



November 19, 2023

“Will We  
Do Justice,  
Kindness and  
Love?”

Stewardship  
Sunday

### **Welcome!**

Name tags are in the Narthex, welcome forms in the pews  
Feel free to bring coffee and tea into worship  
Optional nursery care for infant - age 3 (downstairs, starts at 9:25)

## **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**

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

*Pierpoint*

*Acknowledging the light of Christ among us*

### **Words of Welcome**

\* = Sitting or standing

**\*Gathering Prayer** (*responsive*)

O Holy One, there is a place of faith deep inside of all of us—  
**A place of trusting, hopeful love; without which there can be no peace.**

We come this morning to worship you—  
**with trust that makes us vulnerable, with hope that guides us into the future, with love that is beyond our imagining.**

We come to connect with the place of faith deep inside us all.  
**We invite your Holy Spirit to enfold us and empower us as we seek to follow the way of Jesus. Amen.**

**\*Opening Song (SPP #26)**

“You Are Welcome Here”  
**verses 1 & 3**

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

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

**God of all, you present many opportunities to do justice, kindness, and love. Sometimes we step forward; sometimes we turn away. Sometimes we take paths that lead not toward you but away from you. We need you! Be with us on our journey. Help us to grow closer to you and to reach out to others in companionship, generosity, and solidarity. Creator, Revealer and Sustainer, we long to embody your love through our living. Amen.**

*...the singing bowl welcomes us into silent prayer*

**Assurance of Grace** (*responsive*)

**One:** The peace of Christ be with you!      **All:** And also with you!

**\*Passing the Peace**

*We first wave toward the Narthex camera — to those worshiping with us online.  
Then to those around us: smiles, hands at heart center or in peace signs.  
We might also offer a handshake.*

## 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...  
...let it shine, let it shine, oh let it shine.**

### **Singing “Happy Birthday”**

**Matthew Buck (14th), Mary Maren Bjork (19th), Rosaliah Hernandez (20th), Andi Favilla (21st), Bob Dickie (22nd), Sandi Lundgren (22nd), Emily Wulff (30th)**

### **Wondering Together**

#### **Blessing One Another**

*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...  
...let it shine, let it shine, oh let it shine.**

*Infant - age 3 | Nursery care available (9:25-10:30) downstairs  
PreK-Gr. 1, Gr. 2-4 | gather now for Sunday School downstairs  
Youth Group (gr. 5-12) | gathers now in the Resource Room upstairs  
We welcome sounds and movements of children who stay in worship.*

## Proclaiming God's Love

**A Reading from Hebrew Scriptures** | *NRSV—part 1, p. 547*

Psalm 90:1-8, 12

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

Micah 6:1-8

#### **Morning Message**

“Will We Do Justice, Kindness and Love?”

Pastor Clare Gromoll

## Responding To God's Love

**Prayer Song (SPP #66)**

**“Every Step of the Way”**  
**sung twice**

### **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 tell Pastor Clare 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.**

### **Witnessing Steward**

**Frank Cole**

*“What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8)*



Witnessing stewards (Oct. 29 – Nov. 19) invite us to wonder: How has participation in one of our predecessor congregations changed your life? Will you offer your gifts of money, energy, skill, and presence toward our efforts to positively impact lives in 2024?

## Invitation to the Offering

*We give by cash, check or electronically (scanning the QR code).  
Pledged gifts marked for a predecessor church are tracked accordingly.  
Loose offerings go to St. Croix United Church.*



### Offertory

**“It's a Song of Praise”**

*Klusmeter*

*Please come forward, placing in the giving basket your  
2024 Intended Giving Form and any offerings for today.*

*Blue Electronic Giving Cards and Welcome Forms also go in the giving basket*

### \*Offertory Response

**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**

### \*Prayer to Consecrate Our Shared Gifts for Ministry (*unison*)

**Generous God of all – you have empowered our commitments to give away portions of our financial resources. Bless now these intended gifts of gratitude, of investment, of trust. Bless them to support our ministry in the coming year. Inspired by your presence with us, we have covenanted together to embody your love as St. Croix United Church. May the gifts we give today and in the coming year move us toward deeper and fuller embodiment of your justice, kindness, and love. Amen.**

### Going Forth to Share God's Love

### \*Closing Hymn (NCH #562)

**“Take My Gifts”  
verses 1 & 3**

### \*Benediction

## \*Sending Song

*We form a circle around the perimeter of the Sanctuary.  
Some may choose to offer an elbow to link or a hand to hold.*

### 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

“Let it Shine and Show Peace Today”

Hamm

*Please join us downstairs after worship for fellowship,  
followed by our 10:45 Open and Affirming (ONA) learning session*



### **Our Open and Affirming (ONA) Journey**

*A faith-forming conversation for our whole congregation  
– members and friends!*

**TODAY, 10:45am** | A Visit with Rev. Nora P. Elliott (she/they)  
Nora will speak with us about her experience as a transgender person and about God as gender nonbinary or genderless.



### **A United Book Club**

**Nov. 29th, 6:30pm** | @ Church and Zoomed

Our Open and Affirming Task Force (focused on LGBTQ+ inclusivity) is teaming with our book club, inviting anyone to join us in reading:

**Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family** by Amy Ellis Nutt.

## PRAYER CORNER

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

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

\*We give thanks for the leadership of our **Harvest Fest Team** and for all community members who came out to support the event yesterday.

\*For **Linda Tossey**, who continues to navigate a difficult cancer diagnosis and was admitted to the hospital last week with a GI bleed. Prayers for healing energy to surround her after receiving a blood transfusion.

