



April 9, 2023
“How Will We Open the Door to Life?”
Easter Morning! | 10 am

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 “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” *Wesley*
Sharon Neuenfeldt, *Worship Accompanist*
Dennis Peters, *trumpet*

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 or name tag, update contact info, etc.

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

Rolf Dittmann, *liturgist*

The community has gathered.
We have come to hear the good news.
Hear the good news: Jesus Christ has risen!
We have come to worship the risen Christ!
Now is the time for worship.
Hallelujah! Let us worship together!

*****Opening Hymn (NCH #233)** “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”
Vs. 1, 3 & 4

Acknowledging Our Humanness and God’s Grace

Prayer of Longing (*unison*)

God of new awakenings, we confess that—sometimes—we would rather stay asleep. We are afraid to hope and have our hopes shattered, to dream and have our dreams deferred. Open us like the tomb so that new life may pour forth. Shake us from our slumber and awaken us to our own resurrections. Open our eyes to the new day dawning in our hearts. Give us the faith to believe, to hope, to dream anew. Amen.

Musical Interlude

“Look to the Lilies”

Ylvisaker
Lori Mildon, *flute*

Assurance of Grace (*responsive*)

Christ has risen from the grave to free us from all fear, to liberate our souls into newness of life.
This is good news indeed. Thanks be to God!
The peace of Christ be with you!
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

Choral Anthem “On That Great, Great Mornin’” *Words & Music by Mary McDonald*

*** = Sitting or standing | NCH = *The New Century Hymnal* 2

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

We make an annual gift to Walker West (St. Paul, MN) as a reparations payment for 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 *...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 **Melissa** Stephen (2nd), **Kathy** Iverson (11th), **Payton,**
Phillip & Jensen Wright (11th)

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 from Hebrew Scriptures Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24
Psalms for Praying: An Invitation to Wholeness

A Reading from the Gospels John 20: 1-18 *pg. 114*

Morning Message “How Will We Open the Door to Life?”

Responding To God's Love

Prayer Hymn (NCH #241) “Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day”
All Verses

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)

**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 Choral Anthem “The Wondrous News”

by Dan Schutte
Arr. By Gerard Chiusano

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

*****Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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

God of all, the gift of resurrection reminds us that all we possess comes to us by your grace. May our offerings extend our love and gratefulness outward in ever widening circles. May our gifts further your justice and love in the world. May we live in new life and share that life with others. Amen.

Going Forth to Share God’s Love

*****Closing Song** (NCH #4) “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”
Vs. 1-3

*****Benediction**

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

see next page...

*****Sending Song** *...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
Happy Easter!

*****Postlude** “Christ is Risen, Alleluia” *F.C. Maker*



On **April 16**, join us at **9:30 am** for worship @ People’s Church
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

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

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!

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Matt. 28:5-8; 1 Cor. 15:20-22; 54-57

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!

Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
 God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

The unknown editor of Lyra Davidica wanted music with more movement and spirit than found in the grave, slow-paced psalm tunes, with one note to a syllable. Easter Hymn was among the first of a new popular style.

Tune: EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7. with alleluias
 Arr. from Lyra Davidica, London, 1708

Great Spirit God

Jer. 10:12-13; Matt. 6:25-33

Dakota hymn, Joseph R. Renville, 1842
 Transl. Sidney H. Byrd, 1993
 For another translation, see 3

Optional hand-drum rhythm: ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩

1 Great Spir - it God, the things which are yours are nu - mer -
 2 Your will, mys - ter - i - ous and so strong, brings growth to
 3 You gave your law to Ad - am and Eve, fore - bears of
 4 That day you came to dwell on the earth, bring - ing us

ous and great. The heavens a - bove you set in their place,
 all the earth. Food for our souls and cloth - ing to wear,
 hu - man - kind. That law I dis - o - beyed with my sin,
 all great joy! The na - tions scat - tered o - ver the world,

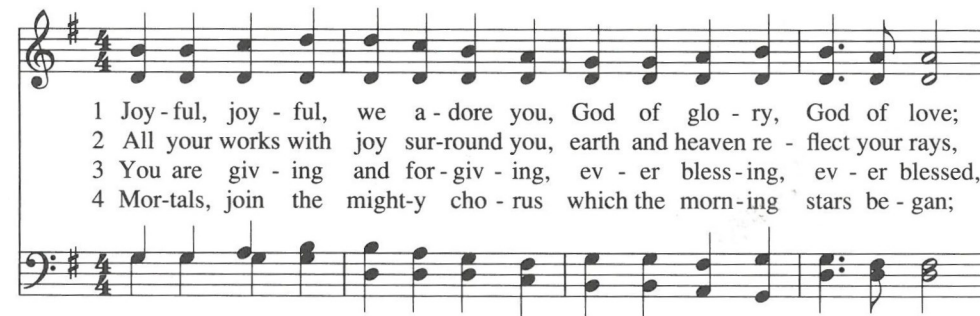
and earth re - ceived its form by your hands. The o - cean
 are like your cup that bless - es and fills. Pro - vide for
 and now I suf - fer pain and dis - grace. Je - sus, ex -
 to them you gave the light of all life. O Je - sus,

depths re - spond to your will, for you can do all things.
 us each day of our lives suf - fi - cient for our needs.
 press your mer - cy to me, and pay for all my sins.
 O Com - pas - sion - ate One, we of - fer praise to you.

