



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



September 25, 2022

"In What Will We Dare To Invest?"

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

“Sing a New Song”

T.D. Smith

Sam Gromoll, Acolyte

The flame represents the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome

Pastor Clare Gromoll

*****Gathering Prayer**

Rolf Dittmann, *liturgist*

O Holy One, may this place be filled with your Spirit. Gently nudge us into an unclenched moment, a deep breath, a letting go of heavy expectations, of shriveling anxieties, of dead certainties. Softened by your love, surrounded by your light, and open to your mystery—may we be found by wholeness, upheld by the unfathomable, entranced by the simple, and filled with the joy that is you. Amen.

*****Opening Hymn “For the Beauty of the Earth”**

#28

All verses

see next page

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

1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the splen-dor of the skies,
 2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,
 4 For the good that love in-spires, for a world where none ex-clude,

For the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
 Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,
 For a faith that nev-er tires, and for ev-ery heart re-newed,

Refrain

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

Folllott S. Pierpoint, author of numerous hymns, penned these verses near his native city of Bath, England, on a late spring day when flowers were in full bloom and all the earth seemed to rejoice.

Tune: DIX 7.7.7.7. with refrain
 Conrad Kocher, 1838
 Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861

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)

Acknowledging Our Humanness and God's Grace

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

Loving God, we come to you for truth, that we might see clearly and understand. We come to you for comfort, that we might be sustained and understood. We come to you for challenge, so we might be reminded that we can make changes. We come to you, Holy One. We come to you. 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 **Betsy** (Stokes), **Nat** (Graf), & **Eleanora** (Favilla)*

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

Jeremiah 32: 1-3a ~ *The Inclusive Bible*

The word that came to Jeremiah from God in the tenth year of Zedekiah ruler of Judah, which was also the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar:

At that time the army of the ruler of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was imprisoned in the court of the guardhouse attached to the residence of the ruler of Jerusalem. Zedekiah the ruler imprisoned him after demanding, "How dare you prophesy the way you do?"

"The word of God came to me," said Jeremiah, "and said, 'Hanamel, the son of your uncle Shallum, will come to you and say, "Buy my field in Anathoth. As next of kin you have the right of redemption to purchase it.'" And just as God foretold, my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guardhouse and said, 'Buy my field at Anathoth in Benjamin. You have the right of redemption to purchase it as next of kin. So why not purchase it?' I knew that this was the word of God.

So I bought the field in Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel, and weighed out the money—seventeen shekels of silver. I signed the deed and sealed it, had it witnessed and then weighed out the money on a scale. I took the copies of the deed of purchase—both the sealed copy containing the terms and conditions and the unsealed copy—and gave them to Baruch ben-Neriah ben-Mahseiah in the presence of my cousin Hanamel and of the witnesses who had signed the deed and all the people of Judah who happened to be in the court of the guardhouse. I gave Baruch these instructions in their presence: ‘Thus says God Omnipotent, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and the unsealed deed of purchase, and put them in a clay jar so that they may be preserved for a very long time. For this is what God Omnipotent, the God of Israel, says: Houses, fields and vineyards will once again be purchased in this land.’”

1 Timothy 6: 6-19 ~ *The Inclusive Bible*

There is, of course, great benefit in religion, but only for those who are content with what they have. We brought nothing into the world, nor have we the power to take anything out. If we have food and clothing, we have all that we need. Those who want to be rich are falling into temptation and a trap. They are letting themselves be captured by foolish and harmful desires which draw us down to ruin and destruction. The love of money is the root of all evil. Some people, in their passion for it, have strayed from the faith and have come to grief amid great pain.

But you are to flee from these things. As one dedicated to God, strive to be a person of integrity and piety, filled with faith and love, patience and gentleness. Run the great race of faith. Take firm hold of the everlasting life to which you were called when, in the presence of many witnesses, you made your good profession of faith.

