your presence. Strengthen us as we continue to proclaim your goodness and deliverance in all the Earth. Through Jesus, your revealer and our friend, we pray. Amen.

*prayerful silence*

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

*We share a sign of 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!**

## 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 **Jessy** (Hintze), **Mark** (Stephan), **Kaari** (Bjork),  
**Barb** (Hilliard) & **Alex** (Favilla) Sommerfeld*

**Blessing One Another** *Seated, we open our arms to the children*

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

**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.**

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

*Lisa (Childcare Provider) supervises 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*

### **Proclaiming God's Love**

#### **Scriptures**

Isaiah 58: 9-14 & Luke 13: 10-21 ~ *The Inclusive Bible*

*printed on next page*

**Isaiah 58: 9-14** ~ *The Inclusive Bible*

“Cry, and God will answer;  
call, and God will say, ‘I am here’ –  
provided you remove from your midst  
all oppression, finger pointing, and malicious talk!

If you give yourself to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light will rise in the darkness,  
and your shadows will become like noon.

God will always guide you,  
giving relief in desert places.

God will give strength to your bones  
and you will be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water  
whose waters never run dry.

You will rebuild the ancient ruins,  
and build upon age-old foundations.  
You will be called Repairer of Broken Walls,  
and Restorer of Ruined Neighborhoods.

If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath  
and doing business on the holy day,  
if you call the Sabbath delightful  
and the day sacred to God honorable,  
if you honor it by not pursuing your own ways,  
seeking your own pleasure,  
or speaking your own words,  
then will you find your happiness in God,  
and I will lead you triumphant  
over the heights of the land.

I will feed you on the heritage  
of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, your ancestors!”

The mouth of God has spoken.

**Luke 13: 10-21** ~ *The Inclusive Bible*

One Sabbath, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues. There was a woman there who for eighteen years had a sickness caused by a spirit. She was bent double, quite incapable of standing up straight.

When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are free from your infirmity.” He laid his hands on her, and immediately she stood up straight and began thanking God.

The head of the synagogue, indignant that Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the congregation, “There are six days for working. Come on those days to be healed, not on the Sabbath.”

Jesus said in reply, “You hypocrites! Which of you doesn’t let your ox or your donkey out of the stall on the Sabbath to water if? This daughter of Sarah and Abraham has been in the bondage of Satan for eighteen years. Shouldn’t she have been released from her shackles on the Sabbath?” At these words, Jesus’ opponents were humiliated; meanwhile, everyone else rejoiced at the marvels Jesus was accomplishing.

Jesus continued, “What does the kingdom of God resemble? To what will I liken it? It’s like a mustard seed which a gardener took and planted in the garden. It grew and became a large shrub, and the birds of the air nested in its branches.”

Then he went on, “To what will I compare the kingdom of God? It’s like the yeast which a baker added to three measures of flour and kneaded until the whole ball of dough began to rise.”

**Morning Message**

“Will We Welcome Release, Growth and Leaven?”

## Responding To God's Love

Prayer Hymn "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

#305 CH

*sung twice*

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

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

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

1 (optional) Final

### 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.*

*We'll add it to our printed Prayer Corner.*

**One:** God, in your love,

**All:** Hear our prayer

## Musical Interlude

*We listen as our own prayers quietly arise*

## Prayer of Jesus

*Feel free to call God by names that are true for you  
(Parent, Creator, Spirit, 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

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



*We're invited to leave a gift in the offering basket as we depart,  
scan the QR code to give electronically, or mail in a check*

## Offertory

“Love One Another”

*Chepponis*

## \*\*\*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**

**Gracious God, you are extravagant in your generosity. You have planted within us the seeds of hope, nurtured within us the saplings of faith, and harvested the fruits of your creation. May we embody our thanks with radical generosity. May we offer our lives to you in acts of compassion for one another. May we walk gently upon the Earth, ever mindful of your gifts of breath, of love, of life itself. Amen.**

### **Going Forth to Share God's Love**

**\*\*\*Closing Hymn "Strengthen All the Weary Hands"**

*Vs. 1-2*

#612  
*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**

**"God Will Guide Me"**

*Trad. American*

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

### **After-Worship Fellowship**

*Treats and beverages enjoyed in good company!  
All are welcome to linger on the lawn*

