



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



September 18, 2022

"In What Ways Are We Trustworthy?"

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 “Just One Word From You” E. Wilson Jr.

Jonah Gromoll, Acolyte

The flame represents the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome

Pastor Clare Gromoll

*****Gathering Prayer**

Mary Binger, liturgist

God of all, we have come to this place to find you.

Yet, you have been beside us all the time.

We ask not for you to be here as much as for you to make our hearts
more aware of you.

**Creator, make an intentional and worshipful focusing of our minds a
more constant discipline in our lives.**

Timeless as the sunshine, it is so easy to take your love for granted.

Fill this moment with awe, loving God of our hope.

Let us progress from a reverent hour into continual worship,
from a moment of devotion into a life of prayer. Amen.

*****Opening Hymn** “Come, O Fount of Every Blessing”

#459

All verses

see next page

Please utilize name tags and welcome forms, found on our entrance sign shelf!

1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
 2 Here I pause in my so - journ-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!

streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas - ing, call for songs of end-less praise.
 come to trust, at ev-ery turn - ing, God will guide me safe-ly home.
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.

Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,
 Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:

Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail - ing love.
 Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless - ed bod - y, pre - cious blood.
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

Converted to Methodism at age twenty, Robert Robinson soon became a Calvinistic Methodist preacher and later gained great popularity. The melody, associated with this text since 1813, is an American folk tune.

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.
 John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

Acknowledging Our Humanness and God's Grace

*****Prayer of Longing** *(responsive)*

Love us from the inside out, God.

Take the thoughts we hide deep inside and burn them with your purifying fire.

Love us from the inside out, God.

Take the roots of our mistrust and deaden their hold on our lives.

Love us from the inside out, God.

Take the thoughts that run freely in our minds and hold them in your grace.

Love me from the inside out, God.

Take the hope you have planted in me and nourish it with the support of the church.

Love me from the inside out, God.

Take the gift of the Spirit living in me and ignite your love to lead me to action.

Love me from the inside out, God.

Take your love in us and let it infuse our living.

Love us from the inside out, God. Amen.

*****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 **Claire** (Spilseth), **Mindy** (Peters), **Dale** (Shaller) & **Gary** (Mclaughlin)*

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.**

*Children (age 3+) follow leaders to the picnic shelter for Children’s Activity
We also welcome the sounds and movements of children who stay in worship*

*Lisa (Childcare Provider) welcomes infants and toddlers at our
blanketed outdoor nursery*

Children on the playground must be watched by their own adult

Proclaiming God’s Love

Scriptures

Amos 8: 4-7 ~ *The Inclusive Bible*

Listen to this, you who live off of the needy and oppress the poor of the land, you who say, “If only the New Moon were over so we could sell our grain,” and “When Sabbath is over, we will sell our wheat— charging higher prices for smaller portions, thus tilting the scales in our favor. That way, we can buy the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals—and even make a profit on the chaff of the wheat!”

God swears by the Pride of Jacob, “I will never forget a single thing you have done.”

Luke 16: 1-13~ *The Inclusive Bible*

Jesus said to the disciples,

“There was a wealthy landowner who, having received reports of a steward mismanaging the property, summoned the steward and said, ‘What’s this I hear about you? Give me an account of your service, for it’s about to come to an end.’ The steward thought, ‘What will I do next? My employer is going to fire me. I can’t dig ditches, I’m ashamed to go begging. I have it! Here’s a way to make sure that people will take me into their homes when I’m let go.’

So the steward called in each of the landowner’s debtors. The steward said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my employer?’ The debtor replied, ‘A hundred jars of oil.’ The steward said, ‘Take your invoice, sit down quickly and make it fifty.’ To another the steward said, ‘How much do you owe?’ The answer came, ‘A hundred measures of wheat,’ and the steward said, ‘Take your invoice and make it eighty.’

Upon hearing this, the owner gave this devious worker credit for being enterprising! Why? Because the children of this world are more astute in dealing with their own kind than are the children of light. So I tell you: make friends for yourselves through your use of this world’s goods, so that when they fail you, you’ll be welcomed into an eternal home. If you can trust others in little things, you can also trust them in greater, and anyone unjust in a slight matter will also be unjust in a greater. If you can’t be trusted with filthy lucre, who will trust you with true riches? And if you haven’t been trustworthy with someone else’s money, who will give you your own?

