



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



December 25, 2022

"Will We Reverberate with Christmas Joy?"

Christmas Morning

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 “Were you There on that Christmas Night”

Calkin

Lori Mildon, *flute*
Sam Gromoll, *acolyte*

A flame represents the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome

Pastor Clare Gromoll

***Opening Carol & Lighting the Christ Candle

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

NCH #129

Vs. 1-2

***Prayer of Gathering (*unison*)

Mary Binger, *liturgist*

O God in Jesus the Christ Child, we greet this morning with joy. You lift our spirits by coming to share in our human situation. We thank you for Christmas joy—for gifts shared, friendships renewed, hearts warmed by the love of dear ones, and greetings between strangers. We invite you to transform our lives, such that we continue to reverberate with Christmas joy. Amen.

***Carol

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

NCH #126

Vs. 1-3

Acknowledging Our Humanness and God's Grace

Prayer of Longing (*unison*)

Incarnate God of Christmastide, help us to discover the true meaning and joy that lie beneath the surface of this holy season. We long to see beyond the baby in the manger to the child, adolescent and adult Jesus became. Guide us to test our lives by his teachings and example. Enable us to sense your incredible love reaching out to us now, giving wisdom and power for our journeys. Then send us out to spread the good news that you are born among us, living in our neighborhoods. Through Jesus the Christ child, we pray. 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!

Let's 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.

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.**

*In fall 2022, we gave a first annual gift to Walker|West in St. Paul, MN as a reparations payment for our use of this African American spiritual.
"Walker|West creates a music learning community rooted in the African-American cultural experience, where people of all ages and backgrounds can gather, explore, and grow through music."*

Singing "Happy Birthday"

*..Happy birthday dear **Eddy** (Hintze-Graf)*

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 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

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 use the Narthex (entry area) or Meditation Room (off front left exit from Sanctuary)

Proclaiming God's Love

Carol "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" NCH #131
Vs. 1, 3 & 4

Scriptures Sharri Kinkead, *liturgist*

Isaiah 52:7-10 ~ *The Inclusive Bible (responsively)*

How welcome upon the mountains are the feet of one who brings good news—who announces peace, and brings news of happy things, and proclaims deliverance, saying to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

Listen! Those who keep watch raise a cry, together they shout for joy—for they see with their own eyes God's restoration of Zion!

Break out together in song, O ruins of Jerusalem! For God comforts the people, and redeems Jerusalem.

God bares a holy arm in the sight of all the nations; all the ends of the Earth will behold the salvation of our God!

Carol "Once in Royal David's City" NCH #145
Vs. 1, 3 & 4

Psalm 98 ~ *The Inclusive Bible (responsively)*

Sing a new song to God, who has worked wonders, whose right hand and holy arm have brought deliverance!

God has made salvation known and shown divine justice to the nations, and has remembered in truth and love the house of Israel. All the ends of the Earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Shout to the Most High, all the Earth, break into joyous songs of praise! Sing praise to God with the harp, with the harp and melodious singing!

With trumpets and the blast of the shofar, raise a shout to God, ruler of all. Let the sea and all within it thunder; the world and all its peoples.

Let the rivers clap their hands and the hills ring out their joy before God, who comes to judge the Earth, who will rule the world with justice and its peoples with equity.

A Brief Message “Will We Reverberate with Christmas Joy?”

Carol “Who Would Think That What Was Needed” NCH #153
All verses

Responding To God’s Love

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 your prayer to our Prayer Corner.

One: God, in your love

All: Hear our prayer

Prayer of Jesus (unison)

**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.**

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 (*cards are on the Information Table in the Fellowship Hall*).
Or simply take a blank card with you as you leave!

Invitation to the Offering

Carol

“Little Drummer Boy”

Come they told me Pa rum pum pum pum
A new born king to see Pa rum pum pum pum
Our finest gifts we bring Pa rum pum pum pum
To lay before the king Pa rum pum pum pum,
Rum pum pum pum, Rum pum pum pum
So to honor him Pa rum pum pum pum
When we come

Little baby Pa rum pum pum pum
I am a poor boy too Pa rum pum pum pum
I have no gift to bring Pa rum pum pum pum
That's fit to give our king Pa rum pum pum pum,
Rum pum pum pum, Rum pum pum pum
Shall I play for you Pa rum pum pum pum
On my drum

Mary nodded Pa rum pum pum pum
The ox and lamb kept time Pa rum pum pum pum
I played my drum for him Pa rum pum pum pum
I played my best for him Pa rum pum pum pum,
Rum pum pum pum, Rum pum pum pum
Then he smiled at me Pa rum pum pum pum
Me and my drum

Offertory

“Away in the Manger”

Kirkpatrick
Lori Mildon, flute

*Offering plates circulate at this time
We support our church financially as we have means to do so
Welcome Forms also go in the offering plate (prayer request, updates, etc.)
We can also mail in a check or give electronically by scanning the QR code*



*****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*)**

O God, your love surpasses our understanding. Yet we trust your generous love at work in our lives. Use our gifts to expand your realm of HOPE, of PEACE, of JOY, of LOVE for all—in this Christmas season and far beyond. Amen!

We invite you to these upcoming activities...

ST. CROIX VALLEY PRAYER CIRCLE
Jan. 4 | 6:30 pm
@ People's Church
309 Third St. N.
Bayport
People of all faiths & paths

EMBRACING DORMANCY: *Fruitful Rest*

Join our circle of prayer
Hearts unite & envision healing
Each person contributes to our impact
All ages welcome, bring friends

peoplescongregational.org
Questions? Contact the office | 651-439-5667



People's Book Club

We read theologically progressive books by diverse authors

People's Congregational Church (Bayport)
Jan. 18 | 6:30-8 pm | @ church & Zoomed

CONVICTIONS

HOW I LEARNED WHAT MATTERS MOST

Marcus J. Borg

Interested? Contact us:

office@peoplescongregational.org

*Valley Bookseller (Stillwater) has copies for us
at 15% off the \$16.99 list price!*

...All are welcome!

Poinsettia's Given with Generous Spirits.

Jill Greenhalgh & Rolf Dittmann

Andrea & Peter Favilla

Diane & Joe Legato

Pastor Clare Gromoll

Grateful for how we help each other
come alive at People's Church!

Mindy Peters

Paula & Walt Richey

In Honor of the Ukrainian people
& for love & kindness to all

Sue Favilla


Grateful for my wonderful family

Thank you for beautifying our Sanctuary this Christmas!
We encourage anyone to take a poinsettia with you today!

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Lori Mildon (flute), Sam Gromoll (acolyte), Kathy & Bob Iverson (greeters), Mary Binger & Sharri Kinkead (liturgists), Lori Mildon (fellowship), Paul, Bob & Mark (tech), Jackie Savage (Sanctuary organizer, outdoor sign), Andi Favilla & Jenni Shaller (decorations), Lisa Culbertson (Childcare Provider)



People's Congregational Church

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