



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



November 13, 2022

"What Can Honesty Make Possible?"

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

“Growing in Faith”

DeMan

Jonah Gromoll, acolyte

The flame represents the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome

Pastor Clare Gromoll

*****Gathering Prayer (unison)**

Cheri Schwartz, liturgist

Living God, you are the beginning of our journey, our guide, and our destination. There is no joy like the joy of your presence in the midst of your people! You offer nurturing love to any who seek you. You lead through times of weeping to springs of new life and new beginnings. Glory be to you, Oh God, our sun and our protection. Amen.

*****Opening Song**

“Better is One Day”

Sing! Prayer & Praise, #113

Choir - vs. 1 / All - join in mid-refrain

Lets' welcome one another!

*Reusable name tags hang just inside the front doors
Disposable name tags are also in the Narthex (entry area)*

Welcome forms in pews: request a prayer or name tag, update contact info, etc.

****Sitting or standing*

$\text{♩} = 80$ $\text{E}(\text{omit } 3)$ Asus^2

1. How love-ly is your dwell-ing place, O God al- might-
 thing I ask and I would seek: to see your beau-

Bsus $\text{E}(\text{omit } 3)$ Bsus

- y. For my soul longs and e - ven faints for you.
 - ty, to find you in the place your glo - ry dwells.

$\text{E}(\text{omit } 3)$ Asus^2

For here my heart is sat - is - fied with-in your pres-
 One thing I ask and I would seek: to see your beau-

Bsus $\text{E}(\text{omit } 3)$ Bsus

- ence. I sing be-neath the shad - ow of your wings...
 - ty, to find you in the place your glo - ry dwells.

Asus^2 Bsus^2

Bet-ter is one day in your courts, bet-ter is one day in your house, bet-ter is

Asus^2 $\text{A/C}\sharp$ Bsus $\text{E/G}\sharp$

one day in your courts than thou-sands else - where. Bet-ter is

Bsus $\text{B}(\text{omit } 3)$ D.S. Bsus

2. else-where, than thou-sands else-where. 2. One else-where.

Acknowledging Our Humanness and God's Grace

*****Prayer of Longing** (*unison*)

God within and among us, we often feel overwhelmed. We take actions that contradict our faith in Jesus and the message of his grace. Deliver us from our doubts, merciful God. Remind us that those who rely on your grace cannot be defeated. Remind us that you love us more than can be imagined. In that love, may we find peace. Amen.

prayerful silence

*****Musical Interlude** *...as our own longings quietly emerge*

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

*We share a sign of peace with those gathered now (in-person, virtually)
We extend the peace later by phone call, email, 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 **Michele** (Stephan), **Eric** (Vandre), **Pat** (Mazzitello)
& **Mary Maren** (Bjork)*

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 follow leaders 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 cares for infants and toddlers
9:15 - 10:45 in the Nursery downstairs*

*If needing space to move around, families are welcome to listen
to the service from the Narthex (entry area)
or Meditation Room (off front left exit from Sanctuary)*

Proclaiming God's Love

Scriptures

Sirach 35: 13b-18 ~ *The Inclusive Bible*

God listens to the prayers of those who are exploited. God will never ignore the pleas of the orphan or of those who are widowed, as they pour out their heart. See how the tears run down the cheeks of the bereaved and their cries indict those who caused them!

To be accepted, you must give of yourself as God requires—then your prayer will reach the clouds. The prayer of the unpretentious pierces the clouds. Until it is heard, there is no comfort for them; yet, they do not give up until God answers them, giving the just what is theirs, and granting them justice.

Psalm 84: 1-7 ~ *New Century Hymnal*, p. 675

*In unison, we read all verses and sing the response
Our cantor sings once, then we sing it together*

Luke 18: 9-17 ~ *The Inclusive Bible*

Jesus spoke this parable addressed to those who believed in their own self-righteousness while holding everyone else in contempt:

“Two people went up to the Temple to pray; one was a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed like this: ‘I give you thanks, O God, that I’m not like others—greedy, crooked, adulterous—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week. I pay tithes on everything I earn.’

