



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



February 5, 2023
"How Will We be Salty and Light-bearing?"

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 “As a Fire is Meant for Burning” *R. Duck*

Lori Mildon, *Flute*
Jonah Gromoll, *acolyte*

A flame represents the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome

Pastor Clare Gromoll

*****Call To Worship** (*responsive*) Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux, *liturgist*

If the human body of blood and muscle is to live, it needs salt.

If the body of Christ—of peace and justice—is to live, it needs us!

If Earth—bustling and blooming—is to flourish, it needs sunlight.

If the new creation in Christ is to flourish, it needs the Spirit’s light!

Jesus says we are salt of the Earth, light of the world.

Our faith, our love, our hope—essential as salt and light.

But if salt isn’t salty?

It isn’t what it’s meant to be.

And if light doesn’t shine?

It isn’t what it’s meant to be.

Jesus says we are salt of the earth, light of the world.

**Briny and bright, we are God’s people. Let’s be what God intends in
Christ: a welcoming oasis, a compassionate community,
a justice-making people—giving glory to God!**

Let's welcome one another!

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

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

*****Opening Hymn (NCH #181) “You Are Salt for the Earth, O People”
Vs. 1-2**

Acknowledging Our Humanness and God's Grace

Prayer of Longing (unison)

O God, our Light, in your presence our way becomes clearer. Like small candles lit from the Christ candle, we can shine with your love and hope. Yet we confess to you, O God, that we often hide our light. Not trusting our perceptions, we don't speak our truth. Not trusting our abilities, we don't share our gifts. Fearful, we Don't reach out in friendship, raise issues that should be raised, break the silence of anger to give or seek forgiveness. Help us to trust you to work in and through us. Radiate through us with your holy love and wisdom, healing the hurts of the past, giving us courage for the future, through Jesus Christ, our light. 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.

***** = Sitting or standing**

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...” moves us forward in worship

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.**

We make an 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 **Aidan** (Gromoll), **Laura** (Mayaka), **Erika** (Mayaka),
Kimberly (Jackson), **Louie** (Favilla)*

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**

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

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).*

Our young people return later to participate in Holy Communion

Proclaiming God's Love

Scriptures

Isaiah 58: 1-9a ~ *The Inclusive Bible (responsive)*

Shout for all you are worth, raise your voice like a trumpet!
Proclaim to the people their faults, tell the house of Leah and Rachel and Jacob their sins!

They seek me daily, they long to know my ways, like a nation that wants to act with integrity and not ignore the Law of its God.

They ask me for laws that are just, they long for God to draw near.

Yet they say, "Why should we fast if you never see it? Why do penance if you never notice?"

Because when you fast, it's business as usual, and you oppress all your workers!

Because when you fast, you quarrel and fight and strike the poor with your fist!

Fasting like yours today will never make your voice heard on high!

Is that the sort of fast that pleases me—a day when people humiliate themselves, hanging their heads like a reed, lying down on sackcloth and ashes?

Is that what you call fasting, a day acceptable to God?

On the contrary! This is the sort of fasting that pleases me:

Remove the chains of injustice! Undo the ropes of the yoke!

Let those who are oppressed go free, and break every yoke you encounter!

Share your bread with those who are hungry, and shelter homeless poor people!

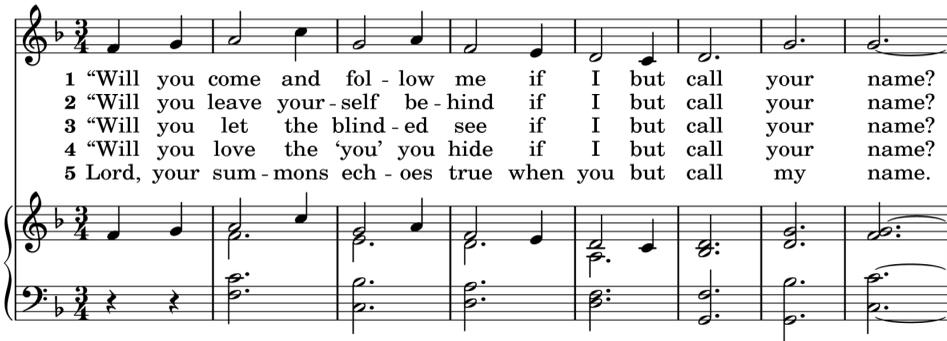
Clothe those who are naked, and don't hide from the needs of your own flesh and blood!

