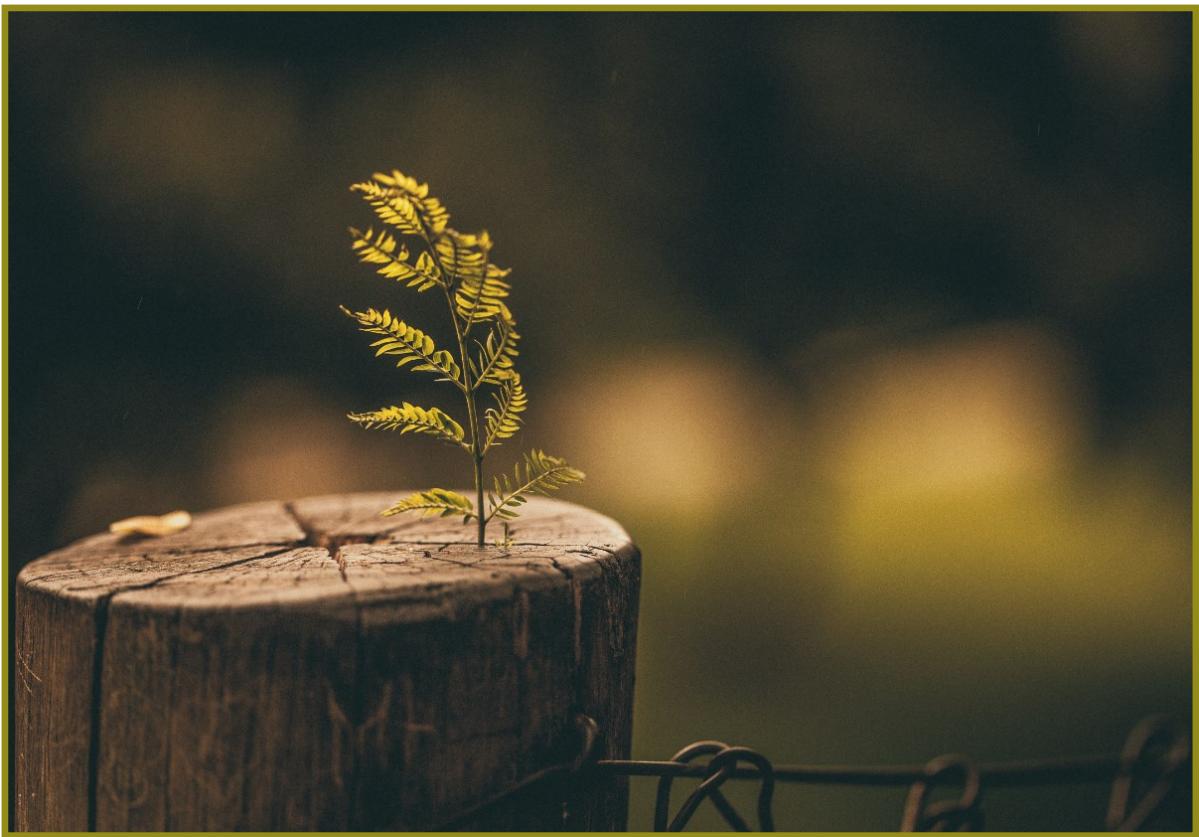




*"An inclusive community, celebrating God's unconditional love through engaging worship and faithful service"*



December 4, 2022

2nd Sunday in Advent

**“How Will We Prepare for Peace-Building?”**



## The Love of God Gathers Us

### Gathering Music

*We greet those around us or sit quietly  
as we settle into sacred time and space*

### Ringing of the Bell

**Prelude & Candle Lighting** “Dona Nobis Pacem (Grant Unto Us Peace)”  
*German Tune*  
Sam Gromoll, acolyte

*The flame represents the light of Christ among us*

### Words of Welcome

Pastor Clare Gromoll

**\*\*\*Opening Hymn** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Claire Bjork, cantor  
*Verses 6-7*      *New Century Hymnal, #116*

**\*\*\*Advent Candle Lighting**      Sam Gromoll & Sharon Binger

One: Advent is a season of waiting and watching for God's presence with us. Today we light the first candle of HOPE and the second candle of PEACE. As we seek to fulfill our congregation's purpose; we wonder, long for, and expect the new life that God is bringing forth among us.

All: We welcome this new life that embraces all beings with hope, peace, joy, and love!

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*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.*

### **\*\*\*Advent Candle Song      "In the Darkness, Light a Light"**

*German carol  
words by Judith Melander*

Musical notation for the first line of the song, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a time signature of 6/8. The lyrics are: In the dark - ness, light a light; Ad - vent can - dile, warm and bright; Fire of peace in

Musical notation for the second line of the song, continuing from the first line. The lyrics are: dark of night. Em - man - u - el! We wait for you, O Je - sus.

