



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



September 4, 2022  
“How Will We Stay Salty?”

## The Love of God Gathers Us

### Gathering Music

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

### Ringing of the Bell

### Prelude & Lantern Lighting

“All You Works of God”

Haugen

*The flame represents the light of Christ among us*

### Words of Welcome

Pastor Clare Gromoll

### \*\*\*Call to Worship (responsive)

Mary Maren Bjork, *liturgist*

Come, all who labor and are weighed down with responsibility,  
uncertainty, and worry.

**We come, because the load we carry is heavier than we can bear alone.**

Come, all who seek to relate work and worship, leisure and service,  
into a meaningful whole.

**We gather for spiritual renewal and practical challenge, for support in  
making choices and carrying out our commitments.**

Come, children of God—with your fear and loves, your failures and  
success, your sorrows and joys.

**May we respond to the Spirit’s leading and open ourselves to receive  
God’s gracious gifts.**

### \*\*\*Opening Hymn “Come and Find the Quiet Center”

#575 CH

*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. Come and find the quiet cen - ter in the crowded life we  
 2. Si - lence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the  
 3. In the Spir - it let us trav - el, o - pen to each oth-er's

F F B<sub>b</sub>  
 lead, find the room for hope to en - ter, find the  
 pace, God it is who speaks and names us, knows our  
 pain, let our loves and fears un - rav - el, cel - e -

C7 F Am7  
 frame where we are freed: clear the cha - os and the  
 be - ing, touch - es base, mak - ing space with - in our  
 brate the space we gain: there's a place for deep - est

Dm Am7 Dm Am7 B<sub>b</sub> (C7)  
 clut - ter, clear our eyes, that we can see sun, all the  
 think - ing, lift - ing shades to show the to care, rais-ing in the  
 dream- ing, there's a time for heart

F B<sub>b</sub> C7 F  
 things that real - ly mat - ter, be at peace, and sim - ply be.  
 cour - age when we're shrink - ing, find-ing scope for faith be - gun.  
 Spir - it's live - ly schem - ing there is al - ways room to spare!

## **Acknowledging Our Humanness and God's Grace**

### **\*\*\*A Litany of Labor & Prayer of Longing**

God of all, we give thanks for the gift of work, which can help give meaning and purpose to our lives, and which can offer us a way to serve you.

**Companion of our labor, hear our prayer.**

For all whose work is truly their calling, that they may continue to find joy in their labor, and through their labor be drawn closer to you.

**Joy in our lives, hear our prayer.**

For all whose work is not a joy, who work simply because they must, and who suffer boredom and exhaustion from jobs that do nothing to feed their spirits.

**Source of all meaning, hear our prayer.**

For all whose work leads them into ethical conflicts, who struggle to do what is right in the midst of frustrating circumstances.

**Guide for our path, hear our prayer.**

For all who are unemployed or underemployed, who face daily the financial and personal anxieties that their employment status brings, who begin to wonder about their worth in the world.

**Savior in the stress, hear our prayer.**

For all who are retired – those who enjoy retirement, those who have lost purpose in their lives, and those who struggle to make a faithful use of their days.

**Teacher of quietness, hear our prayer.**

We know that our lives depend on the faithful labor of other workers, often underpaid and overworked. Keep us aware of how our choices affect the labor of others.

**Spirit of God, surround and uplift us. We work hard to satisfy ourselves and others. We are weary of falling short. We want to feel intentional in our work and effective in contributing to community life. Help us to appreciate our own gifts and skills. Surround us, Holy Spirit, and breathe into us your gracious power. 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 **Alex** (Favilla) **Sommerfeld**, **Irene** (Horak),  
**Jenni** (Shaller) & **Paula** (Richey)*

**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  
Infants and toddlers (w/adult) are welcome to use our outdoor nursery*

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

## Scriptures

### Proclaiming God's Love

Deuteronomy 30: 15–20, Luke 14: 25–35 ~ *The Inclusive Bible*

#### Deuteronomy 30: 15–20

Today I have set before you life and success, or death and disaster. For today I command you to love your God, to follow God's ways and keep the commandments, the laws and the customs. If you do, you will live and increase, and your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your hearts stray and you do not listen to me, if you let yourself be drawn into the worship of other gods, and serve them, I tell you today, you will not survive. You will not live long in the land which you are now crossing the Jordan to enter and occupy.

I call heaven and Earth to witness against you today: I set before you life or death, blessing or curse. Choose life, then, so that you and your descendants may live, by loving your God, by obeying God's voice and by clinging to God. For that will mean life for you, a long life in the land which God swore to give to your descendants Sarah and Abraham, Rebecca and Isaac, and Leah and Rachel and Jacob.