Do this, and your light will shine like dawn—and your healing will break forth like lightning!

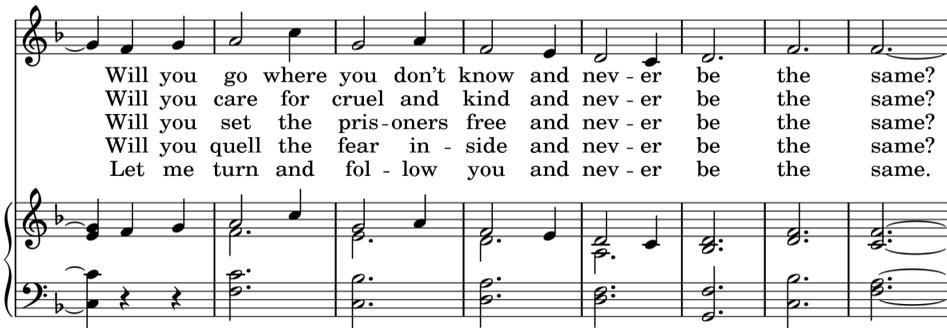
Your integrity will go before you, and the glory of God will be your rearguard.

Cry, and God will answer; call, and God will say, "I am here."

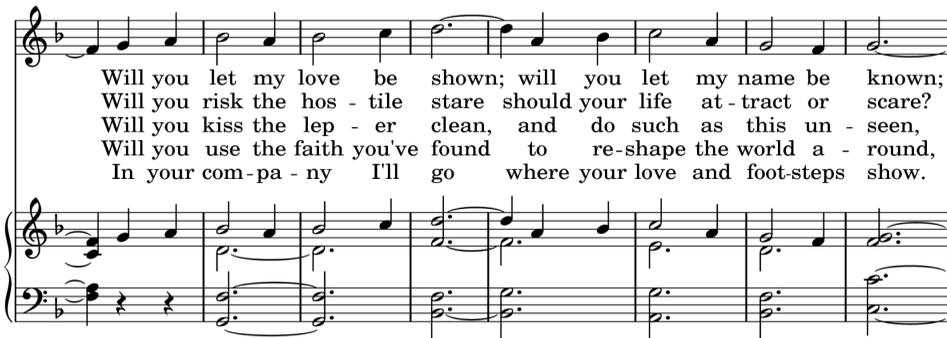
“The Summons” ~ Vs. 1, 4-5



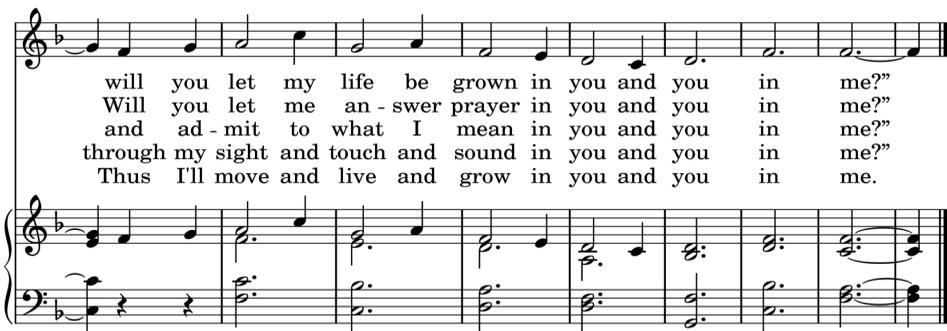
1 “Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
 2 “Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call your name?
 3 “Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
 4 “Will you love the ‘you’ you hide if I but call your name?
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
 Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the world a - round,
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.



will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

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 can 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
Welcome Forms and Sermon Response Forms also go in the plate*

Offertory

“Seek Ye First”

*Lafferty
Lori Mildon, Flute*

***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.**

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*

*****Invitation & Prayer** *(responsive)*

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

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 (CH #111)** “Santo, Santo, Santo” *...see next page*
Sung twice - first in Spanish, then in English

Words of Remembrance & Blessing

Sharing the Bread of Life & Cup of Blessing

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

C G7 Am F G C

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

F G7 C Am F G7 C

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!

