



March 19, 2023

Forth Sunday in Lent

“Was Blind But Now I See”

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 “The Old Rugged Cross”

Bennard

Eleanora Favilla, *acolyte*

A flame represents the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome

Pastor Daniel Harrell

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*)

Carol Dusbabek, *liturgist*

The way is long. Let us go together.

The way is difficult. Let us help each other.

The way is joyful. Let us share it.

The way is Christ's. Let us follow.

The way is open before us. Let us open ourselves to the journey.

The way is open before us. Let us follow Jesus on the way.

*****Opening Hymn (NCH #561)** "When In Our Music God is Glorified"
Vs. 1-3

Acknowledging Our Humanness and God's Grace

Prayer of Longing (*unison*)

O Holy One, we are wayfarers following winding roads. We are pilgrims on the way, disciples on a mission. Our mission is love, and the journey is long. You challenge us with the call to love the other – both friend and opponent. When the way to love is uncertain, we'll not be afraid. We'll take heart as you move with us. In this time of reflection, come to us and refresh our spirits. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

...we hold an extended moment of silence as our own longings quietly emerge

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 (in-person, virtually)
We extend the peace later by phone or email*

"This Little Light..." welcomes our young people forward

NCH = *The New Century Hymnal*, located in the pews

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.

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 **Stan** Hillard (12th), **Jim** Purnick (10th),
Jonah Gromoll (6 yrs. the 18th), **Calvin** Vandre (8 yrs. the 21st) &
Keely Vandre (23rd)

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.**

Youngest children (infant - age 3) | downstairs Nursery
Young children (age 4 - gr. 2) | downstairs Sunday School Room
Older children & youth (gr. 3-6) | upstairs Corner Meeting Room
We welcome sounds and movements of children who stay in worship.
Need space to move around? Feel free to use the Narthex (entry area)
or Meditation Room (off front left exit from Sanctuary)

*** = Sitting or standing

Proclaiming God's Love

Scriptures John 9: 1-41 ~ NRSV ~ page 102 (*The New Covenant | New Test.*)

Sermon “Was Blind But Now I See”

10:00 bells | When the St. Charles Church bells ring, we pause to listen
We hold an extended moment of silence
We might pray for cooperative ecumenical and interfaith relationships

Responding To God's Love

Prayer Hymn (NCH #547) “Amazing Grace”
Vs. 1-3

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*

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

Offertory

“Thank You for the Cross”

A. Spiro

*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 (edges of pews) and Sermon Response Pages also go in the plate*

*****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.**

*****Prayer of Dedication (unison)**

We offer ourselves with our gifts, confident that you have a purpose for them and for us. Expand our limited vision to embrace your ways O God. We rededicate our lives here and now. May our offerings reach beyond the barriers of our limited vision and find their enlarged purpose through your activity in the world. Amen.

Going Forth to Share God’s Love

*****Closing hymn (NCH #476)**

“My Life Flows on in Endless Song”

Vs. 1 & 4

*****Benediction**

*****Sending Song** *...forming 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 spaces

*****Postlude** "Put Peace into Each Others Hands" *Irish Melody*

All are welcome to gather downstairs after worship!

10:30 am | Fellowship
11 am - 12 pm | Mark Gospel Study



On **March 26**, join us at **9:30 am** for worship
@ People's Church

10:30 am | Fellowship
11 am - 12 pm | Park Improvement Student Presentations



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)

Join us for...**Wednesday Evenings in Lent (Mar. 22 & 29)**
5:30 worship | 6:00 supper | 6:30-7:15 discussion

LENTEN
Prayer Service

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

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

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

Inquirers Gathering

For brand new friends, For newish friends, For long-time friends...

Thursday, March 30 | 6:30-8:00 pm (in person at church, also Zoom if requested)

Attending does not obligate you to covenant in membership, but it is a required step in the process. The second and final step prior to joining as a member is a one-to-one conversation with Pastor Clare, sharing more about your faith journey and what you hope to experience as a member of People's Church.

Our next New Member Sunday is tentatively scheduled for **April 16**
We look forward to covenanting with new members of our congregation!

When in Our Music God Is Glorified

2 Chron. 5:11-14

Fred Pratt Green, 1972

1 When in our mu - sic God is glo - ri - fied, and ad - o -
 2 How of - ten, mak - ing mu - sic, we have found a new di -
 3 So has the church, in lit - ur - gy and song, in faith and
 4 Let ev - ery in - stru - ment be tuned for praise! Let all re -

ra - tion leaves no room for pride, It is as though the whole cre -
 men - sion in the world of sound, As wor - ship moved us to a
 love, through cen - tu - ries of wrong, Borne wit - ness to the truth in
 joice who have a voice to raise! And may God give us faith to

a - tion cried: Al - le - lu - ia!
 more pro - found Al - le - lu - ia!
 ev - ery tongue: Al - le - lu - ia!
 sing al - ways: Al - le - lu - ia!