#### Luke 14: 25–35

Large crowds followed Jesus. He turned to them and said,

“If any of you come to me without turning your back on your mother and your father, your loved ones, your sisters and brothers, indeed your very self, you can't be my follower. Anyone who doesn't take up the cross and follow me can't be my disciple.

If one of you were going to build a tower, wouldn't you first sit down and calculate the outlay to see if you have enough money to complete the project? You'd do that for fear of laying the foundation and then not being able to complete the work—because anyone who saw it would jeer at you and say, ‘You started a building and couldn't finish it.’

Or if the leaders of one country were going to declare war on another country, wouldn't they first sit down and consider whether, with an army of ten thousand, they could win against an enemy coming against them with twenty thousand? If they couldn't, they'd send a delegation while the enemy is still at a distance, asking for terms of peace.

So count the cost. You can't be my disciple if you don't say goodbye to all of your possessions.

Salt is useful, but if it loses its taste, how can it be resalted again? It's fit neither for the soil nor for the compost pile, so it's thrown away. Whoever has ears to hear, hear this."

## Morning Message

"How Will We Stay Salty?"

## Responding To God's Love

### Prayer Hymn

"All My Days"

*Vs. 1 & 2*

#84 Sing! Prayer & Praise

*see page 8*

## Prayers of the People

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

## “All My Days” ~ *Vs. 1 & 2*

$\text{J}=78$  N.C.

A<sup>7sus</sup>

1. You

know my words, be - fore they're said.  
I should fly be - yond the dawn,  
ev - ery thought, each word we say,-  
mend my heart and free my voice.

You know my need and  
the shad-ows will not  
the whole of time,  
From sin re - leased, I

I am fed.  
o - ver - come.  
pre - sent day,-  
will re - joice.

You give me life.  
If I lie down  
are held with in  
O search me now,

You know my ways,  
in deep - est night,  
your might-y hand  
my spir - it cries,

strength, my path.  
you are there,  
won - der - ful  
let my song

for all my days,  
my truth, my light,  
to com-pre - hend,  
of praise a - rise,

my strength, my path,  
still you are there,  
too won - der - ful  
and let my song

1.2.3.

2. If  
3. Our  
4. O

## **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 the work of our churches 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**

**“Teach Me”**

**O’Shea**

**\*\*\*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**

O God, to you we offer the hours of our days, the strength of our bodies, the skill of our hands, and the talent of our imaginations. Alongside our financial gifts, we offer the prayers of our hearts. Bless this moment of giving that it might inform each successive instant with divine purpose. May we embody your mission of holy love in our community and in your world. Amen.

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

### \*\*\*Benediction

## **\*\*\*Sung Response**      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**      “May We Have Peace”      *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*

## “All My Days” ~ *Vs. 3 & 4*

=78
N.C.
A<sup>7sus</sup>

1. You

D D/F# G
A<sup>7sus</sup> G/B D
D/F# D G

know my words, be - fore they're said.  
 I should fly be-yond the dawn,  
 ev - ery thought, each word we say,-  
 mend my heart and free my voice.

E/G# Esus A F#/A#
Bm F#m<sup>7</sup> G
Am D<sup>7</sup> Gadd<sup>9</sup>

I am fed.  
 o - ver - come.  
 pre - sent day,-  
 will re - joice.

You give me life..  
 If I lie down  
 are held with in  
 O search me now,

You know my ways,  
 in deep - est night,  
 your might - y hand  
 my spir - it cries,

D/A G/B
Em/C#F#aug Bm
D<sup>7</sup>/A
D/G D/F# Em<sup>7</sup>

strength, my path -  
 you are there,  
 won - der - ful -  
 let my song

for all my days,  
 my truth, my light,  
 to com-pre - hend,  
 of praise a - rise,-

my strength, my path,  
 still you are there,  
 too won - der - ful -  
 and let my song

Asus
N.C.
A<sup>7sus</sup>
Asus
N.C.
Dadd<sup>9</sup>

1.2.3.

all my days.  
 truth, my light.  
 com-pre-hend.

2. If  
 3. Our  
 4. O

## PRAYER CORNER

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

- \*For **Addi Albright**, a preschool-aged child of People's church, recently hospitalized for fever and rapid breathing. She was treated for Kawasaki disease, is recuperating at home, and starts school next week.
- \*For **Frank Cole**, a new friend of People's, whose son Tim Cole died recently from a complex illness. Tim lived in Austin, TX. May he rest in deep peace.
- \*For **Diane and Wendy**, former co-worker friends of Jane Hanson, each of whom lost their mother recently.
- \*For baby **Camille** (born to friends of Sharon Neuenfeldt), struggling with a severe genetic condition called Edwards' Syndrome.
- \*For **Aidan Gromoll**, sister to Pastor Clare, who traveled back to Moldova last week to volunteer as a pediatrician caring for Ukrainian refugees.
- \*For **Jere Fetter**, who recently had tests at Mayo Clinic for ongoing upper leg pain.
- \*We celebrate birthdays on these dates: **Alex** (Favilla) Sommerfeld (30th) **Irene** Horak (31st), **Jenni** Shaller & **Paula** Richey (2nd).
- \*We celebrate an anniversary on this date: **Bob & Cheri** Schwartz (28th).