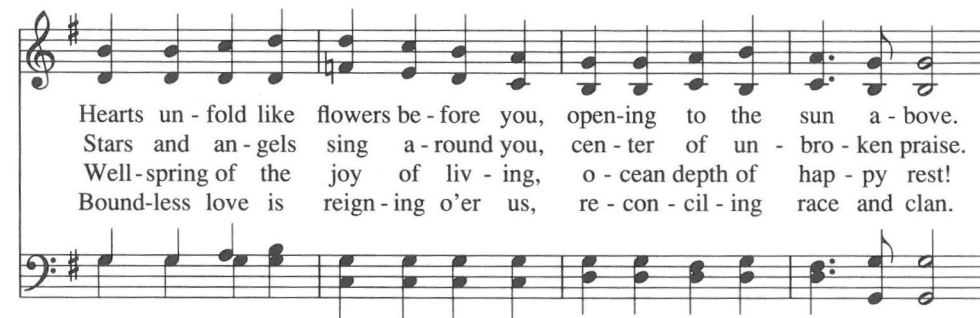
Recollecting the accounts told by his grandfather and others, Sidney Byrd stated: "This hymn was sung by thirty-eight Dakota Indian prisoners of war as they went to the gallows at Mankato, Minnesota, on December 26, 1862, in the largest mass execution in American history."

Tune: LACQUIPARLE 9.6.9.9.6.
 Native American melody (Dakota)
 Adapt. Joseph R. Renville, 1842
 Harm. J. R. Murray, 1877

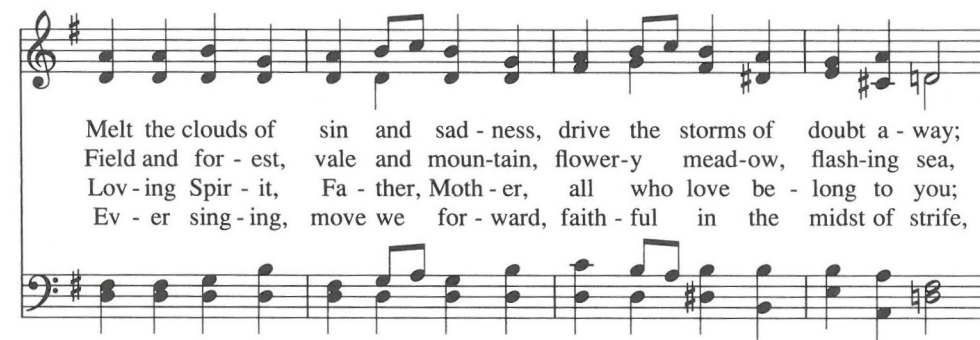
Joyful, joyful, We Adore You



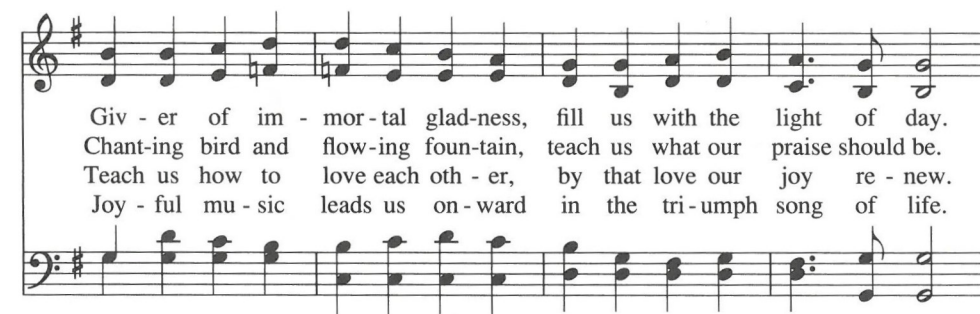
1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore you, God of glo - ry, God of love;
2 All your works with joy sur-round you, earth and heaven re - flect your rays,
3 You are giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blessed,
4 Mor - tals, join the might - y cho - rus which the morn - ing stars be - gan;



Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore you, open - ing to the sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a - round you, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!
Bound - less love is reign - ing o'er us, re - con - cil - ing race and clan.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the storms of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flower - y mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Lov - ing Spir - it, Fa - ther, Moth - er, all who love be - long to you;
Ev - er sing - ing, move we for - ward, faith - ful in the midst of strife,



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, teach us what our praise should be.
Teach us how to love each oth - er, by that love our joy re - new.
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us on - ward in the tri - umph song of life.

PRAYER CORNER

Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:

For persons known to us...

*For **Barb Hilliard**, who continues to manage chronic osteoarthritic pain. Her March 31 procedure was postponed as her medical team seeks the best way forward.

*For **Larry**, husband to Mary Maren Bjork's cousin Jan. Larry has been diagnosed with stage four throat cancer.

*Celebrating anniversaries: **Andi & Peter** Favilla (8th)

And in the wider community...

*For all who grieve in Nashville after three 9-year old students and three adults were killed by gunfire at Covenant School in late March. 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.]

*To our Jewish neighbors, a blessed Passover. [April 6-13, Jewish people observe Passover in commemoration of the liberation of the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt thousands of years ago.]

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Michael Bjork (Choir Director), PCC Choir (cantors), Dennis Peters (trumpet), Lori Mildon (flute), Diane & Joe Legato (greeters), Rolf Dittmann (liturgist), Sue Favilla & team (breakfast), Andi Favilla (egg hunt), Paul, Bob & Mark (Tech Team), Carol & Claire (Sunday School), 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

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"

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