



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



February 19, 2023 | Transfiguration Sunday

"When Do We Radiate Love Most Authentically?"

People's Congregational Church & St. Peter's United Church of Christ

The Love of God Gathers Us

Gathering Music

Sharon Neuenfeldt

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

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude & Candle Lighting “Christians, We Have Met for Worship” *Atkins*

Lori Mildon, *Flute*

A flame represents the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome

Pastor Clare Gromoll

***Opening Song

“Your Love is Amazing”

Sing! Song & Praise #163

All verses

see next page...

***Prayer of Gathering (*responsive*)

Mary Maren Bjork, *liturgist*

Holy and loving God, we boldly claim the promise of Christ—
**That where two or three are gathered in that holy name,
Christ is present.**

With Christ among us, we know the power of your love for us.
With Christ among us, we see your glory in each other.

With Christ among us, we believe we can do all things—
Through love’s strength at work in us.

Free us now to be a people renewed by transforming love—
**Through the one who came that we might have life,
and have it abundantly. Amen!**

Choral Anthem

“Somebody’s Knockin’”

Traditional Spiritual, Arranged by Joseph M. Martin

♩=100
 Csus² G/B

1. Your love is a - maz - ing, stea - dy and un - chang -
 - ing, I can feel it ris -
 - ing, stea - dy and un - chang -

Csus² Dsus

- ing, your love is a moun - tain, firm be - neath my feet.
 - ing, all the joy that's grow - ing deep in - side of me.
 - ing, your love is a moun - tain, firm be - neath my feet.

Csus² G/B

— Your love is a mys - t'ry, how you gent - ly lift—
 — Ev - 'ry time I see you all your good - ness shines
 — Your love is a mys - t'ry, how you gent - ly lift—

Csus² Dsus

— me. When I am sur - round - ed your love car - ries me.
 — through. I can feel this God song ris - ing up in me.
 — me. When I am sur - round - ed your love car - ries me.

Csus² G Dsus Em⁷

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah,

Csus² G Dsus

your love makes me sing. Ha - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, ha - le - lu -

Em⁷ Csus² 1.2. 3. G

- jah, your love makes me sing. 2. Your love is sur - pris - Hal le - lu - jah.
 3. Your love is a - maz -

*** = Sitting or standing

Let's welcome one another!

*Name tags (permanent & one-time-use) are in the Narthex/entry area
Welcome forms in pews: request a prayer or name tag, update contact info, etc.*

Acknowledging Our Humanness and God's Grace

Prayer of Longing (unison)

Creator God, we cast our cares toward you and share our burdens with each other. (brief pause)

Help us strip away our false selves, dismantling our disguises. (pause)

Manifest your presence as we lay bare our hearts and souls. (pause)

Let your voice be heard in the silence of our spirits. (pause)

Let your acceptance waft over us like a warm breeze as your calm and comfort envelop and cradle us. (pause)

Let your love fill us with joy. (pause)

May others sense your presence in our hearts and see you in our actions. Amen.

*...the singing bowl welcomes us into silence
as our own longings quietly emerge*

Tibetan singing bowls first took form in the 16th -11th centuries BCE. In some Buddhist traditions, they accompany meditation and chanting. In the US since the 1970s, they have contributed to new-age music, yoga & music therapy.

Assurance of Grace

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you! **All: And also with you!**

*****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*

“This Little Light...” welcomes our young people forward

A Time With Children and Youth

Sung Invitation *We sing as our young people 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 **Sharon** (Neuenfeldt) & **Addison** (Albright)*

Wondering Together

We make an annual gift to Walker West in St. Paul, MN as a reparations payment for our use of “This Little Light of Mine.”
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.

Blessing One Another *Seated, we open our arms to the children and youth*

Children : God be with you

All: And also with you

Sung Affirmation *We sing as young people depart 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.**

Young children (age 3-8, PreK-Gr. 2): downstairs Sunday School room

Older children & youth (Gr. 3-8): upstairs Corner Meeting Room

They return to worship during the Offertory

Lisa cares for infants and toddlers, 9:15 - 10:45: downstairs Nursery

We welcome sounds and movements of children who stay in worship.

*Need space to move around? You're welcome to use the Narthex (entry area)
or Meditation Room (off front left exit from Sanctuary).*

Proclaiming God's Love

Scriptures

Matthew 17: 1-9 ~ *The Inclusive Bible*

Six days later, Jesus took Peter, James and John up on a high mountain to be alone with them. And before their eyes, Jesus was transfigured—his face becoming as dazzling as the sun and his clothes as radiant as light.

Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with Jesus. Then Peter said, “Rabbi, how good that we are here! With your permission I will erect three shelters here—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah!”

Peter was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them. Out of the cloud came a voice which said, “This is my Own, my Beloved, on whom my favor rests. Listen to him!”

When they heard this, the disciples fell forward on the ground, overcome with fear. Jesus came toward them and touched them, saying, “Get up! Don't be afraid.” When they looked up, they did not see anyone but Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountainside, Jesus commanded them, “Don't tell anyone about this until the Chosen One has risen from the dead.”

We did not cleverly devise fables when we taught you of the power and coming of our Savior Jesus Christ; we ourselves saw the majesty of our Savior.

For Jesus was honored and glorified by our Creator God when the voice of the Majestic Glory spoke out, “This is my Own, whom I love, and with whom I am well pleased.”

We heard this ourselves—this voice from heaven—when we were with Jesus on the holy mountain. Moreover, we have the prophetic word, which is even more certain.

Depend on it for your own good as a light shining in the dark, until first light breaks and the morning star rises in your hearts.

At the same time, you need to know that no prophecy of scripture ever occurred by one’s own interpretation. Prophecy never comes through an act of human will, but comes as people have spoken for God under the power of the Holy Spirit.

Sermon

"When Do We Radiate Love Most Authentically?"

10:00 bells | *When the St. Charles bells ring, we pause for extended silence*

Consider the Sermon Response Page (tucked in the back of the bulletin)

Or pray for cooperative ecumenical and interfaith relationships

The singing bowl welcomes us back after 2 minutes of silence

Responding To God's Love

Prayer Hymn (NCH #182) "We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding"

Vs. 1 & 3

See page 16...

Prayers of the People

We share aloud prayers for ourselves, others, and parts of the world

We'll add your prayer to our Prayer Corner

One: God, in your love

All: Hear our prayer

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 & freedom sustain our hope & 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

*Greeters pass offering plates at this time
We give by cash, check or electronically (scanning the QR code)*



Loose offerings go to People's Church (and to St. Peter's UCC when we are there)

If giving electronically, we welcome you to place a blue Giving Card in the plate

Completed Welcome Forms and Sermon Response Pages also go in the plate

Offertory

“The Giving Song”

*Litsch
Lori Mildon, Flute*

***Offertory Response (*unison*)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen**

***Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

God of radiating love, we dedicate these gifts and our very selves to your way of empowering love. Stay with us as we share in the risks and challenges of living our faith. By your powerful Spirit, turn our fear to courage and our ambivalence to clarity. As your glory shone through the face of Jesus, so shine in our hearts and through our lives. Amen.



**American
Red Cross**

donate
BL save a life **LD**

[give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=Bayport](https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=Bayport)

Blood Drive @ People's Congregational Church

**Join us on March 1 to give blood.
15 donor spots remain!**

You must register online.

Register here: [https://](https://www.redcrossblood.org/)

www.redcrossblood.org/

We will need 4 volunteers for the blood drive. Please let Kimberly know if you are available.

office@peoplescongregational.org, 651-439-5667



Easter Flowers

Let's create a beautiful garden in our Sanctuary on Easter Sunday! Members and friends are invited to place their own orders online to contribute flowers to our People's Church Easter garden.

We will each take our flowers home or to a loved one after worship on April 9th.

To place an order for Easter flowers:

1. Go to www.gertensfundraising.com
2. Enter Store ID code (63) into the text field; click 'Enter ID to Continue'
3. Choose from among 11 different flowering plants!
4. After you have placed your order, please contact Kimberly to name any loved ones you wish to remember or honor with your flowers.

If you can not access the internet to order your flowers, please contact Kimberly for assistance.

THE LAST DAY to order is March 1.

We hope many will contribute to a beautiful Easter garden on the Chancel!

PRAYER CORNER

Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:

For persons known to us...

*For the family of baby **Camille** (born in 2022 to friends of Sharon Neuenfeldt), who had Edwards Syndrome and passed away in recent days.

*For **Liam**, a 2-year-old cousin of the Shaller family, recently diagnosed with a complicated form of leukemia. May Liam and his family experience love enfolding them in encouraging ways.

*We celebrate with Laura Corless, whose son **Josh** recently became well enough to finally celebrate Christmas with family.

*For **Debi Orff** (worship accompanist at St Peter's UCC), smooth healing and swift recover after surgery to repair a detached retina.