Sung Response (#112 Sing! Prayer & Praise)

“Come to the Table of Grace”

Sung as we come forward to receive Communion

1. Come to the ta - ble of grace. _____
 2. Come to the ta - ble of peace. _____
 3. Come to the ta - ble of love. _____
 4. Come to the ta - ble of joy. _____

Come to the ta - ble of grace. _____
 Come to the ta - ble of peace. _____
 Come to the ta - ble of love. _____
 Come to the ta - ble of joy. _____

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.

Come to the ta - ble of grace. _____
 Come to the ta - ble of peace. _____
 Come to the ta - ble of love. _____
 Come to the ta - ble of joy. _____



All are welcome to gather downstairs after worship!

10:30 am | Fellowship (*refreshments*)

Faith Conversations | 11 am | Gospel of Mark
facilitated by Jill Greenhalgh

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

Meeting ID: 831 3660 0524

Passcode: 216820

On **Feb. 12**, join us at 9:30 am for worship at St. Peter's UCC (Stillwater).
And also at 11 am, we will welcome a guest speaker related to our
quarterly mission focus (homelessness).



Cold Weather Shelter | Volunteer with The Connect Center

Call Cindy Parsons (651-767-2534) or Bob Dickie (651-767-2533)
if you'd like to learn how you can help.

Cold Weather Shelter

For nights that are windchill zero and
below

All Saints Lutheran Church
8100 Belden Blvd.
Cottage Grove, MN

Arrive as early as 6 p.m.
Supper served until 8 p.m.
No arrivals after 8 p.m.

Guests leave shelter by 8 a.m. following
morning

Breakfast served between 6 a.m. and
7:30 a.m.

Cold Weather Shelter is a dry shelter
No pets allowed
No smoking

Cold Weather Shelter is a collaborative
effort of

All Saints Lutheran Church
Basic Needs, Inc.
The Connect Center

PRAYER CORNER

Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:

For persons known to us...

*For **Collin Mueller and his wife** as they grieve the loss of a second pregnancy. Collin, son to John and Patty, grew up in our congregation.

*For **Sharon Binger** as she grieves the passing of her friend Gina.

*For Pastor Clare's friend **Julie** in Kentucky, whose son Matthew died this past week at the age of 18 from complications of Lowe Syndrome.

*For Cheri Schwartz's spouse **Bob**, as he experiences tough side effects during chemotherapy.

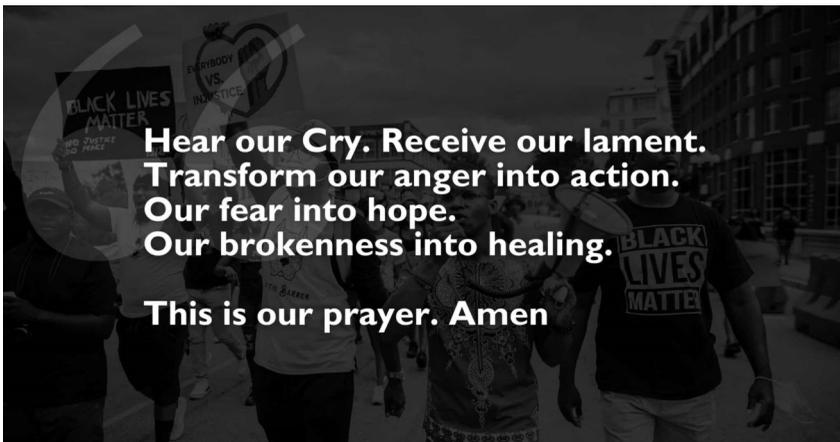
*For the **snowbirds** in our congregation. Even as we miss your physical presence among us, we pray that you have joyful experiences and safe travels this winter.

*We celebrate birthdays of: **Aidan** Gromoll (30th), **Laura** Mayaka (2nd), **Erika** Mayaka (4th), **Kimberly** Jackson (5th) and **Louie** Favilla (8th)

And in the wider community...

*We celebrate Tuesday's signing by Gov. Tim Walz of the **Pro Act**, guaranteeing within state law the right to abortion and other reproductive health care options.