D Em A D G D/F#

1 Strength-en all the wea - ry hands, stead - y all the  
 2 Wa - ters flow in the wil - der - ness, streams break forth a -  
 3 Then the ran - somed shall re - turn, they shall come to  
 4 Let the wil - der - ness be glad, and the des - ert

GM7 A D E7 Asus4 A

trem - bling knees, and say to all faint hearts:  
 mid ar - id des - erts, burn - ing sands turn to pools.  
 Zi - on with sing - ing. Joy shall crown their heads.  
 burst in - to blos - som, dance and sing for joy!

D F#m Em7 A Em7 GM7 Asus4 D

“Cour - age, cour - age, do not be a - fraid.  
 Be strong, fear not, for your God is near.  
 Sor - row, sigh - ing, all shall flee a - way.  
 Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

A D/A G/A G D/F# E Asus4 A7

(1-4) Look, your God is com - ing. God comes, comes to save you.

D F#m Em7 A Em7 GM7 Asus4 D

Cour - age, cour - age, do not be a - fraid.”  
 Be strong, fear not, for your God is near.  
 Sor - row, sigh - ing, all shall flee a - way.  
 Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

## **PRAYER CORNER**

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

\*For **Aidan Gromoll**, sister to Pastor Clare, who travels back to Moldova on Aug. 25 to volunteer as a pediatrician caring for Ukranian refugees.

\*For Pastor Daniel, a swift recovery after a COVID diagnosis.

\*For **Jere Fetter**, who underwent testing at Mayo Clinic on Aug. 18-19 for ongoing upper leg pain.

\*For **Landon**, 17-year old great nephew to Jackie Savage, who was present during the attack on the Apple River, witnessing his friend Isaac bleeding to death and others violently injured. May love surround all who are grieving, may the other four victims experience full physical recovery, and may all be met with supportive companionship as they find healthy ways to process the trauma they've experienced.

\*For **Alicia**, friend of Cindy Parsons & Bob Dickie, as she continues to heal and recover after a fall wall hiking resulted in multiple injuries.

\*For the **Bacon** family, friends of Cheri & Bob Schwartz, celebrating the birth of Astrid, yet also facing her need for a new kidney.

\*For Rev. **Linda Tossey**, a former pastor of our church, who has a difficult cancer diagnosis. She welcomes our prayers as she continues with radiation and chemotherapy treatments.

\*We celebrate birthdays on these dates: **Jessy Hintze** (14th), **Mark Stephan** (24th), **Kaari Bjork** (5 yrs. the 25th), **Barb Hilliard** (26th), **Alex** (Favilla) **Sommerfeld** (30th)

\*We celebrate anniversaries on these dates:

**Jenni & Dale Shaller** (19th), **Jim & Mary Kay Dahl** (25th) & **Rolf Dittmann & Jill Greenhalgh** (27th)

*And in the wider community...*

\*For those seeking affordable housing, endurance through the challenges they face. May we create more equity in permanent housing as we work with ecumenical partners through the Homeless Strategy & Advocacy Team in St. Croix Valley.

\*May tangible support reach Kentucky communities devastated by recent flash floods. May love surround all who grieve the deaths of 39 beloved persons of all ages. May hope be found as communities recover and rebuild.

**Record-breaking floods, tornadoes prompt UCC aid, more help is needed,** full article here (by Carol Fouke-Mpoyo | published on Aug 12, 2022): <https://www.ucc.org/record-breaking-floods-tornadoes-prompt-ucc-aid-and-more-help-is-needed/>

*The United Church of Christ's Disaster Ministries unit is extending a helping hand to survivors of record-breaking floods and tornadoes that devastated communities from Missouri to Kentucky and West Virginia within the past eight months. In late July, flash flooding in the St. Louis area broke a century-old rainfall record, said Lesli Remaly, minister for disaster response and recovery with the UCC's Global H.O.P.E. team. Thousands of households have been affected. "Then that same record storm that inundated central and eastern Missouri traveled on to batter eastern Kentucky and West Virginia," sweeping away homes in areas that had never before flooded, said the Rev. Greg Denk, UCC Indiana-Kentucky Conference disaster coordinator. He said 3,400 homeowners in 13 Kentucky counties already have reported damaged property. Disaster Ministries already was responding to tornado disasters that destroyed or heavily damaged more than 600 homes in western Kentucky on Dec. 11, 2021, and Jan. 1, 2022.*

