



March 12, 2023
Third Sunday in Lent
“Where Are Springs of Living Water?”

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

A flame represents the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome

Pastor Clare Gromoll

*****Opening Hymn (NCH #459)** “Come, O Fount of Every Blessing”
All verses

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.

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

Mindy Peters, *liturgist*

Come, people of God, to know again who you are. Return to the One who gives you life.

We come as children of God, longing for a closer walk with our Creator.

Come, all who are thirsty for living water. Open yourselves to the One who supplies it.

We would drink this day from the spiritual depths, seeking to know and experience life's meaning.

We gather as people of faith—embracing renewal, eager for reconciliation with God and humankind.

May we hear for ourselves the good news Christ brings to all people.

God meets and accepts us where we are, helping us to know ourselves as we are known.

May we worship with enthusiastic expectation, anticipating salvation in our lives and relationships. Amen.

Choral Anthem

“How Beautiful”

*Composer: Twila Paris
Arranged by: Lloyd Larson*

Acknowledging Our Humanness and God's Grace

Prayer of Longing *(responsive)*

We are parched and thirsty from times when we fail to live as God has called us to live—doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly. God does not leave us to die of our thirst, but promises to quench our thirst if we but confess our failures and admit our need.

Let us pray...

cont...

Holy God, our souls are thirsty. We have filled ourselves with things that only increase our hunger and thirst. We choose arrogance over humility, discrimination over justice, violence over peace, fear over love. Our lives are left dry and cracked from our sin. Forgive us, O God. Wash us again in the healing waters of your love. Refresh us and empower us to live as your people—with justice, mercy, and humility; embodying the good news of Jesus Christ. Through your Spirit, we pray. Amen.

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

Assurance of Grace

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.

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.**

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

Singing “Happy Birthday”

*..Happy birthday dear **Claire** Stokes (5th), **Trevor** Stokes (10th),
Stan Hillard (12th), **Jim** Purnick (13th), & **Jonah** Gromoll (6 yrs. the 18th)*

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
They return to worship during the Offertory

Lisa offers infant & toddler care (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 Exodus 17: 1-7 ~ NRSV ~ page 64 (*The Hebrew Scriptures | Old Test.*)

John 4: 5-52 ~ NRSV ~ page 94 (*The New Covenant | New Test.*)

Sermon “Where Are Springs of Living Water?”

10:00 bells | When the St. Charles Church bells ring, we pause for silence
You may wish to consider the Sermon Response Page (see insert)
Or pray for cooperative ecumenical and interfaith relationships
The singing bowl will welcome us back 2 minutes later

Responding To God's Love

Prayer Hymn (NCH #485) "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go"
Vs 1 - Cantors | Vs. 2-3 - All sing

Prayers of the People

*We share aloud prayers for ourselves, others, and parts of the world
We add them to our emailed & printed 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 and freedom sustain our hope and 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) 
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

*****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*)

Holy One, your heart abounds with gifts. Receive this offering as a sign of our intention—to live surrounded by your mercy, inspired by your Spirit, open to the joy of your presence, hospitable to one another, and generous toward your world. Amen.

Going Forth to Share God's Love

*****Sending Song** (see insert) “Every Step of the Way”
Cantors sing once | Then all sing together

Sing! Prayer & Praise #66

*****Benediction**

*****Sung Response** *...forming a circle around the perimeter of the Sanctuary*

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

by Jill Jackson-Miller and Sy Miller

**Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me
Let there be peace on Earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as creator, family all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.**

**Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry step I take, let this be my solemn vow;
To take each moment, and live each moment in peace eternally!
Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me.**

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

*****Postlude**

Join us for...**Wednesday Evenings in Lent (Mar. 15, 22 & 29)**

5:30 worship | 6:00 supper | 6:30-7:15 discussion



LENTEN
Prayer Service

People's Book Club
We read theologically progressive books by diverse authors
People's Congregational Church (Bayport)
309 3rd St. N., Bayport

THE FIVE INVITATIONS
Discovering What Death Can Teach Us About Living Fully
FRANK OSTASESKI
Foreword by Rachel Naomi Remen, M.D.

