



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



November 27, 2022

1st Sunday in Advent



"How Will We Co-Create Hope?"

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

“Oh Emmanuel”

Ylvasaker

Jonah Gromoll, acolyte

The flame represents the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome

Pastor Clare Gromoll

*****Opening Hymn** “All Earth is Waiting / Toda la Tierra”

New Century Hymnal, #121

Vs. 1 - choir leads (please join in!) | Vs. 2-3 - all sing

*****Advent Candle Lighting**

Jonah Gromoll & Mindy Peters

Advent is a season of waiting and watching for God’s presence with us.
Today we light the first candle: The candle of HOPE.

**As our congregation seeks to fulfill our purpose, we are wondering,
longing, hoping, and expecting the new life that God is bringing forth
among us.**

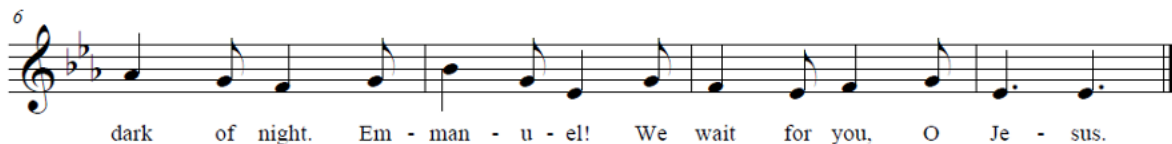
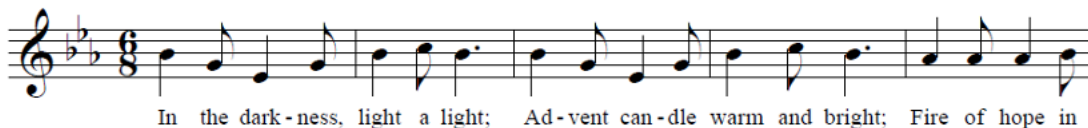
Lets' welcome one another!

Name tags are found in the Narthex (just inside the front doors)

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

***Advent Candle Song “In the Darkness, Light a Light”

German carol
words by Melander



Acknowledging Our Humanness and God’s Grace

Prayer of Longing (*responsive*)

Silent Word, Creative Act, Hidden Truth, Revealed Love:

We wait for you to come and set things right. We are concerned and on edge about many things.

We often miss or refuse your guidance, yet we want you to intervene on our behalf. We seldom pause to consider that you are waiting for us—

Waiting for genuine acts of openness; waiting for us to repent and turn around; waiting for us to listen and respond with a burning passion to your truth, your justice, and your compassion.

Furnish us with humble hearts and willing spirits to receive you as you come to us.

Holy One, we are waiting for your revealed love. 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 **Bob** (Dickie), **Emily** (Wulff) & **Mary Kay** (Dahl)*

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

Psalm 122 ~ *The Inclusive Bible*

How I rejoiced when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of God!"

And now our feet are standing within your gates, Jerusalem.

Jerusalem restored! The city, one united whole!

Here the tribes ascend, the tribes of God. They come to praise God's Name, as God commanded Israel—

Here, where the tribunals of justice are, the judgment seats of David's house.

Pray for peace within Jerusalem: "May those who love you prosper!

May peace be in your walls! May your citadels be always secure!"

For the sake of my family and friends, I say, "Peace be within you!"

For the sake of our God, I will seek your good.

Isaiah 2: 1-5 ~ *The Inclusive Bible*

This is what Isaiah ben-Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

In the last days, the mountain of God's Temple will be established as the most important mountain and raised above all other hills—all nations will stream toward it.

Many people will come and say:

"Come, let us climb God's mountain to the Temple of the God of Jacob, that we may be instructed in God's ways and walk in God's paths."

Instruction will be given from Zion and the word of God from Jerusalem. God will judge between the nations and render decisions for many countries. They will beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hoods; one nation will not raise the sword against another, and never again will they train for war.

O house of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of God!