### **Acknowledging Our Humanness and God's Grace**

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

Compassionate God, greet us with your grace this day, for we need you. We need the peace you offer. May we be quiet enough to hear your voice. May we be still enough to feel your touch. Help us to prepare a place where we receive as well as give, wait as well as act, listen as well as speak. The whole world needs your peace. We long to learn your ways. Come to us now, through Jesus the Christ. 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.**

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

## Proclaiming God's Love

### Scriptures

Isaiah 11:1-10 ~ *The Inclusive Bible*

Then a shoot will sprout from the stump of Jesse; from Jesse's roots, a branch will blossom:

**The Spirit of God will rest on you—a spirit of wisdom and understanding, a spirit of counsel and strength, a spirit of knowledge and reverence for God.**

You will delight in obeying God, and you won't judge by appearances, or make decisions by hearsay.

**You will treat poor people with fairness and will uphold the rights of the land's downtrodden. With a single word you will strike down tyrants; with your decrees you will execute evil people.**

Justice will be the belt around your waist—faithfulness will gird you up.

**Then the wolf will dwell with the lamb,  
and the leopard will lie down with the young goat;  
the calf and the lion cub will graze together,  
and a little child will lead them.**

The cow will feed with the bear; their young will lie down together.

The lion will eat hay like the ox.

**The baby will play next to the den of the cobra,  
and the toddler will dance over the viper's nest.**

There will be no harm, no destruction anywhere in my holy mountain, for as water fills the sea, so the land will be filled with knowledge of God.

**On that Day, the Root of Jesse will serve as a symbol to the peoples of the world—nations will flock to you, and your home will be a place of honor.**

### **Romans 15:5-13 ~ *The Inclusive Bible***

May God, the source of all strength and encouragement, enable you to live in perfect harmony with one another according to the Spirit of Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and one voice, you may praise the God of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Accept one another as Christ accepted us, for the glory of God. Christ became a servant of the chosen people to live out the truth of God's promise to them, and at the same time to give the Gentiles cause to glorify God for showing mercy. As scripture has it, "Therefore I will praise you among the nations and I will sing your name."

Again it says, "Rejoice, all you nations, with God's people."

And again: "Praise our God, all you nations, and let all the peoples praise the Most High."

And Isaiah too says, "The root of Jesse is coming and will arise to rule over the nations, and they will place their trust in the Coming One."

May the God of hope fill you with such peace and joy in your faith, that you may be filled with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **Matthew 3: 1-12 ~ *The Inclusive Bible***

At this time John the Baptizer appeared in the desert of Judea, proclaiming, "Change your hearts and minds, for the reign of heaven is about to break in upon you!"

It was John that the prophet Isaiah described when he said,

"A herald's voice cries in the desert:

'Prepare the way of our God, make straight the paths of God!'"

John was clothed in a garment of camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist. Grasshoppers and wild honey were his food. At that time, Jerusalem, all Judea and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him. John baptized them in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins.

When he saw that many of the Pharisees and Sadducees were coming to be baptized, John said to them, “You pack of snakes! Who told you to flee from the coming wrath? Give some evidence that you mean to reform! And don’t pride yourselves on the claim, ‘Sarah and Abraham are our parents.’ I tell you, God can raise children for Sarah and Abraham from these very stones! Even now the ax is laid to the root of the tree. Every tree that is not fruitful will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I will baptize you in the water if you have a change of heart, but the One who will follow me is more powerful than I. I’m not fit to even to untie the sandals of the Coming One! That One will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and fire, whose winnowing-fan will clear the threshing floor. The grain will be gathered into the barn, but the chaff will be burned in unquenchable fire.”

