



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



August 7, 2022

"Do We Place Faith in Something More?"

The Love of God Gathers Us

Gathering Music

*We greet those around us or sit quietly
as we settle into sacred time and space*

Ringings of the Bell

Prelude & Lantern Lighting

“For Those Who Wait”

M. Stevens

Sam Gromoll, Acolyte

The flame represents the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome

Pastor Clare Gromoll

***Prayer of Gathering

Carol Dusbabek

God, we need peace—**so we come for quiet.**

We need joy—**so we come for singing.**

We need to let things go—**so we come for forgiveness.**

We need hope—**so we come for scripture and community.**

We come this morning from our own agendas—

**help us to leave with the blessings we long for and your unexpected
gifts. Amen.**

***Opening Hymn

“Be Now My Vision”

#451

Vs. 1 & 3

Cheri Schwartz, cantor

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 found in Narthex)

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

Acknowledging Our Humanness and God's Grace

*****Prayer of Longing**

God of Sarah and Abraham, God of Jesus, God of our ancestors in faith – you are a God who acts in history. Yet we confess that we are sometimes too busy to perceive you at work in our time. We get stuck in fear and despair about our troubled world. Forgive our lack of faith as you empower us to labor with you, bringing new life on Earth. In the name of Jesus the Christ 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 **John** (Siegel), **Kris** (Strasburg) & **Elaine** (Santore)*

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

*Lisa (Childcare Provider) also supervises children in the Nursery downstairs
One adult, please briefly walk interested children down to her*

Proclaiming God's Love

Scriptures

Psalm 33: 12-22 ~ *The Inclusive Bible*

Happy is the nation whose God is the Almighty!

Happy the people you choose as your own inheritance!

From the heavens you look forth, God, and see all of humankind.

From your dwelling place you watch over all the peoples of the Earth.

You shape the hearts of them all and consider all their deeds.

A ruler isn't saved by the size of an army;

A warrior doesn't escape because of strength.

**Trust in the horse for your deliverance and you'll be disappointed—
despite its might, it cannot save.**

The eyes of God look on those who stand in reverence,

on those who hope in God's love

to rescue them from death, or to keep them alive during famine.

And so we wait for God, our help and shield.

For in you our hearts find joy; we trust in your holy Name.

May your love be upon us, God,

as we place all our hope in you.

Hebrews 11: 1-16 ~ *The Inclusive Bible*

Faith is the reality of all that is hoped for; faith is the proof of all that is unseen. Because of faith, our ancestors were approved by God.

By faith, we understand that the world was created by the word of God, and that what is visible came into being through the invisible.

By faith, Abel offered a better sacrifice to God than Cain, and for that was declared to be just; God spoke well of his offerings, And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead.

By faith, Enoch was taken up and didn't have to experience death—"he was seen no more because God took him." Even before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to God must believe that God exists, rewarding those who earnestly seek the divine glory.

By faith, Noah—warned about things not yet seen—revered God and built an ark in order to save his household. By faith, Noah condemned the world and inherited the justice which comes through faith.

By faith, Sarah and Abraham obeyed when they were called, and went off to the place they were to receive as a heritage; they went forth, moreover, not knowing where they were going.

By Faith, Sarah and Abraham lived in the promised land as resident aliens, dwelling in tents with their children and grandchildren, who were heirs of the same promise—for they were looking forward to the city with foundations, whose designer and maker is God.

By Faith, Sarah received the ability to conceive, even though she was past childbearing age, for she thought that the One who had made the promise was worthy of trust. As a result of this faith, there came forth from one woman and one man, themselves as good as dead, descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and the sands of the seashore.

cont...

All of them died in faith. They didn't obtain what had been promised, but saw and welcomed it from afar. By acknowledging themselves to be strangers and exiles on the Earth, they showed that they were looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country from which they had come, they'd have been able to return to it.

But they were searching for a better country, a heavenly one. So God isn't ashamed of them, or ashamed to be called their God. That's why God has prepared a city for them.

