



May 7, 2023

“What Do We
Build As Living
Stones?”

The Love of God Gathers Us

Gathering Music

*We greet those around us or sit quietly,
Settling into sacred time and space*

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude & Candle Lighting

Acknowledging 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

*** = Sitting or standing

NCH = *The New Century Hymnal*

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

Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux, *liturgist*

Springtime changes are bursting forth around us.
Earth awakens from winter with a display of wondrous energy.

The cycle of living and dying continues.
As it has for ages past and will for ages to come.

Lent has passed and the celebration of Easter Sunday is over.
But the message of new life, new awakenings, and new possibilities remains with us. Glory to God! Alleluia!

*****Opening Hymn (NCH #400)** “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”
all verses

Acknowledging Our Humanness and God’s Grace

Prayer of Longing (*unison*)

God of heaven and Earth, you guard our coming and going forth, our times of tender reflection and moments of turmoil. Our lives are fragile. We violate each other in personal relationships, as nations, as inept keepers of life’s beauty. Sharpen our sensitivities. Stir in us preferences for listening over speaking, for tenderness over aggression, for solidarity and community over alienation. Deepen for us the meaning of the resurrection, that we not only speak words of transformation but embody those words in our lives. Healer, Renewer, Sustainer, Source of hope and joy, we lean into your amazing grace. Amen.

*...the singing bowl welcomes us into silence
as our 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 (*acapella*) ...*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” (*acapella*)

Sharon Binger (2nd), **Frank Cole** (2nd), **Evelyn Wulff** (2nd),
Jane Hanson (7th), **John Norheim** (10th)

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 (*acapella*) ...*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)

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

*Eph. 2:20-22; 1 Pet. 2:4-7**Latin, 6th-8th century
Transl. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt.
St. 3 adapt. Thomas H. Troeger, 1992*

1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and cor - ner - stone,
2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O God of Hosts, to - day!
3 Here re - new your ser - vants' vis - ion, that by faith they may at - tain

chos - en of our God and pre - cious, bind - ing all the Church in one;
With your con - stant, lov - ing kind - ness hear your peo - ple as they pray.
peace and hope, re - newed com - pas - sion, strength to com - fort those in pain,

Ho - ly Zi - on's help for - ev - er, and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
Give your full - est ben - e - dic - tion: grace to fol - low Christ the Way.
Tears and grief trans - formed to glad - ness in your ev - er - last - ing reign.

*The hymn has its origins in an early Latin poem, Urbs beata
Jerusalem, based on passages from Ephesians, 1 Peter, and
Revelation. "Holy Zion" refers to the church transcendent, built
of "living stones"—the saints of God.*

Tune: REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7.
Henry T. Smart, 1867

Alternate tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY

371

God, Creation's Great Designer

Gen. 1:1-2:7; 1 Pet. 2:4-9

Jane Parker Huber, 1984

1 God, cre - a - tion's great de - sign - er, ar - chi - tect, and ar - ti - san,
 2 Hear our thanks for those who found-ed in this place a church for praise.
 3 Sing we, too, of church-es stand-ing not a - lone in wood and stone,
 4 Shape us as your con - gre - ga - tions, called to - geth - er, sent a - far,

dream-er, build - er, and re - fin - er— how we mar - vel at your plan.
 Firm in Christ their faith was ground-ed as they lived their earth - ly days.
 but in hu - man lives com-mand-ing con - fi - dence in you a - lone.
 so as peo - ple or as na - tions we can serve you where we are.

You have formed us to re - flect you, filled us with your Spir-it's breath,
 Build-ers, they, in brick and stone-work, walls sup-port - ing roof and floors,
 For high arch - es, ris - ing, yearn-ing, soar-ing towers that fill with song,
 O ac - cept the praise we bring you, bless the work of hu - man hands.

freed us to ac - cept, re - ject you, and in Christ, de - feat - ed death.
 prais-ing you in all their own work— sol - id stee - ple, o - pen doors.
 win-dows o - pened for our learn-ing— God, we praise you all day long.
 Hear the hymns our voic-es sing you, ech - o - ing through years and lands.

Jane Parker Huber wrote this text specifically for the dedication of an Indiana church's rebuilding program to be sung with this twentieth-century tune, New Reformation. "It celebrates the skill and labor of human workers as well as of our creating God."

Tune: NEW REFORMATION 8.7.8.7.D.
 J. T. Morrow, 1950
 Alternate tunes: WEISSE FLAGGEN,
 HOLY MANNA

Proclaiming God's Love

A Reading from Hebrew Scriptures Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16
Old Testament, p. 505

A Reading from the Gospels 1 Peter 2: 2-10 *New Testament, p. 233*

Morning Message “What Do We Build As Living Stones?”

*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 Hymn (NCH #371) “God, Creation's Great Designer”
verses 1-3

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

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 go in the plates



Offertory

*****Offertory Response** (*acapella*)

**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**

Sharing in Holy Communion

*Holy Communion is open to members and friends of all ages as we seek to follow
Jesus in the way of radically inclusive Love*

*****The Invitation and Prayer**

Pastor: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to God.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

All: All-loving God, you are Creator of energy and matter, the heavens and the Earth. Therefore, we celebrate you—joining our voices with the wind and streams, animals and flowers, the living and the dead (*pause*), the stars, planets, and all the members of creation—forever proclaiming your glory. Amen.

