



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



November 20, 2022

"Do We Embody Devotion to the God of Jesus?"

Stewardship Sunday

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 & Candle Lighting “Let All Things Now Living” *Welsh Folk Tune*
Lori Mildon, *flute*

Eleanora Favilla, *acolyte*

The flame represents the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome

Pastor Clare Gromoll

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

Mary Maren Bjork, *liturgist*

O Holy One, there is a place of faith deep inside of all of us—a place of trusting, hopeful love; without which there can be no peace. We come this morning to worship you—with trust that makes us vulnerable, with hope that guides us into the future, with love that is beyond our imagining. We come to connect with the place of faith deep inside us all. We invite your Holy Spirit to enfold us and empower us as we seek to follow the way of Jesus. Amen.

*****Opening Song** “You Are Welcome Here” *Sing! Prayer & Praise, #26*
Vs. 1 - choir leads (please join in!) | Vs. 2-3 - all sing

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*

♩=100

G D G A D G/D D G A

You are wel-come here, no mat-ter who you are,

G A D G D C G A

no mat-ter where you are_ on life's jour - ney_ You are

D G/D D G A G A

wel-come here, no mat-ter who you are,_ come and

D G D G/D A D 1.2.3.

join with us,_ we're u - ni-ted in the church of_ Christ.---

A G/D D A D G/D D

1. Come now all peo - ple, join in the song, come be a part of the fam-
2. We pray for jus - tice; we pray for peace; we hear the word of the Sav-
3. Lift - ing each oth - er;_ do - ing what's right; stand - ing to - geth - er, what - ev -

G/D A A G/D D A D

- 'ly of God. We are God's peo - ple_ and you be - long,
 - ior of all._ We find God's mer - cy;_ we find re - lease,
 - er may come; prais - ing our Sav - ior,_ shin - ing our light,

G/D A 4.

share in the joy_ of_ Christ.____ You are _
 shar - ing the joy_ of_ Christ.____ You are _
 shar - ing the joy_ of_ Christ.____ You are _

Acknowledging Our Humanness and God's Grace

Prayer of Longing (*unison*)

God of all, you present us with many opportunities to serve. Sometimes we step forward; sometimes we turn away. Sometimes we take paths that lead not toward you but away from you. We need you, God! Be with us on our journey. Help us to grow closer to you and to reach out to others in companionship, generosity, and solidarity. Creator, Revealer and Sustainer, we long to embody your love through our living. Amen.

prayerful silence

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

Assurance of Grace

*****Passing 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 **Mary Maren** (Bjork), **Andi** (Favilla) & **Bob** (Dickie)*

Wondering Together

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

Luke 1: 57-79 ~ *The Inclusive Bible*

When the time came for Elizabeth to deliver, she gave birth to a son.

When her neighbors and relatives heard that God had been merciful to her, they shared her joy.

When all had assembled for the circumcision on the eighth day, they intended to name the baby after his father Zechariah. But his mother spoke up, "No, he is to be called John."

They pointed out to her, “But no one in your family has this name.” Then they made signs to the father to find out what he wanted the child to be named. The father asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” They were all astonished.

Immediately Zechariah’s mouth was opened and his tongue was loosed, and he began to speak in praise of God. Their neighbors were all filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea, people were talking about these events. All who heard the news stored it in their hearts and said, “What will this child turn out to be?” For God’s hand was with him. Zechariah, John’s father, was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied: “Blessed are you, the Most High God of Israel – for you have visited and redeemed your people.

You have raised up a mighty savior for us of the house of David, as you promised through the mouths of your holy ones, the prophets of ancient times: salvation from our enemies and from the hands of all our foes.

You have shown mercy to our ancestors by remembering the holy Covenant you made with them, the oath you swore to Sarah and Abraham, granting that we, delivered from the hands of our enemies, might serve you without fear, in holiness and justice, in your presence all our days.

And you, my child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you’ll go before God to prepare the way for the Promised One, giving the people the knowledge of salvation through forgiveness of their sins.

Such is the tender mercy of our God, who from on high will bring the Rising Sun to visit us, to give light to those who live in darkness and the shadow of death and to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

They devoted themselves to the apostles' instructions and the communal life, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. A reverent fear overtook them all, for many wonders and signs were being performed by the apostle. Those who believed lived together, shared all things in common; they would sell their property and goods, sharing the proceeds with one another as each had need. They met in the Temple and they broke bread together in their homes every day. With joyful and sincere hearts they took their meals in common, praising God and winning the approval of all the people. Day by day, God added to their number those who were being saved.

Morning Message "Do We Embody Devotion to the God of Jesus?"