\*For love to continue surrounding **the family of young Naomi Garrett** (former student of Michael Bjork). Naomi passed away in her sleep from severe asthma. (To support the family, [www.gofundme.com](http://www.gofundme.com), search “Naomi Garrett”)

\*For **Addison Albright's former bus driver**, whose daughter died recently after a battle with depression. May they be comforted during this tragic time.

\*For **Bob Dickie and Cindy Parson's niece** who lives with mental health challenges and recently moved into a supportive facility. May she and all who struggle with mental health find the support they need.

\*For **Sam Gromoll**, who underwent an MRI on Friday to help his orthopedist understand the misalignment and instability in his knee.

\*For Pat's Mazzitello's son, **Myke**, continued healing after a successful surgery.

\*With Kathy Whiterabbit, we give thanks for our **Veterans** (including her brother **Jacob**) for the many sacrifices in body, mind, and spirit that they have made to serve and protect our country.

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

\*On this Transgender Day of Remembrance (Nov. 20th), we pray for those who have lost loved ones to acts of anti-transgender violence. And we pray for the well-being of our **transgender, nonbinary, and gender fluid neighbors**.

\*We sigh in relief as **our federal government** averted a shutdown.

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



**Mark your calendar!**

**Blood Drive**

**Dec. 22nd** | 9am—3pm

See Mid-Week News to register

OR call 1-800-733-2767

**Inquirer's Gathering** for newer and long-time friends alike... Come learn from lay leaders and Pastor Clare about the life and work of St. Croix United Church; an opportunity to explore deepening participation in our congregation.

Attending an Inquirers Gathering is one step in the membership process, but your attendance does not assume you feel ready to join. For those who are interested in membership, the second and final step before a New Member Sunday is a one-to-one conversation with Pastor Clare, sharing more about your faith journey and what you hope to experience as a member of our congregation.


Our next New Member Sunday will be Dec. 17 if there are persons who feel ready to join!

If you would like to attend our upcoming Inquirers Gathering (at church, with a Zoom option if helpful), please tell Pastor Clare any of these time that would work for you ([pastor@peoplescongregational.org](mailto:pastor@peoplescongregational.org), 651-600-6409):

Thursday, Nov. 30 | 5:30-6:45 pm  
Saturday, Dec. 2 | 10:00-11:15 am  
Sunday, Dec. 3 | 2:00-3:15 pm  
Wednesday, Dec. 6 | 6:30-7:45 pm  
Thursday, Dec. 7 | 6:30-7:45 pm

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Michael Bjork (Choir Director), SCUC Choir, Cheri Schwartz (greeter), Kathy Iverson (liturgist), Rory Staberg (acolyte), Kathy and Bob Iverson (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Lisa Culbertson (Childcare Provider), Carol Dusbabek, Claire Spilseth, Pat Mazzitello (PreK-Gr1), Chris Bordeaux (Gr2-4), Alisea Rangel (Sunday School Float), David Kirstein (Youth Group), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer, outdoor sign), Andi Favilla and Jenni Shaller (decorations)



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## You Are Welcome Here

26

$\text{♩} = 100$

G D G A D G/D D G A

You are wel-come here, no mat-ter who you are,

G A D G D C G A

no mat-ter where you are... on life's jour - ney... You are

D G/D D G A G A

wel-come here, no mat-ter who you are, come and

D G D G A D

join with us, we're u - ni-ted in the church of Christ.

A G D A D G D

1. Come now all peo - ple, join in the song, come be a part of the fam -
2. We pray for jus - tice; we pray for peace; we hear the word of the Sav -
3. Lift - ing each oth - er; do - ing what's right; stand - ing to - geth - er, what - ev -

G A A G D A D

- 'ly of God. We are God's peo - ple and you be - long,  
 - ior of all. We find God's mer - cy; we find re - lease,  
 - er may come; prais - ing our Sav - ior, shin - ing our light,

G A G/D D

share in the joy of Christ. You are  
 shar - ing the joy of Christ. You are  
 shar - ing the joy of Christ. You are

## Every Step of the Way

66

$\text{♩} = 128$   
F

C/E Dm C Bb Dm/A C/G Gsus G

Cmaj<sup>9</sup> G/B Am Am/G

Help me do the jus - tice to be

Dm<sup>7</sup> Gsus G C G/B

done to - day. Help me love kind -

Am Am/G Dm<sup>7</sup>

- ness in all I do and say.

Gsus G Em<sup>7</sup> F C<sup>#dim</sup> Dm<sup>7</sup> Gsus

— Help me walk hum-bly with you, O God I pray

G F

— ev - 'ry step of the way,

Dm<sup>7</sup> C/E F/G C

— ev - 'ry step of the way.

Based on Micah 6:8.

Words and Music: Christopher Grundy

Music arrangement: Christopher Grundy and Gregory Milton

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# Take My Gifts

562

Shirley Erena Murray, 1991

1 Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,  
2 Take the fruit that I have gath - ered from the tree your Spir - it sowed,  
3 Take what - ev - er I can of - fer— gifts that I have yet to find,

gave me light and food and shel - ter, gave me life and set me free,  
har - vest of your own com - pas - sion, juice that makes the wine of God,  
skills that I am slow to sharp - en, tal - ents of the hand and mind,

now be - cause your love has touched me, I have love to give a - way,  
spiced with hu - mor, laced with laugh - ter— fla - vor of the Je - sus life,  
things made beau - ti - ful for oth - ers in the place where I must be:

now the bread of love is ris - ing, loaves of love to mul - ti - ply!  
tang of risk and new ad - ven - ture, taste and zest be - yond be - lief.  
take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.