Fred Pratt Green wrote this text at the request of British editor and composer John Wilson, who asked for a "festival" hymn to be set with Engelberg. Charles Villiers Stanford originally composed the tune for the text "For All the Saints" in Hymns Ancient and Modern of 1904.

Tune: ENGELBERG 10.10.10.4.
 Charles V. Stanford, 1904

Words Copyright © 1972 by Hope Publishing Company

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

547

Ss. 1-4, John Newton, 1779; alt.
 Ss. 5, A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4 My God has prom - ised good to me, whose
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; God will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to

now am found, was blind but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

John Newton's autobiographical hymn reflects his conversion from his earlier existence as a slave trader. While serving as curate in the English village of Olney, Newton met William Cowper, and together they published Olney Hymns, which included this hymn.

Tune: AMAZING GRACE CM.
 (NEW BRITAIN)
 Columbia Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829
 Arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

476

My Life Flows on in Endless Song (How Can I Keep from Singing)

Ps. 46:1-7; 1 Cor. 3:21-23; 2 Cor. 5:17

Anon. in *Bright Jewels for the Sunday School*,
ed. Robert Lowry, 1869; alt.
St. 3, Doris Plenn, c. 1957

1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam - en -
2 What though my joys and com - forts die? My Sav - ior still is
3 When ty - rants trem - ble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells
4 I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue a -

ta - tion, I hear the sweet, though far - off hymn that
liv - ing. What though the shad - ows gath - er 'round? A
ring - ing; When friends re - joice both far and near, how
bove it; And day by day this path - way smooths, since

hails a new cre - a - tion. Through all the tu - mult
new song Christ is giv - ing. No storm can shake my
can I keep from sing - ing? In pris - on cell and
first I learned to love it. The peace of Christ makes

and the strife, I hear the mu - sic ring - ing; It
in - most calm, while to that Rock I'm cling - ing; Since
dun - geon vile our thoughts to them are wing - ing; When
fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring - ing; All

In various nineteenth-century hymnals this hymn was attributed to different poets, including Anna Warner. The earliest published source credits Robert Lowry as the composer, although Silas Vail later claimed the music. The third stanza was written by

Tune: ENDLESS SONG 8.7.8.7.D.
Attrib. to Robert Lowry in *Bright Jewels for the Sunday School*, New York, 1869



finds an ech - o in my soul— how can I keep from sing-ing?
Love com-mands both heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?
friends by shame are un - de - filed, how can I keep from sing-ing?
things are mine since I am Christ's— how can I keep from sing-ing?

The image shows a musical score for a vocal line. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff at the top and a bass clef staff at the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are centered between the two staves. The music ends with a double bar line.

PRAYER CORNER

Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:

For persons known to us...

*For Aidan Gromoll, as she completes a time of providing medical care and addressing basic human needs among Syrian refugees and earthquake victims in eastern Turkey. For safe travels back to Minnesota on March 22.

*With Bob Schwartz and his journey through cancer treatments. Grateful that the medications are proving helpful.

*For Claire Bjork's college & friend, Bethany, while she supports her husband Curtis as he goes through cancer treatments.

*For Michele Stephan's mother Dorothy (101 years young) who fractured vertebrae when she fell last week.

*With Sharri Kinkead as Thea her young (19ish) cousin of her stepdaughter who underwent brain surgery last week.

*For Mary Maren Bjork's friend Barb Huwe who has gone into hospice. She was diagnosed with a brain tumor at the end of February.

And in the wider community...

*We pray for the destigmatization of chemical dependency in our land and that support would surround people who are dependent in addiction.

*We give thanks for the lifesaving work of the American Red Cross and for a successful blood drive in our church building last week (with special thanks to Bob Dickie and Kimberly Jackson for organizing)!

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Michael Bjork (choir director), PCC Choir (cantors), Eleanora Favilla (acolyte), Cheri Schwartz & Jackie Savage (greeters), Carol Dusbabek (liturgist), Sue Favilla & Sharri Kinkead (fellowship), Tech Team, Children & Youth Ministry Team, Jackie Savage (Sanctuary organizer, outdoor sign)



People's Congregational Church

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

309 Third St. N, Bayport MN 55003-1028

(651) 439-5667 / office@peoplescongregational.org

www.peoplescongregational.org  @PCCBayport

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

Credits & Permissions | **Call to Worship** Reprinted or adapted by permission of the publishers from *Touch Holiness*, ed. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. Copyright © 1990 by The Pilgrim Press. **Prayer of Longing** Arthur unknown. **Prayer of Dedication**, Reprinted from *Flames of the Spirit: Resources for Worship* by Ruth C. Duck. Copyright © 1985 Pilgrim Press. **Prayer of Jesus**: Parker Palmer. Permission to **podcast/stream** the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-703858. All rights reserved.
Music/Hymnals used: New Century Hymnal