*For **Jere Fetter**, who underwent extensive urinary tract surgery on Feb. 17th at Mayo Clinic. With Jere and Dawn, we hope and pray that this will result in relief from chronic upper leg pain and a return of mobility.

*For **Don Olsen** (former member of People's, now a pastor in Wichita, KS), who is very ill, battling a severe blood infection. The road toward recovery is uncertain. We hold Don, his wife Penny, and their congregation in our prayers.

*For Pastor Clare and her sister Aidan's friend **Julie**, continued healing from an ankle fracture.

*For **Anji Chadwick**, daughter to a former People's pastor Bill Chadwick, who contracted a severe lung infection. Now home, may she heal swiftly and recuperate fully.

*Gratitude for **all the dimensions of our community**—those we interact with in person; those participating via live stream, recording, or Zoom; and those who have gone before us—the presence of so many beloved ones.

*For former pastor **Linda Tossey**, who is facing serious complications from her cancer medications. We pray for wisdom for the doctors as they explore options and for healing and hope for Linda.

cont...

*With **Carl Manthei**, (75 yrs young , dear friend to Jane Hanson), who had open heart surgery on February 16.

*For the **snowbirds** in our congregation. We miss your physical presence among us and we pray that you have joyful experiences and safe travels this winter.

*We celebrate birthdays of: **Sharon** Neuenfeldt (22nd),
Addison (Addi) Albright (5 yrs. On the 22nd)

*We celebrate anniversaries of: **Claire & Paul** Spilseth (17th)

And in the wider community...

*In the wake of the Monday Michigan State University shooting (in which a gunman killed three students, injured five others, and ended his own life), may love surround all who are grieving. And may we each become better informed and emboldened in efforts to strengthen sensible gun control in this land.

*In the wake of the train derailment, toxic chemical spill, and fire in East Palestine, Ohio; may those responsible for the mess and those in power do their best to safeguard the health of people and all beings in the environment.

*We pray for the continued wellbeing of the family who found the Cold Weather Shelter in Cottage Grove and then moved to Guardian Angels Catholic Community's Hope for the Journey Home.

*For the family and friends of Devin Scott, a 15-year old student stabbed to death by a classmate at Harding High School in St. Paul last Friday.

*In the wake of the devastating earthquake activity in eastern Turkey and Syria: O God, surround all affected persons with your love and light, embodied through healing action.

*For the safety and wellbeing of neighbors who are living in their cars this winter. May doors open to warm shelter and, ultimately, stable housing.

Prayer Hymn (NCH #182) “We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding”
 Vs. 1 & 3

1 We have come at Christ’s own bid - ding to this high and
 2 Light breaks through our clouds and shad - ows, splen - dor bathes the
 3 Strength-ened by this glimpse of glo - ry, fear - ful lest our

ho - ly place, Where we wait with hope and long - ing for some
 flesh-joined Word, Mo - ses and E - li - jah mar - vel as the
 faith de - cline, We, like Pe - ter, find it tempt-ing to re -

to - ken of God’s grace. Here we pray for new as -
 heav - enly voice is heard. Eyes and hearts be - hold with
 main and build a shrine. But true wor - ship gives us

sur - ance that our faith is not in vain, Search - ing
 won - der how the Law and Proph - ets meet: Christ with
 cour - age to pro - claim what we pro - fess, That our

like those first dis - ci - ples for a sign both clear and plain.
 gar - ments drenched in bright - ness, stands trans - fig - ured and com - plete.
 dai - ly lives may prove us peo - ple of the God we bless.



Ash Wednesday | February 22

@ People's Church & live streamed
6:00 pm | Soup Supper
6:45 pm | Worship Service

Whether you are new to our congregation or have been with us for years... your presence will have an impact as we enter into the Lenten season together. Our friends from St. Peter's UCC will be with us as well.

We'll share in **candlelight, music, prayer, readings, brief reflections, and Holy Communion.**

As we depart, Pastor Clare and Pastor Daniel will offer **imposition of ashes** (on forehead or hand).

Let us seek the love of God in the company of one another.

**Pick up a “Lent and Easter” flyer in the Narthex or downstairs.
Our discussions of *The Five Invitations* begin March 1!**

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Lori Mildon (flautist), Michael Bjork (choir director), PCC Choir, Mary Maren Bjork & Kathleen Dennison (liturgists), Michele & Mark Stephan (fellowship), Tech Team, Children & Youth Ministry Team, Cheri Schwartz (greeter), Jackie Savage (Sanctuary organizer, outdoor sign), Andi Favilla & Jenni Shaller (decorations), Lisa Culbertson (Childcare Provider)



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