



“What Evidence Do  
We Show of God’s  
Love?”

Father’s Day  
Baptism of  
Milo Niklaus Holler

June 18, 2023

**Let’s welcome one another!**

Name tags are at the entrance sign

Welcome forms in songbooks: request prayer, update contact info, join email list

## **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 & Lantern Lighting**

“Come, Be Baptized”

G.A. Smith

*Acknowledging the light of Christ among us*

### **Words of Welcome**

Pastor Clare Gromoll

\*\*\* = Sitting or standing

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

Mary Maren Bjork, *liturgist*

We gather to express our unity with God and with each other.

**Our community spans the centuries, bound together by a covenant whose signature is baptism.**

We inherit this covenant of baptism from our ancestors in faith.

**In worship today, we renew our commitment to live in this covenant.**

And we draw together a wider community of loved ones, including those who bore witness at our baptisms.

**As faithful people have done for years, let us worship God.**

**\*\*\*Opening Song** (*see insert*)

“For All the Children”  
verse 1—cantors | vs 2—all join in

**Acknowledging Our Need for God’s Grace**

**\*\*\*Prayer of Confession and Longing** (*unison*)

Pastor Daniel Harrell

God of spirit and flesh, God of water and soil – we reach toward you. We sense the loving presence of your Spirit shining in the sunlight, sailing on the summer breeze, and singing in the soul of each one gathered here. Recreate us in your image as we encounter you today. May we recommit to sharing your pervasive love – wherever despair drips dreary on drowning dreams and wherever heavy hearts shiver in loneliness. Let your presence pressing through us infuse the world with love. 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**

*...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”**

**Zoey Graf (11th-12 yr), Sam Gromoll (12th-9 yr), Delores Davis (17th),  
Rolf Dittmann (17th), Andrea Dittmann (24th)**

### **Sacrament of Holy Baptism ~ Milo Niklaus Holler**

#### **Welcoming forward the Baptismal Family**

Maria and Joe Holler (*parents*), Kayla and Juniper (*siblings*)  
Kristin and Kyle (*godparents*), Parker and Myla (*their children*)  
Kim and Mike, Pat and Nat (*grandparents through Maria*)  
Dee and Greg (*grandparents through Joe*)  
Tony and Jessie (*uncle & aunt*); Zoey, Eddy, and Finley (*cousins*)  
Myke and Jackie (*uncle & aunt*), Rosco (*cousin*)

#### **Questions of the Baptismal Family**

#### **Questions of the Gathered Community**

*Do you, members and friends of People’s Congregational Church, promise to nurture Milo’s faith by your loving actions? Will you continue to welcome him into the joys of God’s world? Will you affirm Milo in his journey of faith as he follows the way of Jesus with all his heart, mind, and strength? If so, please say, “we do and we will!”*

#### **Prayer Over Baptismal Waters**

#### **The Act of Baptism**

## **Dedication** (*unison*)

**Milo, your life has been given to you and to all of us as a gift from God. We dedicate you and rededicate ourselves to God. We promise to do our best to be channels of God's love for you, to teach you the ways of our friend and savior Jesus, and to empower you through the Holy Spirit. May the light of God's love continue to shine upon you and through you.**

## **A Prayer for Milo and His Community**

### **Presentation of a Gift and Certificate**

*The baptismal family thanks us for joining in this celebration of God's love, embodied through Milo's life and in the community surrounding him. Please linger afterward for refreshments provided by the family and co-hosts!*

**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.**

*Children are welcome to go to the playground (accompanied by their own adults today).  
Families with infants and toddlers are welcome to use the blanketed outdoor nursery space.  
We welcome the sounds and movements of children who stay in worship.*

## **Proclaiming God's Love**

**A Reading from Hebrew Scriptures** | *The Inclusive Bible* Genesis 18:1-15, 21: 1-6

**A Reading from the New Testament** | *The Inclusive Bible* Romans 5: 1-8

**Morning Message** "What Evidence Do We Show of God's Love?"

## Responding To God's Love

Prayer Song (Sing! Prayer and Praise #84)

“All My Days”  
all verses

### Prayers of the People

*We share aloud prayers for ourselves, others, and parts of the world  
We'll add your prayer to our printed and electronic Prayer Corner*

*(Feel free to let Pastor Clare know if you don't want yours added to the Prayer Corner)*

One: God, in your love

All: Hear our prayer

### A Father's Day Litany

#### 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

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 basket

Welcome Forms also go in the offering baskets



**\*\*\*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 all – we bring our time, effort, and possessions to you. Rededicating our lives to you, we pledge to embody your love in the world. May we offer gifts of love in spaces where your tender voice is often drowned out by voices of violence, hatred and oppression. Use all that we have and all that we are to your glory. Amen.**

**Going Forth to Share God’s Love**

**\*\*\*Closing Song** (*see insert*)

“For All the Children”

**verses 3-4**

**\*\*\*Benediction**

**\*\*\*Sung Response** *...forming a circle around the perimeter of the worship space*

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**

“Go My Children with My Blessing”

## PRAYER CORNER

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

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

\*For **Devon, Myles, and Mackenzie** (teenage grandchildren to Wendy and Dave Staberg) in the wake of the recent sudden death of their father. Their mother Sara grew up with the love of St. Peter's Church as did her children until they moved to Siren, WI. May love surround them as they grieve.

