



September 17, 2023

“In Whose  
Liberation  
Do We  
Participate?”

### **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 and Lantern Lighting** “I'm Forever Grateful ”

*Altrogge*

*Acknowledging the light of Christ among us*

#### **Words of Welcome**

**Pastor Clare Gromoll**

\* = Sitting or standing

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

Come, all who are weary from the crowd and bustle of the day:  
**God's steadfast love awaits us.**

Come, all who delight in the abundance of everyday treasure:  
**God's steadfast love awaits us.**

Come, all who are restless in the face of acquiescence to injustice:  
**God's steadfast love awaits us.**

Come, all who search for glimpses of quiet transcendence:  
**God's steadfast love awaits us.**

Come, all whose spirits are frayed from the pull of unforeseen  
difficulties:  
**God's steadfast love awaits us.**

Come with open hearts, ready to listen for the mystery:  
**God's steadfast love awaits us.**

**\*Opening Song (SPP #16)**

**“Come to the Water”**  
verses 1—5

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

**Prayer of Confession and Longing** (*responsive*)

Gracious Spirit, when the dry wind of confusion fills our every breath;  
when the shadows of fear echo every step,  
**Restore our hearts into hope, that we might seek a good path.**

When every door seems locked up tight; when every thought seems  
weighted down,  
**Restore our hearts into hope, that we might seek a good path.**

When solid ground turns unstable and entangled; when nourishing  
streams turn dry and arid,  
**Restore our hearts into hope, that we might seek a good path. 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)**

### **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.**

*Interested children (age 4 - gr. 5) follow leaders to Children's Activity (picnic shelter)*

*Youth (gr. 6-12) are welcome to join in*

*Lisa cares for infants and toddlers at our blanketed outdoor nursery*

*We welcome the sounds and movements of children who stay in worship*

## Proclaiming God's Love

**A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures** | *The Inclusive Bible*

Exodus 14: 10-31

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

Matthew 18: 21-35

**Morning Message**

“In Whose Liberation Do We Participate?”

## Responding To God's Love

**Prayer Hymn (NCH #46)**

"We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky"

**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)**

**Our Father and Mother who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name.**

**Thy kin-dom come. Thy will be done on Earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:**

**For thine is the kin-dom, and the power, and the glory, forever.**

**Amen.**

## **Invitation to the Offering**

*Greeters pass offering baskets 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 baskets*



**\*Offertory Response**

Hal-le-Hal-le-Hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le-Hal-le-Hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal-le-Hal-le-Hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le-lu-ja. Hal - le - lu - ja.

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious One, we offer common gifts through our daily living: gestures of strength, words of daring, prayers of kindness. We shape the tone and texture of how your vision is realized. We continue your holy story with chapters of our own: one life offering witness, another speaking as prophet, another walking as disciple; each one part of the whole. We dedicate our lives to your way of love. Amen.

**Going Forth to Share God’s Love**

**\*Closing Song (SPP #120)**                      "Dream God’s Dream"  
all verses

**\*Benediction**

**\*Sending Song** *on next page...*

**\*Sending Song**

*...forming a circle around the perimeter of the worship space*

**“Let There Be Peace on Earth”**

**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**

**“Go, Make a Difference ”**

*Angrisano/Tomaszek*

***After-Worship Fellowship***

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



**Harvest Fest is Coming!**

**Saturday, November 18 | 9 am - 3 pm**

Fresh Designer Wreaths

Gifts-to-go Auction & 50/50 Raffle

Bake Shoppe

Local Artisans & Musicians

All-you-can-eat Soup and Bread Lunch

## PRAYER CORNER

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

*For persons known to us...*

\*With **Jere Fetter**, who has recently been in three different hospitals due to G.I. bleeds, we give thanks that his team at Mayo stopped the bleed last week, and that Jere continues to regain mobility after mid-summer surgery that successfully relieved chronic groin pain.

\*For Sharri Kinkead's son, **Pete**, who came from Reno with the loving support of his step-siblings to enter rehab for excessive alcohol use - we pray healing energy for him and the family.

\*With Michael Bjork, we offer healing prayers for **Claire Bjork** after a successful ACL and meniscus surgery; and for Michael's nephew **Anthony** after a bike accident resulting in a broken wrist and lost tooth.

\*For the work being done on a Chevy Sonic which will offer independence and hope to a **homeless individual**.

\*For those remembering and mourning former **Governor Quie**. May his legacy of leadership and embodied love continue.

\*For all who are 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)

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

### Save the Date: Women's Gathering

**Oct. 4** | 6:30 - 8 pm

Zvago Stillwater Cooperative (in the party room)

114 Brick St. S.

Co-hosted by Kathy Iverson and Wendy Staberg

*An opportunity for women of all ages to step together into  
our life as a merged congregation!*



## Worship at St. Peter's UCC | Final Service of Closure

**September 24th | 9:30 am**

*Join us as we mark the completion of many wonderful years of ministry in a church building that has provided sacred space for worship, faith formation, justice, and community.*

Beginning Oct. 1st, we will worship indoors as a newly merged congregation at 309 N Third St in Bayport.