*Donate to these efforts by choosing "Emergency USA" at his link:*

*[support.ucc.org](https://support.ucc.org)*

*The Mission and Outreach Ministry Council (MOMC), on behalf of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches, is gratefully receiving funds to assist with Kentucky relief efforts. In times of crisis, the MOMC makes every effort to work through member churches and missions closest to those in need. Where our churches and missions are not present, we work through respected and responsible organizations. One organization to receive funds will be Convoy of Hope. Kentucky governor Andy Beshear has also set up a "Team Eastern Kentucky Flood Relief Fund" which will be considered. With any donation, please indicate "Kentucky flood relief efforts."*

*NACCC – OGHs, PO Box 288, Oak Creek WI 53154*

*Donate online at [www.naccc.org/donate](https://www.naccc.org/donate)*

DO YOU LONG FOR STUDENTS OF ALL AGES & STAFF AT THEIR SCHOOLS  
TO FEEL SUPPORTED BY EVERYONE THIS FALL?

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People's Congregational Church seeks to be relevant  
and responsive to life in our wider community.



Join us for our 1st Annual...

## ST. CROIX VALLEY STUDENT SEND-OFF:

Hearing & Affirming Students,  
S'mores & Park Exploration

AUGUST 24TH, 6:30 - 7:30 PM  
AT PEOPLE'S PARK | 1003 5TH AVE. N., BAYPORT, MN

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Questions? Contact our church office @ 651-439-5667  
[peoplescongregational.org](http://peoplescongregational.org)

**(1st Annual!) St. Croix Valley Student Send-Off:  
Hearing & Affirming Students, S'mores & Park Exploration  
August 24, 6:30-7:30 pm @ People's Park**

Let's support students of all ages (Pre-K - college), teachers, and all staff as they head back to school this fall!

We'll start with a 20-minute program (opening and closing with singing a non-religious uplifting song about growing, hearing what several students anticipate enjoying in the coming school year and how they experience adults supporting them, and closing in a circle around students and school staff to send them off with words of support and affirmation. Afterward, we'll linger to explore the park (visit our labyrinth or community garden, walk across the prairie restoration to make s'mores at the fire pit, enjoy Barkers Alps playground).

**Do you know a student (a family member, a neighbor, etc.) who might enjoy preparing a few sentences to share aloud?** *If uncomfortable speaking to a group, we welcome the student to invite a loved one to read their offering aloud.*

**Helpers needed the day of: two greeters**



**Peace Poles - on our Front Lawn and at People's Park!**

Our Leadership Team has approved a plan to order two Peace Poles - one to place at People's Park and one to place in a visible spot outside our church building. We thank Mindy Peters for spearheading this project!

Please consider donating to this project by **Aug. 22**. Send in a check, stop by the

church office with check or cash, or give electronically through our church website. Please designate your gift to the "Peace Pole Project." The total cost will be \$800 (we have raised \$425 so far). Excess funds raised will go into our Blessing Fund for other Justice and Outreach causes.

Please vote on what languages to include on our People's Peace Poles. English, Dakota, and Ojibwe will be represented. Five more languages will complete each pole. **Find the link to choose languages (by Aug. 22)** and more information about Peace Poles in our Mid-Week newsletter.



PEOPLE'S  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH

# Harvest Fest 2022

## Harvest Fest

The 2002 Harvest Fest  
planning is underway!

The next  
meeting will be held on  
**Aug. 23 @ 2 pm,**  
anyone is welcome to at-  
tend.

Interested in joining the  
team?  
Reach out to Mary Binger  
651-357-8601  
mehbinger@gmail.com

Thank you for all who made today wonderful:  
Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Mary Maren Bjork (liturgist),  
Jane Hanson (greeter) Jonah Gromoll (acolyte),  
Carol Dusbabek & Aidan Gromoll (Fellowship)  
Paul, Bob & Mark (tech), Lisa Culbertson (Childcare Provider)



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