Responding To God’s Love

Prayer Song

“Lord, Prepare Me to be a Sanctuary”

All verses

Sing! Song and Praise #187

♩=60

D/A Em/A D A

1. God pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and
 - pow'r me to be a wit - ness for you, act - ing

G Em7 D/A A A7

ho - ly, tried and true; with thanks -
 bold - ly, in your name; seek - ing

D A

-giv - ing, I'll be a liv - ing sanc - tu -
 jus - tice, where there is hurt - ing off - 'ring

G Em7 A7 D D/A Em/A D

- ar - y for you. 2. God em -
 hope where there is pain.

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*)

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
the hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come
on Earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.
Amen.**

Invitation to the Offering

We support our church with financial gifts as we have means to do so

*Welcome Forms also go in the offering plate
(written prayer requests, other updates, etc.)*

We can also mail in a check or give electronically by scanning the QR code

Offertory

“In the Circle of the Night They Wait”

Makeover



*****Offertory Response “In the Bleak Midwinter”**

**What can I offer, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise one, I would do my part;
but what can I offer: all my heart.**

*****Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)**

God of hope, you are eternally and faithfully present with us. As we wait and watch for a new arrival of the Christ light, we seek to appreciate all the ways you are with us. You listen when we call out to you. You speak to us with holy breath. You guide us to opportunities to care for one another. We gratefully dedicate our lives to your work of hope, of peace, of joy, of love. Amen.

Going Forth to Share God’s Love

*****Closing Hymn “There’s a Voice in the Wilderness”**

New Century Hymnal, #120

Vs. 1 - choir leads (please join in!) | Vs. 2-3 - all sing

*****Benediction**

*****Sung Response** *..as we form a circle*
around the perimeter of the Sanctuary

“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** **“Bless Everyone with Peace”** *Swedish Tune*

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

All are welcome to gather downstairs after worship

10:30 am Fellowship

11:00 am Faith Conversations:

A member of Washington County’s Homeless Outreach Service Team (HOST) will lead a discussion about “When Your Car is Your Home.”



&

ELECTION

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 (presentation by 4 lay leaders and Pastor Clare, who have participated in exploratory conversations with 4 St. Peter's UCC lay leaders and Pastor Daniel)
- *Hear, discuss, and vote on a proposal from our Justice & Outreach Team of four 2023 Quarterly Missions
 - *Discuss our current financial status and 2023 draft budget
 - *Thank outgoing 2022 Leadership Team and committee members
 - *Receive from our Nominating Team a slate of nominees; electing (or reaffirming) members to our Leadership Team and Finance, Personnel, and Pastoral Relations Committees for 2023

***Sitting or standing

PRAYER CORNER

Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:

For persons known to us...

*For **Gary McLaughlin**, who passed away on Nov. 20th, with family surrounding him. *See Mid-Week for his obituary.*

*For Nat Graf's uncle **Doug**, who is dealing with cancer and mobility issues.

*For Cindy Parsons and Bob Dickie's friend **Judy**, who is dealing with breast cancer.

*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 for a vibrant and uplifting **Harvest Fest** and hope that our church's efforts will encourage a broader sense of joy-filled community.

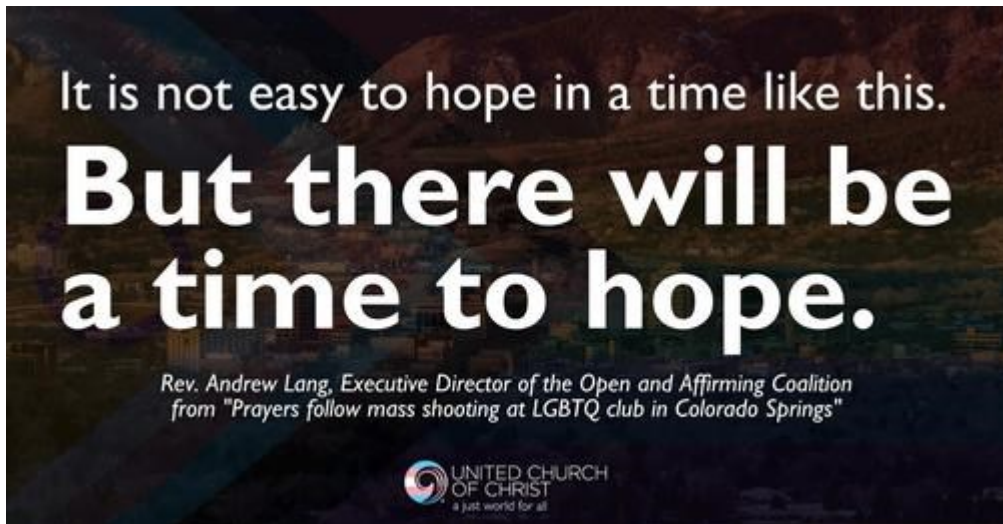
*For Mary Binger's grand-niece **Mia** and all young adults as they discern paths forward into post-secondary studies and employment.