Before God, who gives life to all, and before Christ Jesus, who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I charge you to keep God's command without fault or reproach until our Savior Jesus Christ appears. This appearance God will bring to pass at a chosen time. God alone is the Sovereign over all, the blessed and only ruler above all earthly rulers, who alone possesses immortality, and who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no human being has ever seen or can see. To God be the honor and the everlasting kingdom! Amen.

Warn those who are blessed with this world's goods not to look down on other people. They are not to put their hope in wealth, for it is uncertain. Instead, they are to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with all that we need for our enjoyment. Tell them they are to do good and be wealthy in good works. They are to be generous and willing to share. In this way, they'll create a treasure for the future, and guarantee the only life that is real.

Morning Message “In What Will We Dare To Invest?”

Responding To God's Love

Prayer Hymn

“Call to Prayer”

see page 8

All verses

#61 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)*

**Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,
Holy and blessed is your true name.
We pray for your reign of peace to come,
We pray that your good will be done,
Let heaven and Earth become one.
Give us this day the bread we need,
Give it to those who have none.
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,
From each one to each one.
Lead us to holy innocence
Beyond the evil of our days —
Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:
Forever your name is All in One. Amen.**

Invitation to the Offering

We support 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*



Offertory

“The Words in Your Heart”

Moore

*****Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen**

*****Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious God, you have planted within us seeds of hope, nurtured within us saplings of faith, and harvested fruits of your creation. May we embody our thanks with radical generosity, offering 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** "I Am the Light of the World"

Vs. 2-4

see page 12

#584

*****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**

"Shalom to You Now"

C. Young

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*

ST. CROIX VALLEY PRAYER CIRCLE
Sept. 28 | 6:30 pm
@People's Park
1003 5th Ave. N.
Bayport
(by Barker's Alps)
People of all faiths & paths

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

"I Am the Light of the World ~ Vs. 2-4

F Unison Introduction

Refrain

B \flat C F

"I am the light of the world!"

B \flat C F Gm Dm C

You peo-ple come and fol-low me!" If you fol-low and love you'll

F Gm7 C B \flat F B \flat F *Last time, end*

learn the mys-ter-y of what you were meant to do and be.

F B \flat /D C F

1 When the song of the an-gels is stilled, when the
 2 γ To find the lost and lone-ly one, γ to
 3 γ To free the pris-oner from all chains, γ to
 4 To bring hope to ev-ery task you do, γ to

This text is based on a Christmas poem by Howard Thurman, a prolific twentieth-century writer, theologian, and teacher. The song grew out of Jim Strathdee's music ministry at an intercultural, bilingual congregation in Los Angeles.

Tune: LIGHT OF THE WORLD Irr.
 Jim Strathdee, 1969

Gm Dm C

star in the sky is gone, When the
 heal the bro - ken soul with love, 7 To
 make the pow - er - ful care, To re -
 dance at a ba - by's new birth, 7 To

F Bb C F

sag - es and the shep - herds have found their way home, the
 feed the hun - gry chil - dren with warmth and good food, To
 build the na - tions with strength of good will, to
 make mu - sic in an old per - son's heart, and

Dm Bb Gm7 C *Return to*

work of Christ-mas is be - gun:
 feel the earth be - low, the sky a - bove!
 see all God's chil - dren ev - ery - where!
 sing to the col - ors of the earth!

PRAYER CORNER

Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:

*For Cindy Parsons' mother **Angie**, recovering from a fall last week.

*For **Rev. Linda Tossey**, a former pastor of People's, who has been going through chemotherapy and radiation treatment. Tests show slight improvements. We pray for healing and strength as Linda now moves forward with immunotherapy treatments.

*With **Stella** (cousin to Jan, Irene, Milan, and Mary), we thank those who create festivals like Derby Days—spaces of celebration and joy.

*For Sharon Neuenfeldt's grandchild **Aidan**, facing difficult personal struggles.

*For Loura, Josh and Mark; missing **Uncle Bob**. May he rest in deep peace.