The other one, however, kept a distance, not even daring to look up to heaven. In real humility, all the tax collector said was, ‘O God, be merciful to me, a sinner.’ Believe me, the tax collector went home from the Temple right with God, while the Pharisee didn’t. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, while those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

People even brought their infants forward for Jesus to touch. When the disciples saw this, they scolded the parents.

However, Jesus intervened by calling the children to himself. He said, “Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these. The truth is, whoever doesn’t welcome the kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.”

Morning Message "What Can Honesty Make Possible?"

Responding To God's Love

Prayer Song

"Be Still and Know"

Sing! Prayer & Praise, #111

Sung twice

♩=108

Be still and know that I am God. Be still and
Cal - ma tu ser, que soy tú Dios. Cal - ma tu

know that I am God. Be still and know
ser, que soy tú Dios. Cal - ma tu ser,

that I am God. Be still and
que soy tú Dios. Cal - ma tu

know that I am God.
ser, que soy tú Dios.

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

Prayer of Jesus (unison)

*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.**

Witnessing Steward

Walt Richey



“Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts.” (Acts 2:46)

Each witnessing steward (Oct. 30 – Nov. 20) will invite us to wonder: How does participation in our congregation nourish you and inspire your gifts of money, energy, skill, and presence to support continued vitality and growth of our ministries as People’s Church.

Invitation to the Offering



*We support our church with financial gifts as we have means to do so
Please consider leaving a gift in an offering plate as you depart,
(in Narthex or at front of Sanctuary)
scanning the QR code to give electronically, or mailing in a check*

Offertory

“Here Am I”

Damon

***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 (*unison*)

O God, through the offering of these gifts may we become a more open people...

open-minded in hearing your Word and wisdom,

open-hearted in healing a broken world,

open-handed in heeding your call for charity and enacted love.

With thanks for all good gifts, we present a portion of our substance and the whole of ourselves. 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 the Information Table in the Fellowship Hall)

*****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**

“Go In Peace”

White

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

All are welcome to gather downstairs after worship

10:30 am Fellowship

11:00 am Faith Conversations



animate
BIBLE

Faith Conversations

Nov. 13 – Grace:

Love is the Bottom Line

Childcare provided



In 10-minute videos, contemporary progressive faith leaders present thought-provoking topics. Our discussions are fruitful.

Nov. 20, Nov. 27, Dec. 11, Dec. 18—Focus on Homelessness
Our Justice & Outreach Team will facilitate

***Sitting or standing

PRAYER CORNER

Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:

For persons known to us...

*We give thanks for our hard-working **Harvest Fest Team** and the opportunity to welcome our wider community into a joyful, uplifting festival on Saturday.

*For **JT**, a Special Olympics bus rider known to Jackie Savage. As JT is in kidney failure and receiving hospice care, may love surround him and those who love him.

*For our Tai Chi Group member Shula's daughter **Talia**, receiving aggressive treatments for cancer that has returned after a 21-year remission.

*For **Gary McLaughlin**, receiving hospice care as his lung disease progresses swiftly. Gary welcomes our prayers and cards as his family and hospice team support him in staying as comfortable as possible. He welcomes our prayers for smooth healing, recovery, and relief from pain.

*We celebrate birthdays on these dates: **Michele** Stephan (6th), **Eric Vandre** (7th) & **Pat Mazzitello** (10th) & **Mary Maren Bjork** (19th)

And in the wider community...

*As chilly weather deepens, we know that not all of our neighbors will have access to stable housing this winter. Please guide our upcoming work to learn, act, and give in response to gaps in service for people experiencing homelessness.

*May each and every US military veteran (including members and friends of our congregation) be affirmed for their generous service to our country. May they find welcoming spaces for processing experiences. May our global community follow the Spirit's powerful nudge toward peace.

*In these post-election days and weeks in Minnesota and across the nation, let us hold compassionate space for our own feelings as well as those of our neighbors.

*As our U.S. Supreme Court justices hear a college admissions case that relates to affirmative action, may they rule in a way that upholds the dignity of all.

*For all those effected by the heightened risk of severe food shortage in the Asian and African continents as Russia withholds supplies. May compassion manifest itself without delay.