*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: **Bob** Dickie (22nd), **Emily** Wulff & **Mary Kay** Dahl (30th)

And in the wider community...

*In the wake of the deadly shootings at Club Q in Colorado Springs, we pray for the grieving family and friends of the five victims: Raymond, Kelly, Daniel, Derrick, and Ashley. As Army Major Richard Fierro and Thomas James receive gratitude for their heroic efforts that subdued the shooter; may they, the additional 17 wounded, and all who were present that evening be well supported as they begin to process the traumatic experience in their bodies and minds. *See Mid-Week to read a prayer from the Open and Affirming Coalition and national officers of the United Church of Christ:*



* For loved ones grieving the recent quadruple murder of four students of University of Idaho (in the city of Moscow): Ethan, Kaylee, Xana, and Madison.

*For the people of Iran, wellbeing – particularly for those fighting for freedom and for families of those who are dying in the fight.

*As the cold deepens, we pray for neighbors who are currently without stable housing and we open ourselves to learning how to be truly strong allies for 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!



Thank you to everyone who made Harvest Fest a HUGE success (\$8,000+ netted)!

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



2022 Christmas Poinsettias
Orders due to the office by December 5

(please include payment with order form)

Many poinsettias ordered = a beautified Sanctuary!

Name _____

(4" pot) \$10 each

Red _____ **White** _____ **Pink** _____

(6" pot) \$15 each

Red _____ **White** _____ **Pink** _____

(8" pot) \$35 each

Red _____ **White** _____ **Pink** _____

Please designate your flower with words of gratitude, joy or hope. Name something specific to your family, our congregation or the Christmas season:

Kimberly (Communications Coordinator) working primarily remotely

She will next be at church: **Nov. 29 - Dec. 1**
Kimberly will be working remotely: **Dec. 6-8**

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.**



Gary McLaughlin was a member of People's Congregational Church and in recent years served on our Finance Committee. Pastor Clare had opportunity to visit with him and a daughter in his final weeks. He was ready to go—ready to join his beloved Jaki in peace and love beyond our imagining. We will remember his gentle kindness. Arrangements are being handled by Bradshaw Funeral & Cremation Services in Stillwater, MN.


The interment will be private.

(see Gary's full obituary in the Mid-Week)

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Michael Bjork (Choir Director), PCC Choir, Jonah Gromoll (acolyte), Sam Gromoll (youth greeter), Sharon Binger (greeter), Mindy Peters (liturgist & 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

Rev. Clare Gromoll, Pastor ~ pastor@peoplescongregational.org
309 Third St. N, Bayport MN 55003-1028
(651) 439-5667 / office@peoplescongregational.org
www.peoplescongregational.org  [@PCCBayport](https://www.facebook.com/PCCBayport)

Credits & Permissions | **Prayer of Longing:** Reprinted or adapted by permission of the publishers from *Touch Holiness*, ed. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. Copyright © 1990 by The Pilgrim Press. **Prayer of Jesus:** from New Zealand Book of Prayer. **Prayer of Dedication:** Reprinted or adapted by permission of the publisher from *Before the Amen: Creative Resources for Worship*, ed. Maren C. Tirabassi & Maria I Tirabassi. Copyright © 2007 The Pilgrim Press. Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-703858. All rights reserved. **Hymnals used:** New Century Hymnal, Sing! Prayer & Praise