Morning Message "Do We Place Faith in Something More?"

Responding To God's Love

Prayer Song	"Call to Prayer"	#61, Sing! Prayer and Praise
	<i>Vs. 1 & 3</i>	<i>see page 7</i>

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
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Musical Interlude

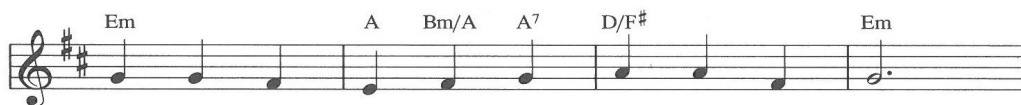
We listen as more prayers silently arise



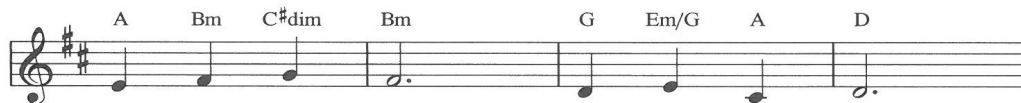
1. Float - ing and flam - ing and fill - ing new life.
 2. Search - ing and sav - ing and sooth - ing in - deed.
 3. Call - ing and car - ing and chang - ing each heart.



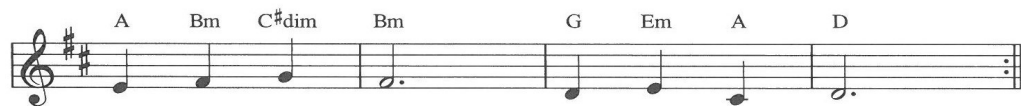
Hov - 'ring and heal - ing and help - ing with sighs.
 Teach - ing and turn - ing and tak - ing the lead;
 Lov - ing and lift - ing us to a new start;



Spir - it at work since the dawn - ing of time;
 Fa - ther - ing, Moth - er - ing, birth - ing new ways;
 Je - sus our Sav - ior, our teach - er, our Lord;



meet us right here, touch us right now.
 meet us right here, touch us right now.
 meet us right here, touch us right now.



Meet us right here, touch us right now.
 Meet us right here, touch us right now.
 Meet us right here, touch us right now.

Prayer of Jesus

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

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
the hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come
on Earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and 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 an offering plate at either exit,
scan the QR code to give electronically, or mail in a check*

Offertory

"Here Are Our Hearts"

Drake/Jennings

***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**

God of all, we dedicate our lives and all that we have to the work of life, of love, of peace. Receive our gifts and lead us in wisdom and courage. Amen.

Going Forth to Share God's Love

*****Closing Hymn** "For the Faithful Who Have Answered" #384

*****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** "Peace I Leave with You" DeMann

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 gather downstairs*

Join us again for worship at People's Park on August 14th!

PRAYER CORNER

Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:

*For **David Silverman**, husband of Connie (Horak) and son-in-law of Milan Horak, who had surgery on Wednesday to remove a cancerous lesion on his tongue and lymph nodes in his neck. We hope for a clear oncology report and complete recovery.

*We offer deep condolences to **Patti and John Mueller** and their extended family upon the recent death of Patti's mother, **Dolores Beach**. Patti and John Muller are former members and current friends of People's Church. *See Mid-Week to view the obituary.*

*We pray for safe and enjoyable travels for **Rolf Dittmann and Jill Greenhalgh** as they visit the country of Norway, August 4-18.

*We give thanks for deepening connections with our neighbors at **St. Peter's UCC**.

*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 with **John Siegal** (4th), **Kris Strasburg** (8th), **Elaine Santore** (8th) and anniversaries with **Keely & Eric Vandre** (1st) and **Claire and Mike Bjork** (9th)

And in the wider community...

*For all who are grieving the recent violent death of 17-year-old Stillwater High School student Isaac Schuman, killed while tubing on the Apple River. May the other four victims experience full physical recovery as well as steady healing from mental trauma.

