



April 23, 2023

Integrity of Creation
Sunday

“What Do We
Co-Create In Space
and Time?”

The Love of God Gathers Us

Gathering Music

*We greet those around us or sit quietly
as we settle into sacred time and space*

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude & Candle Lighting

Representing the light of Christ among us

“The Love of the Lord”

Joncas

Sam Gromoll, *acolyte*

Words of Welcome

Pastor Clare Gromoll

***Call to Worship (*responsive*)

Kathy Iverson, *liturgist*

This we know: Earth does not belong to us; we belong to Earth.
All beings are connected—many members of one family.

This we know: We did not weave the web of life; yet we are strands in it.
Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.

Let us sing our praise to the God of all creation.
Amen, let us sing!

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.

*****Opening Hymn (NCH #28)**

“For the Beauty of the Earth”
all verses

Acknowledging Our Humanness and God’s Grace

Prayer of Longing (*unison*)

O Great Creator, you made Earth life-giving, nourishing, rhythmic and fertile. It is by Earth’s fruits that we live. It is on Earth that we walk and play and grow. Empower us to walk gently; to read your wisdom in every leaf, rock, and creature; to better care for your Earth with tender respect. Today we celebrate Earth and all that enables us to find You—our Creator—in the rich and varied gifts of the universe. 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 signs of peace (smiles, handshakes, hands at heart center)
We extend the peace later by phone or email*

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”

**Bill Stokes (17th), Jackie Savage (19th), David Kirstein (22nd),
Shaun Stokes (28th)**

******* = Sitting or standing | NCH = *The New Century Hymnal*

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 116

Psalms for Praying: An Invitation to Wholeness

A Reading from the Gospels Luke 24:13-35 *pg. 90*

Morning Message “What Do We Co-Create in Space and Time?”

10:00 bells | *When the St. Charles Church bells ring, we pause to listen,
mindful of ecumenical and interfaith relationships*

Responding To God's Love

Prayer Song “Be Still and Know” *Sing! Prayer and Praise #111
see page 6...*

sung once in unison, then cantors lead us in a round

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)

from New Zealand Book of Prayer

**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 can place a **blue Giving Card** in the plate

Completed Welcome Forms (edges of pews) also go in the plates



Offertory

“What Manner of Love”

by P. Van Tine

***Offertory Response

**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*)

O Great God, we dedicate ourselves again to serve as full partners with you. You call us to care for creation, to amplify the voices of the oppressed, to reverse our course and align with your dream for the world. We offer ourselves and these gifts to partner with you on behalf of Earth, our common home as members of your abundant and diverse creation. Amen.

Going Forth to Share God's Love

*****Closing Hymn** (NCH #238) “Now the Green Blade Rises”
Verses 1, 3-4

*****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** “Grace, Love, and Fellowship” *Fettle*

All are welcome to gather downstairs after worship.

We hope you'll join us again next Sunday!

Be Still and Know

111

$\text{♩} = 108$

Be still and know that I am God. Be still and
Cal - ma tu ser, que soy tú Dios. Cal - ma tu

know that I am God. Be still and know
ser, que soy tú Dios. Cal - ma tu ser,

that I am God. Be still and
que soy tú Dios. Cal - ma tu

know that I am God.
ser, que soy tú Dios.

**May be sung as a round beginning at measure two.*

Words and Music: John L. Bell Copyright ©1988, 1998 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Scotland. GIA Publications Inc. exclusive North American agent. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Spanish paraphrase: Anthony Cabrera, 2009.

Today Following Worship:

10:30 am | Fellowship

11 am - 12 pm | Park Improvement Presentation:
A refined design by Satoko Muratake
(childcare provided 11-12)

Launching Our Spring Quarterly Mission

The Justice and Outreach Team invites all People's people to be part of our spring quarterly mission, *Land Recognition and Stewardship*. We will begin to understand the indigenous story of the land we cherish at People's Park and explore how we can honor its sacredness through wise and thoughtful land use decisions and active support for Native people in our area. Come to our first learning session on **Sunday, April 30** after worship - watch the Mid-Week News for details!

People's Book Club

Thurs. May 4th | 6:30-8 pm
"Jesus' Alternative Plan: The Sermon on the Mount"
By Richard Rohr

For more information, contact:
office@peoplescongregational.com



Special Congregational Meeting

May 7th, 11:00 am (preceded by brunch)

- *Hear and discuss a report from our congregation's members of the Joint Church Task Force
- *Discuss and vote on adding an affiliation with the MN Conference United Church of Christ (UCC) alongside our affiliation with the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC)
- *Discuss and vote on several edits to our bylaws (adding UCC affiliation, adjustments to committee term limits)



May Festival | **May 20th**

Art, plants, family activities, food, music, and more!
See the Mid-Week News and website for more information.

Sign-up to volunteer (sign-up sheets downstairs).

PRAYER CORNER

Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:

For persons known to us...

- *For **Joan Jackson** (mother to Kimberly, our former Communications Coordinator), as Joan recovers after falling at home. Kimberly visited with Joan in a twin cities' hospital on Wednesday. They await further information from the medical team.
- *For **Sharon Neuenfeldt** (our Worship Accompanist), healing energy as she awaits a May 4th procedure on her hand that will allow her to continue to play piano and organ without pain.
- *For **Molly** (colleague and friend to Michael Bjork), grieving the death of 8-year-old son Brody after a lifelong battle with Batten Disease.
- *We rejoice with **Cindy Parsons and Bob Dickie** at the healthy birth of a third child for their niece.
- *For **Linda Tossey** (former pastor to People's), who is struggling with complications of cancer treatment.
- *We rejoice that young **Eddy Hintze-Graf** has healed well from scarlet fever.