Responding To God's Love

Prayer Hymn

"Take My Life, God, Let It Be"

New Century Hymnal, #448

All verses

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 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)

Prayer of Jesus (*unison*)

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

**Our Father and Mother who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kin-dom come. Thy will be done on Earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kin-dom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

Witnessing Steward

Bob Dickie

“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 come forward, placing in the Giving Basket your
2023 Intention to Give Form and any additional offerings for today.*

*We may also give today by scanning the QR code to give electronically
or mailing in a check*



Offertory

“Harvest is Plentiful”

African Tune

*****Doxology**

“Praise God”
sung twice

by John Mueller

**Praise, God, for these gifts;
we lift them up for heaven’s blessing.
Praise God, for these gifts;
we lift them up to serve you, Lord.**

*****Prayer to Consecrate our Shared Gifts for Ministry** (*unison*)

O Holy One—great, giving, generous God; you have empowered us to open our hands, committing to give away a portion of our financial resources. Bless now these intended gifts of gratitude, of sacrifice, of trust. Bless them to support our ministry in the coming year. Inspired by your presence with us, we have covenanted together to be *an inclusive community, celebrating your unconditional love*. May the gifts we give today and in the coming year move us toward deeper embodiment of that vision. Amen.

Going Forth to Share God’s Love

*****Closing Hymn**

“Take My Gifts”
All verses

New Century Hymnal, #562

*****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**

“May Our God Watch Between Us”

Unger

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:

Cindy Parsons (member of our congregation and Executive Director of The Connect Center in Stillwater) leads a discussion on “Filling Gaps in Services for Homelessness.” This will include a letter-writing campaign for emergency housing in the City of Stillwater.

Thank you to everyone who made Harvest Fest a HUGE success!



Greenery & Wreath Team: Andi, Pat, Cindy, Mindy, Mary, Paul & Claire
Team Support: Pat, Paul, Jane, Kimberly and Pastor Clare

Area leaders:

Mark & Michele (soup lunch) | Sue (chili supper, artisan logistics)
Claire & Mindy (auction, Sanctuary layout) | Jill & Rolf (bake shoppe)
Mary (musician logistics, sponsorships, chair)
Carol (People's Crafters coordinator) | Cheri (50/50 raffle)

Planning team:

Mary, Sue, Claire, Mark, Mindy, Carol



***Sitting or standing

PRAYER CORNER

Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:

For persons known to us...

*For **Lynn Dale**, mother to Roberta Dale former Office Manager of People's. Lynn suffered a hemorrhagic stroke and was life flighted to Mayo Clinic in Rochester on Monday, Nov. 7. Unable to move her left leg or left arm and very weak, Lynn remains at Mayo in intensive rehab.

*We give thanks to our **Harvest Fest Planning Team** and hope that our church's efforts encourage a broader sense of joy-filled community.

*For Mary Binger's grand-niece **Mia** and all young adults as they discern paths forward into post-secondary studies and employment.

*For Jennifer Albright-Halverson's friend **Maree**, who has breast cancer. She recently finished chemo and now faces a double mastectomy. A single parent, she needs to get back to work as swiftly as possible.

*We celebrate birthdays on these dates: **Mary Maren Bjork** (19th), **Andi Favilla** (21st) & **Bob Dickie** (22nd)

And in the wider community...

*For those risking their lives in Iran as they fight for freedom for women and girls. For those who have lost loved ones in the fight. And for people surviving in the midst of unrest.

*As the cold deepens, may our senses and minds open as we collaborate toward filling gaps in services for homelessness.

*Having recently recognized Veterans Day, may we affirm and welcome the wisdom of veterans among us.

*As midterm election results unfold, may we each wonder how we can bridge divides in polarized spaces.



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!



Incredible News About Our Roof!

Our Leadership Team has great news to share with the congregation at this time. The roofs of our building sustained significant damage during a recent hailstorm.

Bill Stokes contacted a roofing company. That company filed a claim with our insurer,

Church Mutual. Our claim was approved and Church Mutual has already paid us a sum that represents a significant percentage of the projected cost. The roofing company believes they can negotiate approved coverage for the remaining cost as well (less our very small deductible). We will contract with the roofing company for a complete replacement of the slate and flat rubber roofs contingent on our insurance company covering nearly the entire cost.

Work would commence in the second quarter of 2023!

- Moderator Rolf Dittmann, on behalf of the Leadership Team



&



Meeting

Sunday | Dec 4 @ 10:45 am (in-person & Zoom)
Brunch & Congregational Meeting: Planning, Budget, Elections

Brunch starts at 10:30 am and continues through the meeting

- Discuss our deepening collaboration with St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Stillwater
- Discuss current budget and resource needs for 2023
- Elect members to our Leadership Team and Finance, Personnel, and Pastoral Relations Committees for 2023

Kimberly (Communications Coordinator) working primarily remotely

Kimberly will be working remotely: **Nov. 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) 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



Pastor Clare's Interview


Pastor Clare we recently interviewed as part of an ongoing series called "Clergy Conversations." She spoke specifically about her ministry with People's Congregational Church and more generally about her call to ministry.

Watch it on YouTube or Facebook (*see links in Mid-Week*)

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Michael Bjork (Choir Director), Lori Milton (flute), Eleanora Favilla (acolyte), Addison Albright & Eleanora Favilla (youth greeters), Mary Maren Bjork (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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