



February 26, 2023

First Sunday in Lent

“From What Do We Need Release?”

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*

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude & Candle Lighting

“Call to Prayer”

*P. Mark
Eleanora Favilla, acolyte*

A flame represents the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome

Pastor Clare Gromoll

**MN FoodShare March Campaign Launch
Joint Church Task Force Update**

Mark & Michelle Stephan
Rolf Dittmann

*****Call to Worship** (*responsive*)

Kathy Iverson, *liturgist*

God calls us away from the tumult, to focus our thoughts on things that are lasting.

In God's presence we see our lives more clearly.

God calls us out of loneliness and into a life of community.

**Worshiping and working together, caring about one another—
we stretch and grow.**

But God will send us back into the world's confusion and busyness, its brokenness and isolation.

We will go, encouraged and strengthened, to be bearers of peace.

*****Opening Song**

“You Are Welcome Here”

Sing! Song & Praise #26

All verses

see insert...

Acknowledging Our Humanness and God's Grace

Prayer of Longing (*unison*)

O God, as we move into this Lenten journey to Jerusalem, the past and present are familiar and the future unknown. We often meet pressing human need with fear and inaction. We confess that we have fallen short and live in a state of brokenness and alienation. Great Sustainer and Redeemer, help us discover our gifts of power and talent—that we might bring healing into a broken world. Forgive our sin, strengthen our resolve, and renew us in your ever-vibrant Spirit. Amen.

...the singing bowl welcomes us into silence

as our own longings quietly emerge

Tibetan singing bowls 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.

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.

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 (22nd),
Joe Legato (28th), Mary Ann Litfin (2nd) & Michael Bjork (4th)*

Wondering Together

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

Children : God be with you **All: And also with you**

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.

*** = Sitting or standing

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)

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

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

“Into My Heart”

Medema

***Offertory Response (unison) “Praise God”
sung twice

by John Mueller

Praise, God, for these gifts;
we lift them up for heaven’s blessing.
Praise God, for these gifts;
we lift them up to serve you, Lord.

“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing; fill our hearts with
 2 We give thanks and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's
 3 So that when your love shall call us, Sav - ior, from the

joy and peace; Let us each your love pos - sess - ing,
 joy - ful sound; May the fruits of your sal - va - tion
 world a - way, Fear of death shall not ap - pall us,

tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace: Oh, re - fresh us,
 in our hearts and lives a - bound: Ev - er faith - ful,
 glad your sum - mons to o - bey: May we ev - er,

oh, re - fresh us, trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.
 ev - er faith - ful to the truth may we be found.
 may we ev - er live with you in end - less day.

Influenced by George Whitefield's preaching, John Fawcett joined the Baptist church, and served as minister in Wainsgate, England, for fifty-four years. Yielding to the persuasion of his parishioners, he declined invitations to move elsewhere. He wrote more than 160 hymns.

Tune: SICILIAN MARINERS 8.7.8.7.8.7.
 Sicilian melody, 18th century
 The European Magazine and Review, 1792

You Are Welcome Here

GATHER

26

$\text{♩} = 100$

G D G A D G/D D G A

You are wel-come here, no mat-ter who you are,

G A D G D C G A

no mat-ter where you are. on life's jour - ney... You are

D G/D D G A G A

wel-come here, no mat-ter who you are, come and

D G D G/D A D 1.2.3.

join with us, we're u - ni-ted in the church of Christ.

A G/D D A D G/D D

1. Come now all peo - ple, join in the song, come be a part of the fam-
 2. We pray for jus - tice; we pray for peace; we hear the word of the Sav-
 3. Lift - ing each oth - er; do-ing what's right; stand-ing to-geth-er, what-ev-

G/D A A G/D D A D

- 'ly of God. We are God's peo - ple and you be - long,
 - ior of all. We find God's mer - cy; we find re - lease,
 - er may come; prais-ing our Sav - ior, shin-ing our light,

G/D A 4.

share in the joy of Christ. You are
 shar-ing the joy of Christ. You are
 shar-ing the joy of Christ. You are

From What Do We Need Release?

With Jesus, I also experience temptation to:

- React in knee-jerk ways (to satisfy a desire or restore shallow comfort)
- Act in grandiose or risky ways (to impress or prove something to self or other)
- Idolize (devote myself) to false gods (things lesser than the Love of God)

A specific way in which one of those temptations REALLY relates to me:

One way I find healthy release from this temptation/fixation/stuck place:

My name (valued, confidential, optional):

(If placed in the offering plate, Pastor Clare will email you a brief response with a snapshot of this response page for your own continued reflection)

PRAYER CORNER

*Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:
For persons known to us...*

*For Jere Fetter, who underwent extensive urinary tract surgery on Feb. 17th at Mayo Clinic. The medical team felt that it went well. Jere is now recovering at home. 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 Jenna Hirte, daughter of Cindy and John Siegel, who continues to struggle with health issues.

*For Debi Orff (St. Peter's UCC worship accompanist), smooth healing and recovery after surgery repaired detached retina.

*For Don Olsen (former member of People's, currently a pastor in Wichita, KS), who had open heart surgery and is doing well in recovery. We hold Don, his wife Penny, and their congregation in our prayers.

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

And in the wider community...

*We give thanks for our local Postal Service workers and all public servants who embody great kindness.

*For former President Jimmy Carter, now receiving Hospice care (sometimes needed for days or weeks, sometimes for well over a year). May the same love he embodies surround and uplift him in the time ahead. We offer gratitude for all persons in positions of power who embody and lead toward kindness, justice and humility.

*We weep for retraumatized survivors of the 6.4 earthquake that killed at least six and trapped more under rubble on the Turkey-Syria border Monday evening. Throughout eastern Turkey and Syria, may the love of God be embodied through healing action, surrounding all affected persons.

Th
ank

All are welcome to gather downstairs after worship!

10:30 am | Fellowship (*brunch*)

Park Improvements Brainstorming Workshop | **11 am - 12:30 pm**
(childcare provided)

To join via Zoom, click [here](#).

On **March 5**, join us at 9:30 am for worship @ St. Peter's UCC (Stillwater)

10:30 am | Fellowship (*brunch*)

11 am - 12:30pm | Forum: Updates & Input Gathering by Joint Church TF
(childcare provided)

In line with the "Environment" pillar of our congregation, we have reduced the length of our worship bulletin. We provide 6 large-print copies. Let us know if we need more! Please see our Mid-Week News for important updates & items. To subscribe to our Mid-Week News email, office@peoplescongregational.org

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Michael Bjork (choir director), PCC Choir (cantors), Eleanora Favilla (acolyte), Kathy Iverson (liturgist), Cheri Schwartz & Kathy Iverson (fellowship), Tech Team, Children & Youth Ministry Team, Jackie Savage (Sanctuary organizer, outdoor sign), Andi Favilla & Jenni Shaller (decorations), Lisa Culbertson (Childcare Provider)



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

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