**Morning Message**      “How Will We Prepare for Peace-Building?”

### **Responding To God’s Love**

**Prayer Song**      “Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary”

*All verses*

*Sing! Song and Praise #187*

*See page 8*

### **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**

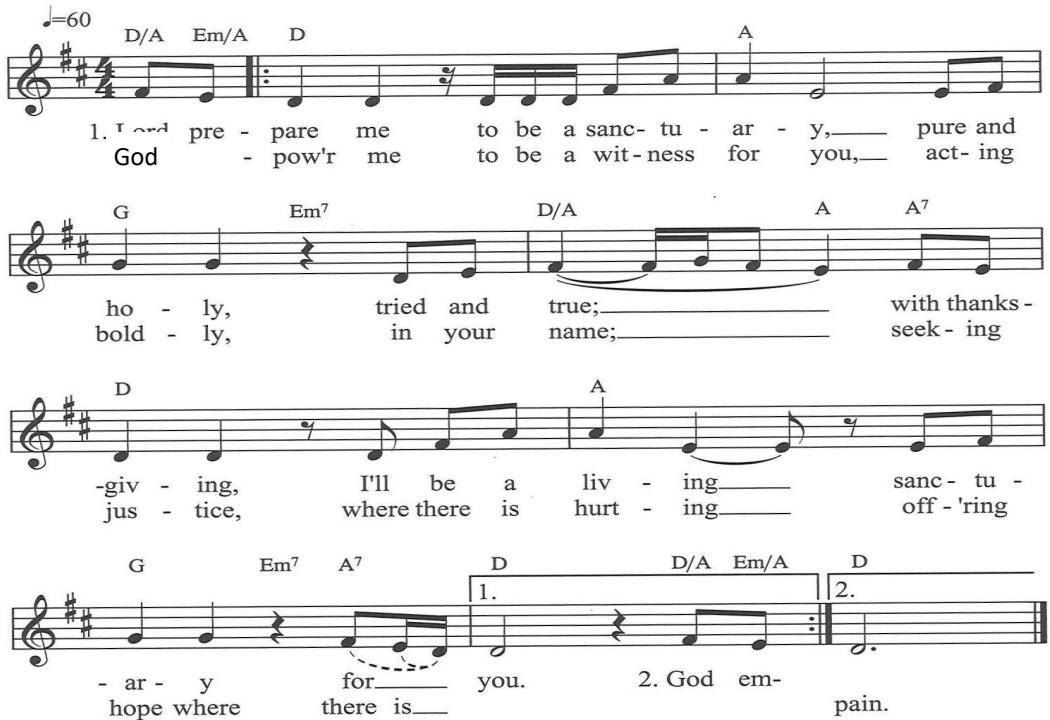
### **Prayer Cards**

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)*

## “Lord, Prepare Me to be a Sanctuary” ~ *All verses*

♩=60



**1.** Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and  
God - pow'r me to be a wit-ness for you, act- ing  
ho - ly, tried and true; with thanks -  
bold - ly, in your name; seek - ing  
-giv - ing, I'll be a liv - ing sanc - tu -  
jus - tice, where there is hurt - ing off - 'ring  
- ar - y for you. **2.** God em - pain.  
hope where there is

### 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.**

## **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**

**“Emmanuel”**

**McGee**

*... as offering plates circulate*

**\*\*\*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.**



## **Sharing in Holy Communion**

*Holy Communion is open to members and friends of all ages  
as we seek to follow Jesus in the way of radically inclusive love*

*You'll take a piece of (gluten-free) bread and a small cup of juice  
Consume the elements as you step away from the table  
Place your empty cup in a receptacle on either front row pew*

### \*\*\*Invitation & Prayer

Pastor: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to God.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

All: All-loving God, you are Creator of energy and matter, the heavens and the Earth. Therefore, we celebrate you - joining our voices with the wind and the streams, the animals and the flowers, the living and the dead (*pause*), the stars and the planets and all the company of creation—forever singing our unending hymn to proclaim your glory.

Amen.

### \*\*\*Sung Response      “Santo, Santo, Santo”      #111 CH *Sung twice - first in Spanish, then in English*

The musical score consists of two staves of music. The top staff is in treble clef, 4/4 time, and the bottom staff is in bass clef, 4/4 time. The key signature changes throughout the piece, indicated by C, G7, Am, F, G, C, F, G7, and C. The lyrics are provided in both Spanish and English. The Spanish lyrics are: "San - to, san - to, san - to. ¡Mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra! Mi Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you! My". The English lyrics are: "co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: ¡San - to e - res Señ - or! heart knows how to say to you: Ho - ly are you, Lord!". The score includes a page number '8' at the bottom right.

## **Words of Remembrance & Blessing**

## **Sharing the Bread of Life & Cup of Blessing**

*Please approach the Communion Table by the central aisle,  
returning by the side aisles.*

# Sung Response

## “Come to the Table of Grace”

## #112 Sing! Prayer & Praise

*Sung as we come forward to receive Communion*

A musical score for a single instrument, likely a guitar or ukulele, in common time (indicated by the '4' below the '3'). The key signature is F major (one sharp). The score consists of four measures. Measure 1: An open G string (F) followed by a dotted half note. Measure 2: A dotted quarter note followed by a eighth note. Measure 3: An eighth note followed by a dotted half note. Measure 4: A dotted half note followed by a eighth note.

1. Come to the table of grace.  
2. Come to the table of peace.  
3. Come to the table of love.  
4. Come to the table of joy.

A musical staff in B-flat major (Bb) with a common time signature. The first measure shows a B-flat chord (Bb). The second measure shows a C7 chord (C dominant 7th). The third measure shows an F chord. The fourth measure shows a C chord.

