



September 10, 2023

“How Does a  
Community Become  
Fully Alive?”

**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

**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 and Candle Lighting**      “God Has Done Great Things for Us”      Hamm

*Acknowledging the light of Christ among us*

**Words of Welcome**

Pastor Clare Gromoll

NCH = *The New Century Hymnal*

\* = Sitting or standing

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

We have gathered here this morning to worship God.  
**We have come seeking comfort, inspiration, community, and insight.**

We open ourselves to the power of God's presence in our midst.  
**We offer up the seasons and the turnings in our lives, seeking God's help in our learning and in our growing. May it be so!**

**\*Opening Song**

"Come, Let Us Worship God"  
**one side leads, the other side echoes**

## Come, Let Us Worship God



*Leader:* Come, let us wor-ship God. Come, let us wor-ship God.



Come, let us wor-ship God. Come, let us wor-ship God.



Wel - come ev - 'ry - one — Wel - come ev - 'ry - one



to the love of God. to the love of God.

2. Food for the hungry...
3. Rest for the weary...
4. Hope for the children...
5. Come, let us worship God...

## Acknowledging Our Need for God's Grace

### **Prayer of Confession and Longing** | from Psalm 119 (*responsive*)

Help me to know, O Teacher, the path to follow; lead the way and I will come.

**In your love is the power to calm the storms of adversity; show me the power of your forgiving Love.**

Oh that I might learn to bless others selflessly, to be a silent benediction!

**Incline my heart to Love Consciousness, and not to gain!**

Turn my eyes from the world's temptations, and birth me into new Life.

**Let me enter into the realm where the aspirations of my soul may become manifest.**

Clothe me with compassion that I may answer the cries of those in need.

**Do You see how I long to serve, to co-create with You? In your mercy, hear my prayer! 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”

Claire Spilseth (11th), Dale Shaller (14th)

## 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 3 - gr. 10)\* | downstairs Sunday School Room  
We welcome sounds and movements of children who stay in worship.*

*\*Sunday School will expand into 4 age groups beginning Oct. 8:  
infants & toddlers, age 3-gr. 1, gr. 2-4, gr. 5-12*

## Proclaiming God's Love

**A Reading from Epistles** | *The Inclusive Bible*

Romans 13: 8-14

**A Reading from the Gospels** | *The Inclusive Bible*

Matthew 18: 15-20

## Morning Message

“How Does a Community Become Fully Alive?”

## Responding To God's Love

**Prayer Hymn (NCH #393)**

"Blessed Be the Tie That Binds"  
**all verses**

## Prayers of the People

*We share aloud prayers for ourselves, others, and parts of the world  
We'll add them to our printed and electronic Prayer Corner  
Please let Pastor Clare know if you don't want yours added to the Prayer Corner*

**One: God, in your love**

**All: Hear our prayer**

## Prayer of Jesus (*unison*)

**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)*

*Blue electronic Giving Cards and Welcome Forms also go in the offering plates*



## Offertory

“Our Peace”

Groves

## \*Offertory Response

**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**

**God of all, your importance in our lives is reflected in our gifts. Through the ministry and outreach of this church, we return to you a portion of all you entrust to us. Along with our financial gifts; we also promise to invest our time and abilities in your work of proclaiming good news through welcome, worship, nurture, and doing justice. Bless these gifts and multiply the good to be done through our time, talents, and treasure. Amen.**

## **Going Forth to Share God's Love**

**\*Closing Hymn (NCH #377)**                      "Forward through the Ages"  
**all verses**

## **\*Benediction**

**\*Sending Song**                      *...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**                                      "La Paz Sea Contigo"                                      *Carlson*

## ***After-Worship Fellowship***

*All are welcome to join us for treats, beverages, and good company!*

**Special Congregational Meeting / 11 am**

## PRAYER CORNER

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

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

\*For Mary Ann Litfin's fiancé, **Jon Kingstad**, who is having surgery on September 15th.

\*For **Eli** (friend of Rebecca, a newer friend among us), who recently had a life-altering surgery that has resulted in infection. Prayers for healing energy.