And in the wider community...

- *As the **54th Earth Day** approaches, we hold our neighbors in prayer as they cope with **historic flooding of the St. Croix River**. May we learn to live in mutually respectful, caring relationships with all beings.

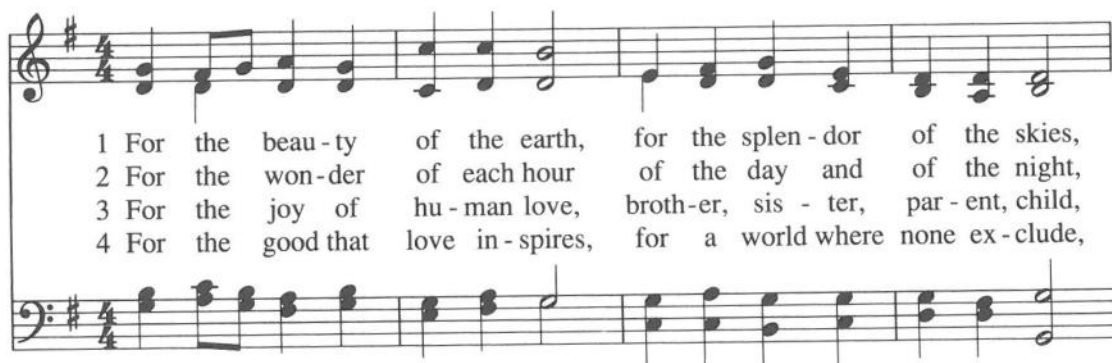
Thank you to today's partners: Sam Gromoll (acolyte), Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Michael Bjork (Choir Director), PCC Choir (cantors), Cheri Schwartz and Jane Hanson (greeters), Kathy Iverson (liturgist), Diane and Joe Legato (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (Tech Team),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



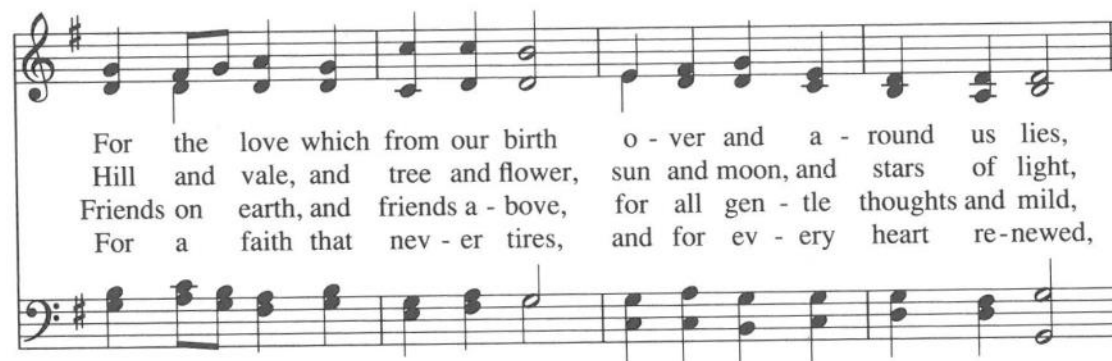
People's Congregational Church

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

For the Beauty of the Earth

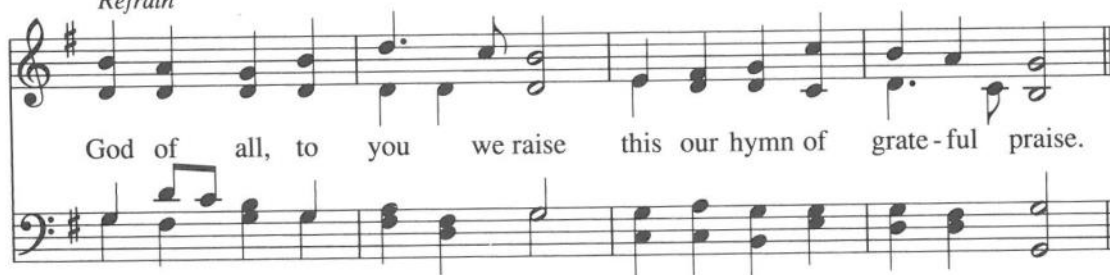


1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the splen - dor of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
4 For the good that love in - spires, for a world where none ex - clude,



For the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
Friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,
For a faith that nev - er tires, and for ev - ery heart re - newed,

Refrain



God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

Folliott S. Pierpoint, author of numerous hymns, penned these verses near his native city of Bath, England, on a late spring day when flowers were in full bloom and all the earth seemed to rejoice.

Tune: DIX 7.7.7.7. with refrain
Conrad Kocher, 1838
Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861

Now the Green Blade Rises

238

John M. C. Crum, 1928; alt.

Matt. 27:57-28:7; Luke 23:50-24:12

1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain;
 2 In the grave they laid their Love whom hate had slain,
 3 Christ came forth at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain,
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,

Wheat that in dark earth for man - y days has lain;
 Think - ing that their Love would nev - er wake a - gain,
 Je - sus, who for three days in the grave had lain,
 Christ's warm touch can call us back to life a - gain,

Love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:
 Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen:
 Quick from the dead the ris - en One is seen:
 Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

Refrain
 Love is come a - gain like wheat that ris - es green.

John M. C. Crum, an English priest who was canon of Canterbury for fifteen years, wrote these words for this ancient French Christmas carol tune when it was included in the Oxford Book of Carols (1928).

Tune: NOËL NOUVELET 11.10.10.11.

French noel, 15th century
 Harm. Martin F. Shaw, 1928