*May tangible support reach the eastern Kentucky communities devastated by recent flash floods. May love surround all who grieve the deaths of 37 (or more) beloved persons of all ages and wait to hear from those who are still missing.

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. To mail a check or donate online, please include a note with your donation indicating that the funds are for Kentucky flood relief efforts.

NACCC – OGHS

PO Box 288

Oak Creek WI 53154

Donate online at www.naccc.org/donate

*For all who are grieving the recent overdose-related death of a young person in Stillwater. May we increase our efforts to understand chemical dependency and to support people with addictions in their efforts toward recovery and sobriety

ST. CROIX VALLEY PRAYER CIRCLE
Aug 11 | 6:30 pm
@People's Park
1003 5th Ave. N.
Bayport
(BY BARKER'S ALPS)
People of all faiths & paths

CHILDREN AT SCHOOL
Safe & Thriving

Join our circle of prayer
Hearts unite & envision healing
Each person contributes to our impact
All ages welcome, bring friends
Please come, rain or shine

hosted by:
People's Congregational Church, Bayport
peoplescongregational.org
Questions? Contact the office | 651-439-5667

"Children at School: Safe and Thriving"
St. Croix Valley Prayer Circle | August 11, 6:30 pm

Our St. Croix Valley Prayer Circle welcomes people of all faiths and paths. We gather for 45 minutes on a weekday evening in the beautiful setting of People's Park. Focusing our energy, we envision healing and wellness for a particular group.

We hope you will join us (rain or shine) on August 11th as we envision children at school this fall, safe and thriving. We're inviting school employees and first responders to attend as honored guests who nurture and protect our young people. We will also receive donations to the Community Thread/United Way "Stuff the Bus" campaign (tangible supplies as well as cash/checks written to Community Thread), which we will deliver to a drop-off location on August 12th.

Please share this event flyer with friends and neighbors (*see page 12, hard copies in the church office*). We hope to see you there!



UNITED
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
OF THE TWIN CITIES
Education for Transformation

**Pastor Clare has been
admitted to the inaugural
cohort of pastors
in United's Leadership for
Social Justice Program!**

See the Mid-Week for more details
Way to go, Pastor Clare!

LEADERSHIP CENTER
for **SOCIAL JUSTICE**



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

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

Questions? Contact our church office @ 651-439-5667
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).

Please contact us if you know a student who would enjoy sharing aloud at the gathering! Helpers needed the day of: Campfire point person, chair set-up, audio set-up, song leader, two greeters

Please share this event flyer with friends and neighbors (*see page 14, hard copies in the church office*). We hope to see you there!



National Alliance on Mental Illness

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. What started as a small group of families gathered around a kitchen table in 1979 has blossomed into the nation's leading voice on mental health. Today, we are an alliance of more than 600 local Affiliates and 49 State Organizations who work in your community to raise awareness and provide support and education that was not previously available to those in need.

See Mid-Week to find many video resources, classes, online discussion groups, and upcoming free online classes that could be relevant for many of us.

Pastor Clare will attend one called **"Creating Caring Communities."**



Our next monthly potluck will be hosted by
St. Peter's UCC at their building.

Aug. 30 | 5:30-7 pm



UCC Digital Programming

As a congregation in covenant development with the MN Conference UCC, we want to connect with more frequency and depth to resources offered by the UCC. Interested in a topic but can't attend live? Register anyway and you'll later be sent the link to the recorded session!

Pastor Clare will attend webinars on **UCC grant opportunities, shared leadership, "Accessible to All" churches and disabilities justice, and Building an Endowment**.

Will you attend one of them as well? *See Mid-Week for more details.*

Thank you for all who made today wonderful:

Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Cheri Schwartz (cantor)

Carol Dusbabek (liturgist),

Sam Gromoll (acolyte), Lori Mildon (fellowship), Paul, Bob & Mark (tech),

Lisa Culbertson (Childcare Provider).




People's Congregational Church

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