Subordinates can't have two superiors. Either they'll hate the one and love the other, or be attentive to the one and despise the other. You can't worship both God and Money.”

Morning Message “In What Ways Are We Trustworthy?”

Responding To God’s Love

Prayer Hymn “Every Step of the Way” *see page 8*
Choir sing once, then all sing twice more
#66 Sing! Prayer and Praise

Prayers of the People

When sharing a joy or concern for yourself, another, or a part of the world; please project your voice to be heard. 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)*

**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.**

“Every Step of the Way” ~ *Choir sing once, then all sing twice more*

$\text{♩} = 128$
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.

***Sitting or standing

Invitation to the Offering

We support our churches 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*



Offertory

“Banner of Hope”

Gast

***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 seek to embody your love with our energy, efforts and
resources. Receive our gifts—and give us open hands.
Fill our lives—and give us open hearts.
Touch us with prophecy—and give us open minds.
Bless this church—and give us open doors. Amen.**

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)

Going Forth to Share God's Love

*****Closing Hymn** “Dream God’s Dream” *see page 12*
Choir sings chorus and verse 1, then all join in!
#120 Sing! Prayer and Praise

*****Benediction**

*****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** “Wherever You Go” *B. Hamm*
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



Social Justice Planning Conversation

**10:45 - 11:30 am
(childcare provided)**

This is what the Lord Almighty said: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another'. Zechariah 7:9

The Justice and Outreach Team of People's Church invites everyone to gather after worship today to shape our commitment to social justice in the year ahead.

We will review stated priorities and invite suggestions for mission support in the broad categories of environmental, identity and economic justice.

We'll also share our proposal for matching special congregational offerings with contributions from the Blessing Fund, and our three-part plan for social justice support through giving, learning and action.

If social justice is important to your Christian identity, don't let this planning be the work of a mere few. Your voice matters, and we look forward to hearing it on Sunday!

If you can't be with us in person this Sunday, please consider participating in a similar conversation via Zoom on Sunday, September 25, 6:30 pm.

~The Justice and Outreach Team

“Dream God’s Dream”

Choir sings chorus and verse 1, then all join in!

♩.=69

Dream God's dream! Ho-ly

Spir - it help us dream of a world where there is

jus - tice and where ev - 'ry one is free to

build and grow and love, and to sim - ply have e -

-nough. The world will change, when we dream God's dream.

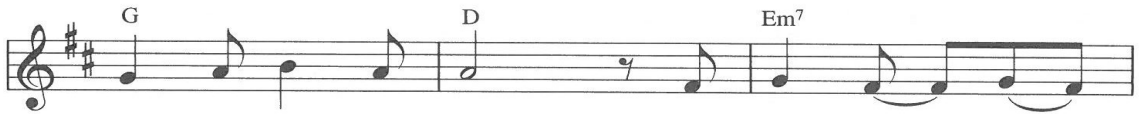
Last time to Coda

1. I'm dream-ing of a world where the col - or of one's
2. I'm dream-ing of the call God is of - fer-ing to
3. I'm dream-ing of the way that I want my life to

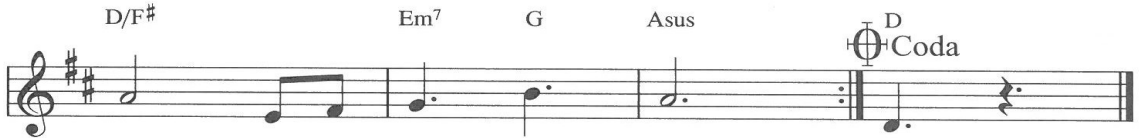
skin will mean less than what's with - in the per - son's heart.
me, how to use my en - er - gy and my best gifts;
go. I've got hope and I've got goals I'd like to meet.