Words of Remembrance and Blessing

Sharing the Bread of Life & the Cup of Blessing

*You'll take a piece of (gluten-free) bread and a small cup of juice
Consume the elements as you step away from the table
Place your empty cup in a receptacle on either front row pew*

Communion Hymn (NCH #330) “Let Us Break Bread Together”
all verses

Sung as we come forward to receive Communion

*****Prayer of Thanksgiving (*unison*)**

God of every living stone, for the healing you have given us in the brokenness of bread and the pouring out of cup, we thank you. For the community that you have restored in us through the sharing of life, we thank you. For the courage and strength that you have promised us, we thank you. Send us forth from this place in love—to do justice with gentleness and power through the presence of your Spirit. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

330

Let Us Break Bread Together

Acts 2:42

African-American spiritual

1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees;
* 2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,

* "Share the cup" may be substituted for "drink wine."

The earliest version of this spiritual probably began with the current stanza three, and was a song some of the enslaved in Virginia used when gathering for secret meetings. The communion stanzas were added some time after the Civil War.

Tune: LET US BREAK BREAD
10.10, with refrain
Harm. David Hurd, 1983

Music harmonization Copyright © 1986 by G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

Going Forth to Share God's Love

*****Closing Hymn (NCH #76)** “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”
all verses

*****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**

All are welcome to gather downstairs after worship.

10:30 am Subway Lunch | **10:45 am** Special Congregational Meeting



Peace Pole Dedication | May 14th, 10:30am

All are welcome as we install a Peace Pole in our front yard at People’s Church.

This brief and meaningful ceremony will last 10-15 minutes, followed by Fellowship time on the lawn (weather permitting). Learn more about the International Peace Pole Project here:
www.worldpeace.org/peacepoleproject

PRAYER CORNER

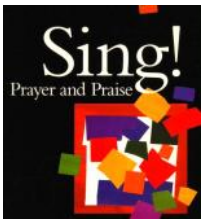
Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:

For persons known to us...

- *For **Mark and Michele Stephan**, comfort after the loss of their dog, Mickey—a loyal companion of 15 years.
- *For our ongoing conversation between **People's and St. Peter's UCC**—that it unfolds in a way that honors God as we move forward with grace.
- *For **Carl** (Jane's friend), as he recovers from successful open heart surgery last Friday.
- *Gratitude for an excellent experience for two 6th grade youth (**Zoey** of People's. **Brayden** of St. Peter's) and **Pastor Clare** at UCC Conference Youth Event last weekend (at Camp Onomia in Onamia, MN).
- *For **Sharon Neuenfeldt** (our Worship Accompanist), healing energy after surgery on her hand this past Thursday.

And in the wider community...

- *For all those affected by gun violence, particularly **survivors of the shooting earlier this week** at Northside Hospital Medical in Midtown Atlanta, GA.



Sponsor 1 of 40 Copies of *Sing! Prayer and Praise* (27 sponsored thus far!)

Please consider gifting one or more **\$15** song books to our church. You can include an "in honor of" or "in memory of" dedication with your gift (which will be placed inside the front cover later in the year).

Order forms available at both Sanctuary entrances.



May Festival (2nd Annual!) | **May 20th**

See the Mid-Week News and website for more information.
Sign-up to volunteer (sign-up sheets downstairs).

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Omer Westendorf, 1964

Descant

2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the

Unison

1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, our true faith con - fess-ing, the
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the

tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er

peo - ple of God from this dwell-ing take leave. The ser - vice is
tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er

shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em - brac - ing God's chil - dren of

end - ed, O now be ex - tend - ed the fruits of our wor - ship in
shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em - brac - ing God's chil - dren of

Omer Westendorf, author of numerous hymns, compiler of several hymnals, and founder of World Library Publications, included this hymn in *People's Mass Book*, 1964, the first vernacular Roman Catholic hymn and service book to implement the decrees of Vatican II.

Tune: THE ASH GROVE 6.6.11.6.6.11.D.
Welsh folk melody
Harm. Leland Sateren, 1972
Descant, *The New Century Hymnal*, 1993

CLOSE OF WORSHIP

each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with
 all who be - lieve. The seed of the teach - ing, re -
 each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with

your light now lead us, u - nite us as one in this
 cep - tive hearts reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for
 your light now lead us, u - nite us as one in this

life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks -
 God and for all. God's grace did in - vite us, and love shall u -
 life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks -

giv - ing give hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.
 nite us to work for God's realm and to an - swer the call.
 giv - ing give hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.

Special Congregational Meeting | TODAY, 11:00 am
(preceded by a Subway lunch—donations requested)
10:45 am-12:00 pm childcare provided!

***Hear an update regarding merging with St. Peter's United Church of Christ**

***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)**

Update: On April 22, the Committee on Ministry (COM) of the MN Conference UCC met in our Fellowship Hall. As part of their agenda, Rolf Dittmann and Pastor Clare met with them to discuss our congregation's interest in becoming affiliated with the UCC. Based on that conversation, COM unanimously forwarded to the MN Conference UCC Board of Directors the recommendation that People's Congregational Church be received into affiliation.

***Discuss and vote on several edits to our bylaws (adding UCC affiliation and an adjustment to Leadership Team configuration).**


Note: Votes on bylaw changes require at least 1/4 quorum (17 members) of the congregation.

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Michael Bjork (Choir Director), PCC Choir (cantors), Cheri Schwartz (greeter), Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux (liturgist), Mindy Peters (Communion preparer & server), Sue Favilla (lunch host), 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 (Chancel 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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