*For loved ones and whole communities grieving the recent **brutal killing of 29-year old Tyre Nichols** by police officers in Memphis, TN. May we not shield our eyes and ears from the horror emboldened by systemic racism and abuse of power in this land. *The 3 elected officers at the national setting of the United Church of Christ (two of whom are women of color) shared a statement and prayer. See Mid-Week News for link to their statement.*



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

*We give thanks for the **Stillwater DaVinci Fest**, which created community uplift in mid-January through celebration of science and the arts among young people.

*For those devastated in **Monterey Park, CA** after the mass shooting during the Lunar New Year. Recognizing that 39 mass shootings occurred in this land during the first few weeks of 2023, may we find our way toward more sensible gun control laws.

Lent & Easter People's Congregational Church

309 North Third Street | Bayport
peoplescongregational.org | 651-439-5667

Ash Wednesday, Feb 22

6:00 pm supper | 6:45 pm service

Wednesday Evenings in Lent, Mar 1-29

Hybrid Format

5:30 pm | **Contemplative Worship**

6 pm | **Soup Supper**

6:30-7:15 pm | **Discussion of "The Five Invitations"**

*(Don't Wait, Welcome Everything, Bring Your Whole Self,
Find a Place of Rest, Cultivate Don't Know*

People's Book Club welcomes you. Reading the book is optional. Valley Bookseller (Stillwater) has copies at 15% off the \$17.99 list price.

THE FIVE INVITATIONS

Discovering What Death Can Teach
Us About Living Fully

FRANK OSTASESKI
Foreword by Rachel Naomi Remen, M.D.

"Frank is a person in a world of care and he is not of this. He understands the wisdom and compassion of the Buddha, the Taoist and the Christian prayer."
- JON KALINOWSKI, author of The Gift of Good Living

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday | April 2, 10 am

Many churches @ the lift bridge (Stillwater)

Maundy Thursday | April 6, 7 pm @ Peoples' Church

Good Friday | April 7, 7 pm

@ Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Easter Sunday | April 9

@ People's Park: Sunrise service, 6:30 am

@ People's Church: Breakfast, 9 am ~ Egg hunt, 9:30 am ~ Worship, 10 am

Lent & Easter Season @ People's

We hope this will be a meaningful, life-sustaining Lent and Easter season. Please consider participating in any opportunities that might be nurturing for you!

People's Book Club welcomes you to

Wednesday Evenings in Lent, when we will discuss themes from the book "The Five Invitations". We hope you will join us each

Wednesday whether or not you read the book. By Fri, Feb. 10, Valley Bookseller will have copies at 15% off of the \$17.99 list price.



We need volunteers for each Wednesday evening:

(Feb. 22 to Mar. 29)

Soup Supper - 2 hosts,

Worship - greeter, 1 liturgist

Church Directory

UPDATE



To protect your privacy, we do not publish the directory here in the Mid-Week News. Thank you!

office@peoplescongregational.org | 651-439-5667

Updated Directory

We update our PCC Members & Friends Directory every January and every June.

Please let Kimberly know if you would like a directory emailed or mailed to you.

Pastor Clare is also happy to hand you a paper copy on a Sunday.

Kimberly (Communications Coordinator) works primarily remotely

She will next be at church: **Feb. 28-March 2**

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.



Exploring Merger with St. Peter's UCC

Jan. 29 - People's Congregational Church held its Annual Meeting and voted "yes" to pursue merger exploration with St. Peter's UCC and affirmed the selection of our 3 lay members of the task force (Kathy, Rolf, Walt).

[We will now join together more frequently. Our task force will begin to develop a "new congregation covenant," incorporating input from both congregations]

Key Dates: **Mar. 5** | Task force leads a joint-church workshop (@ St. P's)

Apr. 23 | Final presentations by task force (@ PCC)

May 7 | Vote on whether or not to merge (@each church)

[The task force would guide us toward launching the new congregation in the fall]

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist),
Michael Bjork (choir director), Choir members (cantors)
Jonah Gromoll (acolyte)

Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux (liturgist),

Sue Favilla & Mindy Peters (fellowship), Tech Team, Children & Youth Ministry
Team, Jackie Savage (Sanctuary organizer, outdoor sign),

Andi Favilla & Jenni Shaller (decorations), Lisa Culbertson (Childcare Provider)



People's Congregational Church

Rev. Clare Gromoll, Pastor ~ pastor@peoplescongregational.org

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