*And in the wider community...*

- \*As the summer draws to a close, we give thanks for time spent in recreation with family and friends. We long for a restful holiday weekend for all workers this Labor Day.
- \*For family and friends of the man who recently died by suicide at Eden Prairie Center. And for all who experience suicidal ideation.
- \*For those seeking affordable housing, endurance through the challenges. May we create more equity in housing as we work with ecumenical partners through the Homeless Strategy & Advocacy Team in St. Croix Valley.



## Connection Sunday

**Sept. 11, 9:30 am  
@ People's Park**



Let's come together, celebrating both longer-term and newer connections.

Highlights of Connection Sunday will include:

- sharing in Holy Communion,
- return of Children's Activity for ages 3+ (during the latter part of worship)
- first choir rehearsal of the fall!

Our choir welcomes anyone who enjoys singing.

We will rehearse on Sept. 11 and most Sundays at 8:30am.

Questions? Contact Michael Bjork (Choir Director)  
@ 715-573-6703, michaelsheabjork@gmail.com.



## Refreshment Stand on Our Church Lawn

Derby Days has often included a street dance a few blocks from our church on Friday night. This year, "Party in the Park" will occur at Perro Park (right next to our building!) on Friday, 5-10 pm. We will host a refreshment stand on our lawn from

5-8pm on Friday, meeting and greeting neighbors as we serve them lemonade, water and baked treats. Bring your lawn chair!

**Friday, Sept. 16 | 5-8 pm**

Please let Pastor Clare know if you could help in one of these ways:

- Provide and set up a small canopy (as on Memorial Day)
- Bring 2 dozen cookies or bars (plated, ready to be grabbed by passersby)
- Assist Sam, Jonah and her by being present for 1 hour of 5-8pm (pastor@peoplescongregational.org or 651-600-6409).

**The Welcome Team (looking for a point person for this event)**

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:

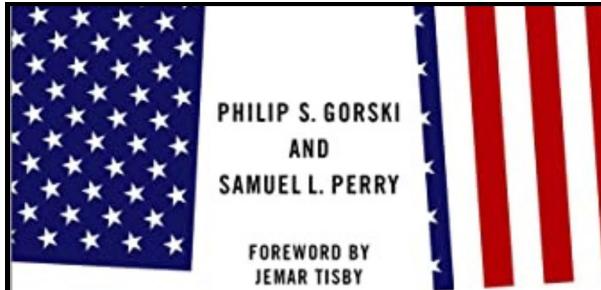
Hearing & Affirming Students,  
S'mores & Park Exploration

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](http://peoplescongregational.org)



## THE FLAG + THE CROSS

WHITE  
CHRISTIAN  
NATIONALISM  
AND THE  
THREAT TO  
AMERICAN  
DEMOCRACY

### 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](mailto:office@peoplescongregational.org)

People's Congregational Church  
309 N. 3rd St. Bayport, MN  
[peoplescongregational.org](http://peoplescongregational.org)



### Tree Planting at People's Park!

Join us:  
**Saturday, Sept. 17 | 8:30 am**

Questions?  
Contact Paul Spilseth  
@ 651-271-6742



## Harvest Fest, Nov. 19

The Harvest Fest planning is underway! Our next meeting will be held on **Sept. 6 @ 2 pm**. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Interested in joining the team? Reach out to Mary Binger: 651-357-8601  
[mehbinger@gmail.com](mailto:mehbinger@gmail.com)

### Upcoming Joint Church Potluck

**Sept. 15 (Thursday), 5:30-7:00pm  
@ Sharri Kinkead's home**



Bring a lawn chair and a dish to share (salad, side, dessert).  
\*\* Label your serving container and spoon/tongs with your name! \*\*  
Host provides beverages, dishes, flatware, napkins, indoor restroom.

Invite a friend or neighbor along to meet your church friends!  
If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Sharri (715-386-5997)

Thank you for all who made today wonderful:  
Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Mary Maren Bjork (liturgist),  
Lori Mildon (Fellowship), Paul, Bob & Mark (tech),  
Lisa Culbertson (Childcare Provider)



### People's Congregational Church

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