*For Carol Dusbabek's father **Ken**, now recovering after a fall, two months ahead of his 100th birthday.

*With **Irene Horak**, we give thanks for summer months spent in MN. We pray for a smooth transition after returning home to Switzerland.

*For **Beno**, an incarcerated friend of People's and specifically of our Antiracism Collective. May Beno feel celebrated on his 45th birthday.

*For Michael Bjork's cousin **A'lex**, facing difficult personal struggles.

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

*We celebrate birthdays on these dates: **Betsy Stokes** (25th), **Nat Graf** (25th), **Eleanora Favilla** (9 yrs. on the 1st)

*We celebrate an anniversary on this date:
Paula & Walt Richey (65 years on the 27th!)

And in the wider community...

*In the wake of Hurricane Fiona, as more than 450,000 Puerto Rican homes lack water and 1 million homes and businesses lack electricity, may our elected leaders exercise compassion and generosity in providing emergency aid. We also pray for recovery efforts in neighboring Dominican Republic.

*May the Ospreys' songs during worship last Sunday remind us that, if we do right by the Earth community, it can heal.

*We celebrate when immigrants are welcomed in this land. May their efforts to reach safety, peace and prosperity be met with justice and compassion.

*For the people of Pakistan, experiencing unprecedented flooding during this monsoon season. May the more than 1,500 who have died (including 528 children) rest in deep peace. May 33 million affected people access the support they need to carry on. May we note our complicity in climate change and find ways to do better. (see our Mid-Week newsletter for a link to donate to relief efforts through the UCC)

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

Next Joint Church Potluck/ Hayride!

Tuesday, Oct. 11 | 6:00 - 7:30 pm

6211 Lake Elmo Ave. N.
Stillwater, MN

Gina and Rick Buberl of St. Peter's UCC will host a potluck and hayride! They will provide sloppy joes, and beverages, plates, napkins and silverware. Please bring a dish to share. They have indoor space if needed, but we hope for nice weather!



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

Kimberly will work from home:
Sept. 27-29

You can reach her
(T, W, Th 9 am - 4 pm) at
651-439-5667
and at

office@peoplescongregational.org

Need access to the church building?
Want to visit with Pastor Clare or
Kimberly in person?
Please call (or email) ahead to avoid
missing us.

Pastor Clare is on call at all times:
651-600-6409

An Update and Invitation From Our Moderator

Dear People's members,

You likely have noticed that we are having quite a few more outdoor services this summer than in years past. This likely is the new normal. Our Leadership Team anticipates that we will hold many services outdoors again in 2023, from late spring to early fall (of course, weather dependent).

To that end, we are hoping to plan for and implement improvements to the park's accessibility and to define and enhance the worship space. Satoko Muratake (Sue Favilla's daughter-in-law, a landscape architect, and Adjunct Instructor at the U of M College of Design) has very graciously offered to volunteer 75 hours of design consultation with help from her students! Please thank her if you cross paths with her.

We will convene a **People's Park Improvement Task Force** in early January, working with Satoko and a college student to create a plan for improvements. I will chair this task force and am looking for 5-6 others to participate with me. I anticipate meeting at least monthly for 3 months. The ultimate goal would be to have 1 clear plan or possibly 2 options to present to the congregation in the late winter or early spring for a vote. We hope to have the work completed by early summer 2023.

Please contact me if interested; I'd like to have the task force membership solidified in the next month or so. Should be a fun project!

Rolf Dittmann (*Moderator*)

Thank you for all who made today wonderful:

Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Bob Dickie, Carol Dusbabek & Jonah Gromoll (greeters) Rolf Dittmann (liturgist), Sam Gromoll (acolyte), Lori Mildon (fellowship), Claire Spilseth & Carol Dusbabek (Children's Activity), Paul, Bob & Mark (tech), Lisa Culbertson (Childcare Provider)



People's Congregational Church

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