\*We pray healing energy for **Rebecca Voelkel** (former pastor to Mary Maren and colleague of Pastor Clare), her spouse **Maggie**, and **siblings**; who were in a bad car accident last weekend.

\*For those of us rooted in **St. Peter's UCC**, may love abound during these final weeks of leave-taking from their church building in Stillwater; which has provided sacred space for worship, faith formation, justice and community.

\*Celebrating Anniversaries: **Adam and Kaira Bettin** (10th)



## Backyard Potlucks

**September 12th** at Sharri Kinkead's in Hudson.

*Bring a side dish to share (salad, savory, or sweet)*

## "Party in the Park" | Our Derby Days Refreshment Stand

**September 15th** on the church lawn

Come serve refreshments on the church lawn 4:30-6:30pm or  
6:30-8:30pm (contact Pastor Clare or Megan to help)



*Give blood.*  
Every 2 seconds someone  
in the U.S. needs blood.  
American Red Cross



## Blood Drive

**Sept. 21st** | 9am—3pm

See Mid-Week News to register

OR call 1-800-733-2767

# Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

393

John Fawcett, 1782; alt.

Gal. 3:28; 6:2; Col. 3:13-15

1 Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;  
2 Be - fore our God we come and pour our ar - dent prayers;  
3 We share each oth - er's woes, each oth - er's bur - dens bear,  
4 When we are called to part it gives us in - ward pain,

The shar - ing of a com - mon life is like to that a - bove.  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.  
And of - ten for each oth - er flows a sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.

*An English Baptist minister, John Fawcett published a number of poetic works. His entire ministry was spent at a church near Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire, where he wrote most of his hymns to follow his sermons.*

Tune: DENNIS S.M.  
Melody by Johann G. Nägeli (c. 1768-1836)  
Adapt. Lowell Mason, 1845



377

## Forward through the Ages

*Heb. 11; 1 Cor. 12**Frederick Lucian Hosmer, 1908; alt.*

1 For - ward through the a - ges, in un - bro - ken line,  
2 Wide grows God's do - min - ion, reign of love and peace;  
3 Not a - lone we con - quer, not a - lone we fall;

move the faith - ful spir - its at the call di - vine;  
for it we must la - bor, till all striv - ings cease.  
in each loss or tri - umph, lose or tri - umph all.

Gifts in dif - fer - ing mea - sure, hearts of one ac - cord,  
Proph - ets have pro - claimed it, teach - ers tes - ti - fied,  
Bound by God's far pur - pose in one liv - ing whole,

man - i - fold in ser - vice, one the sure re - ward.  
po - ets sung its glo - ry, mar - tyrs for it died.  
move we on to - geth - er to the shin - ing goal.

*Frederick Hosmer, educated at Harvard and ordained to the Unitarian ministry, served Congregational and Unitarian churches throughout the country. He was known for his concern for social issues, his service book for Sunday schools, and his lectures on hymnology.*

Tune: ST. GERTRUDE 6.5.6.5.D. with refrain  
*Arthur S. Sullivan, 1871*

COMMUNION OF SAINTS

*Refrain*

For - ward through the a - ges, in un - bro - ken line,

Move the faith - ful spir - its at the call di - vine.

The musical score is written in D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems. The first system has a vocal line with lyrics 'For - ward through the a - ges, in un - bro - ken line,' and a piano accompaniment. The second system has a vocal line with lyrics 'Move the faith - ful spir - its at the call di - vine.' and a piano accompaniment. The piano accompaniment is primarily chordal, with some moving lines in the bass.

**Special Congregational Meeting**  
**TODAY 11 am @ Fellowship Hall (and Zoomed)**

Please join us as we vote on several merger-related items:

- 1) Plan of Merger
- 2) Bridge Plan (Leadership, Budget, Bylaws)

We will also hear and discuss an update about our People's Park land.

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Sharri Kinkead (liturgist), Bob and Kathy Iverson (greeters), Choir (cantors), Lori Mildon (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (outdoor sign), Lisa Culbertson (Childcare Provider)




## A Merging Congregation...


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



### People's Congregational Church

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