



April 16, 2023  
“Can People Tell What Inspires Us?”

### **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** “Hear the Weary Earth Begin to Sing” *Ylvisaker*  
Jonah Gromoll, *acolyte*

*A flame represents the light of Christ among us*

#### **Words of Welcome**

Pastor Clare Gromoll

#### **Let's welcome one another!**

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

**Prayer of Gathering** *(responsive)*

Sharri Kinkead, *liturgist*

Great God of all Mystery, your power to transform life through death and resurrection is more than we can comprehend. Our response echoes through the ages: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

God of endings and ceaseless new beginnings, we come to worship and praise you for this great mystery.

**We bring with us our longing for all that resurrection makes possible.**

We come to offer up our hope and dreams, that you may breathe new life into them.

**Open our eyes to recognize your Risen Presence in our midst.**

In the midst of despair and devastation, may we participate with you in revealing transformed life.

**Amen!**

\*\*\*Opening Hymn (NCH #231)

“Because You Live, O Christ”

**all verses**

**Acknowledging Our Humanness and God’s Grace**

**Prayer of Longing** *(unison)*

**God of resurrection power, break through the locked doors and walls of our certainty – to encourage our wonderings and our questions. Break into our doubt and confusion, that we might come to know your presence more fully in our lives and in the world. When we seek to judge ourselves and others, open the locked doors of our hearts. Give us the patience of the risen Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

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

**Assurance of Grace** *(responsive)*

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

**\*\*\*Passing the Peace**

*We share a sign of peace with one another (in-person, virtually)  
We extend the peace later by phone or email*

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

**A Time With Children and Youth**

**Sung Invitation**    *...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”**

**Kathy Iverson (11th), Payton, Phillip & Jensen Wright (11th),  
Bill Stokes (17th), Jackie Savage (19th), David Kirstein (22nd)**

**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**      *...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  
Older children (age 4 - gr. 6) | downstairs Sunday School 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 (exit at front of Sanctuary)

### **Proclaiming God's Love**

**A Reading inspired by Hebrew Scriptures**    Psalm 16  
*Psalms for Praying: An Invitation to Wholeness*

**A Reading from the Gospels**    John 20: 19-31    *pg. 115*

**Morning Message**    “Can People Tell What Inspires Us?”

**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 1 minute later

### **Responding To God's Love**

**Prayer Song**    “Call To Prayer”    *Sing! Prayer and Praise #61*  
**all verses**    *see insert...*

#### **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)**

**Our Father and Mother who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy kin-dom come. Thy will be done on Earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:  
For thine is the kin-dom, and the power, and the glory, 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 can place a **blue Giving Card** in the plate  
Welcome Forms (edges of pews) and Sermon Response Pages also go in the plate

### Offertory

“Let Your Song Be Heard”

*by Ylvisaker*

### \*\*\*Offertory Response

“Praise God” by John Mueller

**sung twice**

**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)*

**God of the Risen Christ, in you we find life and grace. You grant us peace and renewed life. Receive our gifts as part of our ongoing work to live out the gospel of Christ. In the name of Jesus, the Risen One, we pray. Amen.**

### Going Forth to Share God’s Love

### \*\*\*Closing Hymn (NCH #433)

“In the Bulb There Is a Flower”

**all verses**

### \*\*\*Benediction

### \*\*\*Sung Response

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

*see next page...*



## People's Book Club

*We read theologically progressive books by diverse authors*

People's Congregational Church (Bayport) & Zoomed

**Thurs., May 4 | 6:30–8 pm**

### ***Jesus' Alternative Plan: The Sermon On The Mount***

by Richard Rohr

"Much of patriarchal Christian interpretation has been trying to avoid pain, trying to avoid being poor, trying to avoid powerlessness. That's why we couldn't hear Jesus. If we had had an image of God as the great mother who is giving birth... I think history as process, pain, patience, guided destiny would have come more naturally. As it is, we have seen history as a linear obstacle course, something to be conquered, exploited and won."

"Emptiness has to precede fullness. Usually our old securities have to be wrested from us before we will move into the new. We seldom do it deliberately. Spirituality is always about letting go—not just in Christianity, but in Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism... You let go, and hopefully collapse back into your true self, into who you really are. The work of religion is to guide us on the path of the fall and onto the path of the return. "

Interested? Contact us: [office@peoplescongregational.org](mailto:office@peoplescongregational.org)

*Valley Bookseller (Stillwater) has copies at 15% off the \$21.99 list price!*



May Festival coming soon...**May 20!**  
Artisan sale, plant sale, family fun activities, food, music,  
and more! **Pick up flyers** in the Narthex and  
Fellowship Hall to post everywhere!

ENCOUNTER

61

Call to Prayer

♩=100

D G/D A/D G/D

D D/F# G D

1. Float - ing and flam - ing and fill - ing new life.
2. Search - ing and sav - ing and sooth - ing in - deed.
3. Call - ing and car - ing and chang - ing each heart.

F#m Bm E A

Hov - 'ring and heal - ing and help - ing with sighs.  
 Teach - ing and turn - ing and tak - ing the lead;  
 Lov - ing and lift - ing us to a new start;

Em A Bm/A A7 D/F# Em

Spir - it at work since the dawn - ing of time;  
 Fa - ther - ing, Moth - er - ing, birth - ing new ways;  
 Je - sus our Sav - ior, our teach - er, our Lord;

A Bm C#dim Bm G Em/G A D

meet us right here, touch us right now.  
 meet us right here, touch us right now.  
 meet us right here, touch us right now.

A Bm C#dim Bm G Em A D

Meet us right here, touch us right now.  
 Meet us right here, touch us right now.  
 Meet us right here, touch us right now.

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 (Words revised by the Praise Song Advisory Team, 2009.)



### **Can People Tell What Inspires Us?**

*“I look to those who are at one with You and learn from them of your ways” (Ps. 16:3). What ways of God do you aspire to show to people with whom you cross paths?*

*“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” [Jesus] breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” When you think of Jesus sending you into the world on behalf of God (divine parent and source) and empowered by the Holy Spirit, how do you feel? What does it cause you to wonder?*

My name (confidential, optional): \_\_\_\_\_

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

## PRAYER CORNER

*Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:*

### *For persons known to us...*

- \*For the **Vandre** family, healing from a difficult stretch with viruses.
- \*For **Linda Tossey** (former pastor to People's), who is struggling with complications of cancer treatment.
- \*For **Eddy Hintze-Graf**, who has finally received a diagnosis of scarlet fever and is beginning to heal.
- \*Celebrating an anniversary: **Jere and Dawn** Fetter (37th)

### *And in the wider community...*

- \*For all who grieve in **Louisville, KY**, after five people were killed and eight others were injured (including two police officers) by gunfire at Old National Bank on April 10. May we find a way to pound our swords into plowshares.
- \*To our **Muslim neighbors**, a blessed Ramadan. [March 22 - April 20, Muslims observe Ramadan as a time of fasting, prayer, reflection and community. Eid al-Fitr marks the end of the month-long dawn-to-sunset fasting of Ramadan.]

Thank you to today's partners: Jonah Gromoll (acolyte), Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Michael Bjork (Choir Director), PCC Choir (cantors), Cheri Schwartz and Cindy Parsons (greeters), Sharri Kinkead (liturgist), Kathy and Bob Iverson (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (Tech Team), Carol Dusbabek & Claire Spilseth (Sunday School), Jackie Savage (Sanctuary organizer, outdoor sign), Lisa Culbertson (Childcare Provider), Andi Favilla (decorations)

## 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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