- Come to the tabble of grace.  
Come to the tabble of peace.  
Come to the tabble of love.  
Come to the tabble of joy.

A musical staff in treble clef with four measures. The first measure is labeled 'F' above the staff. The second measure is labeled 'Gm7' above the staff. The third measure is labeled 'F/A' above the staff. The fourth measure is labeled 'Bsus2' above the staff. The notes and rests correspond to the chords indicated.

- This is Christ's ta - ble not just yours or mine.  
This is Christ's ta - ble not just yours or mine.  
This is Christ's ta - ble not just yours or mine.  
This is Christ's ta - ble not just yours or mine.

A musical score for a single instrument, likely a piano or organ. The score consists of two staves of music. The top staff begins with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and includes measure numbers 1 through 10. The bottom staff begins with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and includes measure numbers 11 through 19. The music features various note values (eighth and sixteenth notes), rests, and dynamic markings like forte (f), piano (p), and sforzando (sf). The score is set against a background of vertical bar lines.

- Come to the table of grace.  
Come to the table of peace.  
Come to the table of love.  
Come to the table of joy.

**\*\*\*Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)**

O God, we give thanks that you have refreshed us at your table, touched our deepest needs, and called us to a life shared in memory and hope. Send us forth with courage and joy in the name of Jesus the Christ—that we, too, may become bread and peace for one another and the world. Amen.

**Going Forth to Share God's Love**

**\*\*\*Closing Hymn**

“Deep Peace”

*Vs. 1-3*

*Sing! Song and Praise #201*

**\*\*\*Benediction**

**\*\*\*Sung Response**

*..as we form a circle*

*around the perimeter of the Sanctuary*

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

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

**\*\*\*Postlude**

“Manglakat na Kita sa Belen”

*Philippine Carol*

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**All are welcome to gather downstairs after worship**

*10:30 am Brunch (continues through the meeting)*

*10:45 am Budget, Planning & Elections meeting*

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### **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. May Gary rest in deep peace. May love surround his family and friends as they grieve.

\***For Nat Graf** and all who grieve the recent death of her uncle Doug. May Doug rest in deep peace

\*We give thanks that **Aidan Gromoll** (sister to Pastor Clare) has safely arrived home from Pakistan. We pray for the wellbeing of all the internally displaced persons who received medical care from Aidan.

\***For Michele Stephan's mother, Dorothy** who turned 101 years young!

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

\***For Lynn Dale**, mother to Roberta Dale (our former Office Manager). Lynn suffered a hemorrhagic stroke on Monday, Nov. 7. Lynn continues in intensive rehab at Mayo, with a target release date of Dec 2, likely to another rehab facility.

\*We celebrate birthdays of: **Emily Wulff & Mary Kay Dahl** (30th)

\*We celebrate anniversaries of: **Sue & Mike Favilla** (2nd)

*Prayer corner cont...*

*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. May the two who heroically subdued the shooter, 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, & Madison.
- \*For the people of Iran – solidarity in their grief and strength in their efforts to realize freedom.
- \*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.
- \*During this winter holiday season, may we be gently aware of how loneliness and grief can feel heavier for each of us and for others. May we be particularly aware of how experiences of grief and loneliness can exacerbate mental health concerns for ourselves and others.

**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:

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## Kimberly (Communications Coordinator) working primarily remotely

Kimberly will be working remotely: **Dec. 6-8, 13-15, 20-22 & 27-29**  
She will next be at church: **Jan. 3-5**

You can reach her every week (T, W, Th 9 am - 4 pm) at 651-439-5667  
and at [office@peoplescongregational.org](mailto: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 .**

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



## Stewardship Campaign Update

We have now consecrated **\$111,760** in intentions to support our ministries in 2023! We celebrate this generosity while knowing we need to generate more financial support to shrink our projected deficit as we pursue growth and vitality!

*If you didn't yet send in your Intention to Give form, please and return it by*  
**1) mailing it in, 2) bringing it to church on Sunday, 3) emailing it to Treasurer  
Bill Stokes - [bstokes@baldwin-telecom.net](mailto:bstokes@baldwin-telecom.net)  
or Pastor Clare - [pastor@peoplescongregational.org](mailto:pastor@peoplescongregational.org)**

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Michael Bjork (Choir Director), Claire Bjork (cantor), Sam Gromoll (acolyte), Jonah Gromoll (youth greeter), Jane Hanson & Bob Dickie (greeters), Sharon Binger (liturgist), Sue Favilla & Lori Mildon (brunch) Carol Dusbabek & Claire Spilseth (Children's Activity), Paul, Bob & Mark (tech), Jackie Savage (Sanctuary organizer, outdoor sign), Lisa Culbertson (Childcare Provider), Mindy (communion preparer)



## People's Congregational Church

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