



November 22, 2022

## Community Thanksgiving Service

People's Congregational Church & Bethlehem Lutheran Church

## 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

“Give Thanks”

*Smith*

*Sam Gromoll, acolyte*

*The flame represents the light of Christ among us*

### Words of Welcome

*Pastor Clare Gromoll*

### \*\*\*Opening Hymn "Come, O Thankful People, Come"

*All verses*

*New Century Hymnal #422*

### \*\*\*Opening Prayer (*unison*)

*Pastor Eric Leshner*

**Wondrous Spirit, we raise to you our joyful noise: words of thanksgiving, songs of praise! Rhythm-setter of tides and seasons, from the depths of the waters to the heights of the land, creation declares your greatness. You dapple our days with sun and our nights with starlight. Your love and peace flow unceasingly. May your goodness transform us, deepening our gratitude for the beauty around us. Lead us, we pray, in loving one another. Amen.**

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*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*

## **Choral Anthem**

“Praise and Thanksgiving”

ARR. Austin C. Lovelace

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Chapel Choir

### **\*\*\*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.**

### **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 in worship  
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

Deuteronomy 26: 1-11 ~ NRSV      Jenny Schoolman

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for God's name.

You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us."

When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and God brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me."

You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

Psalm 100 ~ (*unison*)

Rolf Dittmann

**Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all you lands!**

**Serve the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with a song.**

**Know that the Lord is God, our maker to whom we belong; we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.**

**Enter the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving and the courts with praise; give thanks and bless God's holy name.**

**Good indeed is the Lord, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from age to age.**

## Philippians 4: 4-9~ NRSV

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

**Message**

Pastor Eric Leshner

### **Responding To God's Love**

**Prayer Hymn**

“For the Fruit of all Creation”

*All verses*

*New Century Hymnal, #425*

### **Thanksgiving Prayers of the People**

*Utilizing the blank strip of paper in the worship bulletin,  
write or draw what inspires you to give thanks.*

*Prompts:*

*When do I feel most alive (with whom or doing what activity)?*

*When I think of this place or person, I find myself smiling:*

*This is what brings joy (or hope) to my days:*

**Musical Interlude** ...as our sources of thanksgiving quietly emerge

### **Sharing Our Gratitude-Inspiring Words Aloud**

*We are invited to share aloud in a single word or brief phrase*





# Solstice, Christmas Eve, Christmas Morning

## A Light in the Darkness: A Contemplative Christmas Solstice Service

Dec. 21, 7 pm | Light refreshments follow

*Acknowledging both difficult & nurturing darkness,  
we honor what is and what may be... God with us in both.*

*candlelight, readings, prayers, music*

**Christmas Eve | 7 pm**

*carols, candlelight, readings, special music*

**Refreshments | 8:15-8:45 pm**

**Christmas Eve | 9 pm**

*carols, candlelight, readings, choral music*

**Christmas Morning | 9:30 am**

*joyful carols, readings, message*

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Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Michael Bjork (Choir Director), PCC Choir, BLC Chapel Choir, Daniel Baumgartner (BLC Director of Worship & Music), Sam Gromoll (acolyte), Jonah Gromoll (youth greeter), Jane Hanson & Brad Pederson (greeter) Rolf Dittmann & Jenny Schoolman (liturgists), Sue Favilla (fellowship), Paul, Bob & Mark (tech), Jackie Savage (Sanctuary organizer | outdoor sign)



## People's Congregational Church

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