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), Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux (liturgist), Choir (cantors), Mindy Peters (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

Rev. Clare Gromoll, Pastor ~ [pastor@peoplescongregational.org](mailto:pastor@peoplescongregational.org)  
309 Third St. N, Bayport MN 55003-1028  
(651) 439-5667 / [office@peoplescongregational.org](mailto:office@peoplescongregational.org)  
[www.peoplescongregational.org](http://www.peoplescongregational.org)  @PCCBayport

### St Peter's United Church of Christ

Rev. Daniel Harrell, Interim Minister ~ [pastor@stpetersstillwater.org](mailto:pastor@stpetersstillwater.org)  
111 Orleans St. E, Stillwater MN 55082  
651-439-2160 / [office@stpetersstillwater.org](mailto:office@stpetersstillwater.org)  
[www.stpetersstillwater.org](http://www.stpetersstillwater.org)  @StPetersUnitedChurchofChrist

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GATHER

16

Come to the Water

♩=88

1. All who are thirst-y\_\_ for jus - tice, all who are thirst-y\_\_ for  
 2. All who are thirst-y\_\_ for mer - cy, all who are thirst-y\_\_ for  
 3. All who are thirst-y\_\_ for heal - ing, all who are thirst-y\_\_ for  
 4. All who are thirst-y\_\_ for beau - ty, all who are thirst-y\_\_ for

peace. All who are thirst - y\_\_ for peace, for jus - tice,  
 love. All who are thirst - y\_\_ for love, for mer - cy,  
 touch. All who are thirst - y\_\_ for touch, for heal - ing,  
 truth. All who are thirst - y\_\_ for truth, for beau - ty

come, come to\_\_ the wa - ter\_\_ of life.\_\_\_\_\_  
 come, come to\_\_ the wa - ter\_\_ of life.\_\_\_\_\_  
 come, come to\_\_ the wa - ter\_\_ of life.\_\_\_\_\_  
 come, come to\_\_ the wa - ter\_\_ of life.\_\_\_\_\_

5. All who are thirst-y\_\_ for free - dom, all who are thirst-y\_\_ for hope.  
 6. All who are thirst-y\_\_ for laugh - ter, all who are thirst-y\_\_ for joy.

All who are thirst - y\_\_ for hope, for free - dom, come,  
 All who are thirst - y\_\_ for joy, for laugh - ter, come,

come to\_\_ the wa - ter\_\_ of life.\_\_\_\_\_  
 come to\_\_ the wa - ter\_\_ of life.\_\_\_\_\_

## We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

*Ruth Duck, 1984; rev. 1989*

1 We can - not own the sun - lit sky, the  
 2 When bod - ies shiv - er in the night and,  
 3 God calls hu - man - i - ty to join as

moon, the flow - ers grow - ing, for we are part of  
 wea - ry, wait for morn - ing, when chil - dren have no  
 part - ners in cre - a - ting a fu - ture free from

all that is with - in life's riv - er flow - ing.  
 bread but tears, and war - horns sound their warn - ing,  
 want or fear, life's good - ness cel - e - brat - ing.

Tune: REJOICE, REJOICE 9.8.9.8.8.8.7.8.9.  
*Marty Haugen, 1983*

With o - pen hands re - ceive and share the gifts of God's cre -  
 God calls hu - man - i - ty to wake, to join in com - mon  
 That new world beck - ons from a - far, in - vites our shared en -

a - tion, that all may have a - bun - dant life in  
 la - bor, that all may have a - bun - dant life in  
 deav - or, that all may have a - bun - dant life and

ev - ery earth - ly na - tion.  
 one - ness with their neigh - bor.  
 peace en - dure for - ev - er.

RESPOND

120

# Dream God's Dream

♩ = 69

D C G D C G D Em7

Dream God's dream! Ho-ly

D/F# G Bm7

Spir - it\_\_\_ help us dream of a world where there is

F#m7 G Em7 A A/G

jus - tice\_\_\_ and where ev - 'ry one is free to

D/F# G Bm7 A

build and grow and love, and to sim - ply have e -

G D/F# Em7 Asus A7 D

-nough. The world will change, when we dream God's dream.

C G D C G D C G

1. I'm dream-ing\_\_\_ of a world where the col - or of one's
2. I'm dream-ing\_\_\_ of the call God is of - fer-ing to
3. I'm dream-ing\_\_\_ of the way that I want my life to

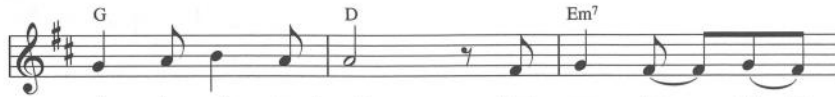
D C Em7 D

skin will mean less than\_\_\_ what's with - in the per - son's heart.  
 me, how to use my\_\_\_ en - er - gy and my best gifts;  
 go. I've got hope and\_\_\_ I've got goals I'd like to meet.

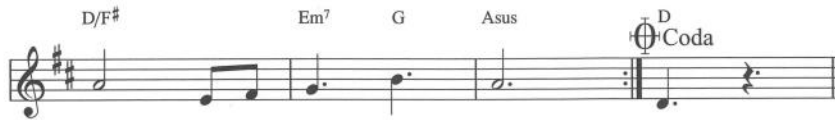
RESPOND



A world where wa - ter's clean and where  
to do the work of Christ to say  
I'm reach - ing for the stars, but I



air is safe to breathe. And ev - 'ry\_\_ chi - ld  
God, please use my life to spread Your\_\_ heal - ing  
won't for - get the scars of Christ who\_\_ died to



born has e - nough to eat. dream.  
love and to live Your truth.  
show that the dream's for all.