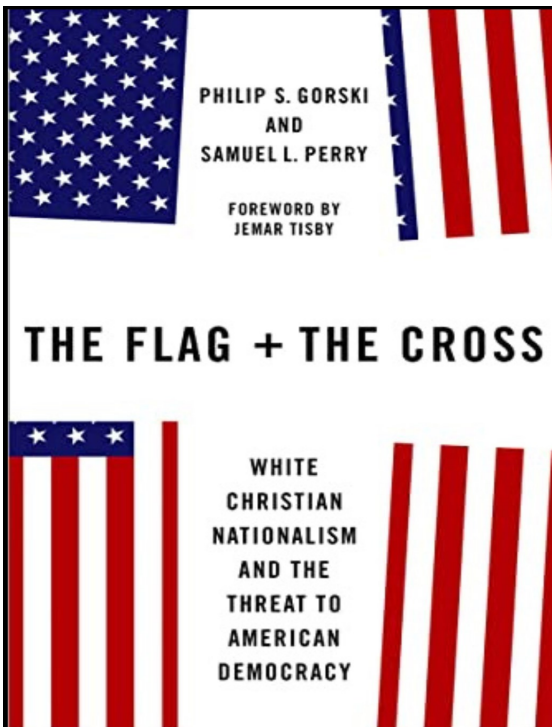
A world where wa - ter's clean and where
to do the work of Christ to say
I'm reach - ing for the stars, but I



air is safe to breathe. And ev - 'ry__ chi - ld
God, please use my life to spread Your__ heal - ing
won't for - get the scars of Christ who__ died to



born has e - nough to eat. dream.
love and to live Your truth.
show that the dream's for all.



People's Book Club
We aim to read books that matter from diverse genres, topics and authors

Sept 21 | 6:30-8 pm
at church and Zoomed
Interested? Contact us:
office@peoplescongregational.org

People's Congregational Church
309 N. 3rd St. Bayport, MN
peoplescongregational.org



PRAYER CORNER

Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:

*For **Carol Dusbabek**, whose father fell last week, had surgery, and is in fragile condition.

*We give thanks with **Irene Horak**, who recently had a tender goodbye visit with a beloved Carlton College professor and friend.

*For the **Bacon family**, friends of Cheri & Bob Schwartz, as baby Astrid needs to gain 10 lbs. before having a kidney transplant.

*For **Elizabeth**, client of Cindy Siegel, who took a fall last week. We pray for excellent care, healing and smooth recovery.

*For **David Silverman**, son-in-law to Milan Horak, who has cancer in his neck. We pray for healing as he begins treatment.

***Rev. Mark Horst**, a well-known pastor and friend of Mary Binger and Rolf Dittmann, passed away recently. May he rest in deep peace and may all who loved him be surrounded by support as they grieve.

***Sam Gromoll** continues a 6-month trial of daily growth hormone treatments. May he feel courage and patience.

*We celebrate birthdays on these dates: **Claire Spilseth** (11th), **Mindy Peters** (12th), **Dale Shaller** (14th), **Gary McLaughlin** (15th)

*We celebrate an anniversary on this date:
Cindy Parsons & Bob Dickie (24th)

And in the wider community...

*May Queen Elizabeth rest deep peace. We pray that the new monarch and British officials lead with the wisdom and compassion Queen Elizabeth modeled.

*We give thanks for time spent in recreation with family and friends across the summer. We pray that students, teachers and all school staff members feel well supported as they dive into a new school year.

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

September 20th, 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

Sept. 28 | 6:30 pm
@People's Park

1003 5th Ave. N.
Bayport
(by Barker's Alps)

MENTAL HEALTH:
Less Stigma, More Support

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
peoplescongregational.org
Questions? Contact the office | 651-439-5667

A Shift in Kimberly's Work as Our Communications Coordinator
(a transition to mostly remote)

Kimberly will work:
at church-**Sept. 20-22**
from home- **Sept. 27-29**

You can reach her (9 am - 4 pm)
at 651-439-5667 and
office@peoplescongregational.org

Need access to our building?
Want to visit with Pastor Clare or
Kimberly in person?

Typical office hours:
Tuesday-Thursday, 9 am - 4 pm

Thank you for all who made today wonderful:
Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Michael Bjork (Choir Director),
Mary Binger (liturgist), Jonah Gromoll (acolyte), Sam Gromoll (greeter),
Sue Favilla & Kathy Iverson (Children's Activity), Paul, Bob & Mark (tech),
Lisa Culbertson (Childcare Provider)



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