JOIN US FOR A
**Community
Thanksgiving
Service**

Tues., Nov. 22, 7 p.m.
People's Congregational Church
309 Third St. N.
Bayport, MN

Jointly sponsored by:
People's Congregational Church
and Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Bring an item for Valley OutReach.
Designated checks & loose offerings go to Valley OutReach.
A check written to a particular church will go to them.

Inquirers Gathering

Wednesday, Nov. 30 | 6:30-8:00pm

Would you like to learn more about People's Church and a bit about our denominational affiliations? Would you like to explore deepening your participation in our congregation and the possibility of covenanting in membership (a pledge of mutual support along the faith journey)?

You are invited to our next Inquirers Gathering! We will gather in the Meeting Room on our main level. We'll share introductions, storytelling by Pastor Clare and lay leaders (about our church's history and present ministries, denominational affiliations), and hopes for next steps in our collective journey. Attending this gathering does not obligate you to covenant in membership, but it is a required step in the process.

The second and final step prior to joining as a member is a one-to-one conversation with Pastor Clare, sharing more in depth about your faith journey and what you hope to experience as a member of People's Church.

Our next New Member Sunday will be December 18th.

We look forward to covenanting with new members of our congregation!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are still in need of volunteer bakers (pies or cookies), dishwashers, servers, and greeters.

Buy & sell 50/50 raffle tickets – During Fellowship today, or contact Cheri Schwartz (bobcheris@gmail.com, 651-430-8107).

Tell all your friends and neighbors to come to Harvest Fest!

Share our Harvest Fest webpage and Harvest Fest Facebook event!

Questions about Harvest Fest? Please contact Mary Binger (mehbinger@gmail.com, 651-357-8601)

Next Joint Church Potluck!
Tues, Nov. 15th | 5:30-7:00 pm



@ Zvago Community (in the social room)
115 Brick St., Stillwater (behind Our Savior's Lutheran Church)
Hosted by Kathy & Bob Iverson
*Plenty of parking, hosts will greet us at the main entrance
*Please bring a casserole, side dish, or dessert to share!

CONVERGENCE

Vital Church
Assessment

A note from Pastor Clare:
We need 3 more people to complete this assessment!

In the Leadership for Social Justice program at United Seminary (in which Pastor Clare is engaged to benefit our justice & outreach ministries), we now need to complete the Vital Church Assessment. Completion by at least 22 of our active people (members and friends) will provide helpful data.

Please complete the survey in one of these ways:

- **Electronically/online** (requires 15-20 minutes)
See Mid-Week for link to electronic version.
- **Hard copy/paper version** (if you can't do it electronically)
*Find a stack of hard copies in the Narthex TODAY.
Complete and leave it in Kimberly's door inbox.
Thanks in advance for engaging in this survey!*

A Shift in Kimberly's Work as our Communications Coordinator

(A transition to mostly remote)

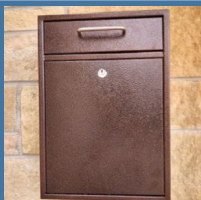
Kimberly will be working remote: **15-17, 22-23**

She will next be at church: **Nov. 29 - Dec. 1**

You can reach her every week (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) and make an appointment ahead of time to avoid missing us or at a time when the office is busy.**

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



New Mailbox, New Lockbox!

We now have a mailbox by the South/side entrance. If neither Pastor Clare nor Kimberly is at church and you need to drop something off, feel free to place it in there (*and let us know*).

We also have a lockbox on the door. With a 4-digit code, you can retrieve the building key (which is held within the lockbox). If you need to get into the church, please contact Kimberly to request the code. The best way to reach her is via text @ 651-353-6463.


Note: The code will change periodically to maintain security.



Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Michael Bjork (Choir Director), PCC choir, Jonah Gromoll (acolyte), Addison Albright & Sam Gromoll (youth greeters) Kathy & Bob Iverson (greeters) Cheri Schwartz (liturgist), Sue Favilla (fellowship), Carol Dusbabek & Claire Spilseth (Children's Activity), Paul, Bob & Mark (tech), Jackie Savage (Sanctuary organizer | outdoor sign), Lisa Culbertson (Childcare Provider)



People's Congregational Church

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