\*For our ad hoc **Program Staff Search Team**, positive energy and discernment as they begin the groundwork for our adding a Director of Faith Formation & Community Engagement into our vibrant merging congregation.

\*For **Tom Ford** (father to Andi Favilla) as he prepares for June 27th knee replacement surgery.

\*For the family of **Ken Knutson** (widower to Anne, beloved deceased member of People's). Ken died in recent days after suffering a fall. May love surround his grieving loved ones.

\*With **Mark and Michele Stephan**, we rejoice in the arrival of Shiloh - a new dog in their family.

\*For Pat Mazzitello's friend **Cindy**, recovering from a stressful physical health event.

\*For Lori Mildon's sister **Janna**, that powerful love and comfort surround her as she receive hospice care.

\*With **Barb Hilliard**, who manages chronic pain and other complications of Post-Polio Syndrome, we celebrate a dramatic shift from a pain level of 10 to a pain level of 2!

\*Celebrating anniversaries: **BJ and Claire Stokes** (20th)

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

\*For our nation in the wake of the indictment of former **President Trump**, as we anticipate potential flaring of reactivity and violence, may there be peacemaking.

\*In this joyful **season of graduations**, may those who celebrate do so safely.

\*For the **four children found alive after the airplane crash in the Amazon**. For healing, comfort, and empowerment as these children move forward.

\*For **all who struggle silently with suicidal ideation**. May we become more aware and supportive in the midst of mental health challenges that many of us and our neighbors are managing.

\*Grateful for our many opportunities to affirm and empower young people within our families and congregation, we pray for all **young people** who do not feel supported and affirmed by adults.

\*In the wake of the **horrendous train accident in India**, may love surround those who are mourning the ones who are gone and for those who are injured and surviving.

# For All the Children



1. God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -  
 2. Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be  
 3. Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and  
 4. God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the pro-mise of Your love.  
 free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,  
 shame so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.  
 wide, can live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.



Though the day may not yet be here, we trust it soon will  
 that they nev - er have a rea - son to doubt that they are  
 May the mess - age now be ban - ished that Your love is for the  
 As they grow in strength and sta - ture, may they join us hand in



be, when your chil - dren will be free.  
 blest. May they, in Your love, find rest.  
 few, may their faith in You re - new.  
 hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.



O, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen



wide. May there be room e-nough for ev-'ry-one in - side.



For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -



long. May that wel - come be our song.



## All My Days

84

♩=78 N.C. A<sup>7</sup>sus

I. You

D D/F# G A<sup>7</sup>sus G/B D D/F# D G

know my\_ words, be - fore they're said. You know my need and  
 I should fly\_ be - yond the\_ dawn, the shad - ows will\_ not  
 ev - ery\_ thought, each word we say,\_ the whole of\_ time, the  
 mend my\_ heart and free my\_ voice. From sin re - leased, I

E/G# Esus A F#7/A# Bm F#m7 G Am D7 Gadd9

I am fed. You give me\_ life\_ You know my\_ ways, my  
 o - ver - come. If I lie\_ down in deep - est\_ night, still  
 pre - sent day,\_ are held with - in\_ your might - y\_ hand too  
 will re - joice. O search me\_ now, my spir - it\_ cries, and

D/A G/B Em/C#F#aug Bm D7/A D/G D/F# Em7

strength, my path\_ for all my\_ days, my strength, my\_ path, for  
 you are\_ there, my truth, my\_ light, still you are\_ there, my  
 won - der - ful\_ to com - pre - hend, too won - der - ful\_ to  
 let my\_ song of praise a - rise,\_ and let my\_ song of

Asus N.C. A<sup>7</sup>sus Asus N.C. Dadd9

1. 2. 3. 4.

all my days.\_\_\_\_ 2. If praise a - rise.\_\_\_\_  
 truth, my light.\_\_\_\_ 3. Our  
 com - pre - hend.\_\_\_\_ 4. O

Words: Laurie Zelman

Music: Mark A. Miller

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**Pastor Clare will be away June 19-26 and Pastor Daniel will be away June 19-30,**  
each taking much-deserved vacation time to restore and refresh.

In the event of a question or urgent need, please contact one of the following:

Megan Adams, Church Office Coordinator (651-439-5667,  
office@peoplescongregational.org)

Paul Spliseth, People's Leadership Team Moderator (651-271-6742, spils@mac.com)

Kaira Bettin, St. Peter's Church Council President (651-329-3781,

We make an annual gift to Walker West (St. Paul, MN) as a reparation 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.*

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist),  
Rolf Dittman (cantor), Cheri Schwartz (greeter),  
Mary Maren Bjork (liturgist), Lori Mildon (fellowship),  
Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (Tech Team),  
Jackie Savage (outdoor sign)




## A Merging Congregation...


*with roots in People's Congregational Church & St. Peter's United Church of Christ*



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