Wednesday Evenings, Mar 1-29
(Hybrid format in-person and Zoomed)

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 mind)

Valley Bookseller (Stillwater) has copies at 15% off the \$17.99 list price.
Interested? Contact us: office@peoplescongregational.org



Welcoming the Spring Equinox: New Awakenings & New Growth

We celebrate the Earth awakening and nurturing
We celebrate new nests, new births and new growth
We celebrate the extended hours of sunlight that nurture us

Join us at People's Park, 1003 5th Ave N., Bayport (by Barker's Alps)

March 20th, 7:00-7:30 pm (sunset at 7:23)

Coordinated by Jeanette Schachtner, Chris Brandt, Mindy Peters

“Come, O Fount of Every Blessing”

All verses

1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
 2 Here I pause in my so - journ-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!

streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas - ing, call for songs of end-less praise.
 come to trust, at ev-ery turn - ing, God will guide me safe-ly home.
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.

Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,
 Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:

Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail-ing love.
 Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless-ed bod - y, pre-cious blood.
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

Converted to Methodism at age twenty, Robert Robinson soon became a Calvinistic Methodist preacher and later gained great popularity. The melody, associated with this text since 1813, is an American folk tune.

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.
 John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

485

George Matheson, 1882; alt.

Rom. 8:38-39; John 8:12

1 O Love that will not let me go,
2 O Light that fol - lows all my way,
3 O Joy that seeks me through my pain,
4 O Cross that rais - es up my head,

I rest my wea - ry soul in you;
to you I yield my flick - ering flame;
to you I can - not close my heart;
from you I dare not seek to flee;

I give you back the life I owe, that
Re - new my spir - it's fee - ble ray, that
I trace the rain - bow through the rain, and
Life's glo - ries with - er and are dead, but

in your o - cean depths its flow may swell with ar - dor true.
from your bril - liant sun - lit day it may new bright - ness claim.
know the prom - ise is not vain that you will ne'er de - part.
from the ground there blos - soms red, life that shall end - less be.

Although he was nearly blind, George Matheson studied for the Church of Scotland ministry, assisted by his sisters, who learned Latin, Greek, and Hebrew to help him. Matheson wrote this hymn in five minutes on June 6, 1882, at his parsonage.

Tune: ST. MARGARET 8.8.8.8.6.
Albert L. Peace, 1885

Every Step of the Way

ENCOUNTER

66

$\text{♩} = 128$
F C/E Dm C B \flat Dm/A C/G Gsus G

Cmaj 9 G/B Am Am/G

Help me do the jus - tice to be

Dm 7 Gsus G C G/B

done to - day. Help me love kind -

Am Am/G Dm 7

- ness in all I do and say.

Gsus G Em 7 F C \sharp dim Dm 7 Gsus

— Help me walk hum-bly with you, O God I pray

G F

— ev - 'ry step of the way,

Dm 7 C/E F/G C

— ev - 'ry step of the way.

Based on Micah 6:8.

Words and Music: Christopher Grundy
 Music arrangement: Christopher Grundy and Gregory Milton
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“Where Are Springs of Living Water?”

This is a part of my life (a responsibility, a relationship) in which I am undernourished... attempting to carry on without drawing on deep enough sources to energize, strengthen and sustain me:

Given the above, here is a change I would like to make in my life:

My name (valued, confidential, optional): _____

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

All are welcome to gather downstairs after worship!

10:30 am | Fellowship

11 am - 12 pm | Quarterly Mission Conversation: homelessness
Therese Gilbertson, Clinical Supervisor with Washington County
Community Services, offers a presentation about what the Homeless
Outreach Service Team (HOST) is doing in Washington County to serve
those who are homeless. She will also talk about HOST's outreach to people
who are living in their cars throughout the county.

On **March 19**, join us at **9:30 am** for worship @ People's Church

10:30 am | Fellowship

11 am - 12 pm | Mark Gospel Study

In line with the "Environment" pillar of our congregations vision, 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), Mindy Peters (liturgist),
Lori Mildon & Jane Hanson (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

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

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