



November 5, 2023

"What Impact
Does
Integrity Have?"

All Saints Sunday

Welcome! Name tags are in the Narthex.

Welcome forms in the pews: request prayer, update contact info, join email list.

9am coffee available in the Narthex. Feel free to bring it 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

Ring of the Bell

Prelude and Candle Lighting

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

Dykes

Acknowledging the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome

***Opening Hymn (NCH #564)**

"We Are Not Our Own"

verses 1, 3 & 5

* = Sitting or standing

Acknowledging Our Need for God's Grace

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

Loving God — for all the saints, we give you thanks—
For grandparents and godparents, healthcare workers, teachers and other public servants.

For all the saints, we give you thanks—
For authors of books that have moved us, for friends whose advice has guided us, for strangers who have set examples, for children who have given us courage.

For all the saints, we give you thanks—
For the nearest and farthest away, for those who have died and those who are living, for those who knew they made a difference and those who will never know. For all the saints, we give you thanks.

You call us again and again to be your saints—your holy people in the here and now.

As we remember those saints who have nurtured, supported, loved, and challenged us; may we strive to follow in the way of your 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 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.

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”

Jennifer Halvorsen-Albright (2nd), Michele Stephan (6th), Eric Vandre (7th), Debi Orff (9th), Pat Mazzitello (10th), Andre Harrison (10th), Rev. Fritz West (10th)

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 for Sunday School 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) | Nursery care available (9:25-10:30) downstairs
Children in PreK-Gr. 1 | gather for Sunday School downstairs
Older children (Gr. 2-4) & Youth Group (gr. 5-12) | remain in worship
We welcome sounds and movements of children who stay in worship.*

Proclaiming God's Love

A Reading from Hebrew Scriptures | *The Inclusive Bible*

Micah 3:4-12

A Reading from the Gospels | *The Inclusive Bible*

Matthew 23:1-12

Morning Message

“What Impact Does Integrity Have?”

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

Witnessing Steward

Wendy Staberg (read by Kaira Bettin)

“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

Greeters pass offering plates at this time

We give by cash, check or electronically (scanning the QR code)

Pledged gifts marked for one of our predecessor churches are tracked accordingly. Loose offerings go to St. Croix United Church.

Blue Giving Cards and Welcome Forms also go in the plate



Offertory

“Oh, the Glory of Your Presence”

S. Fry

*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!**

All Saints Sunday Ritual

Call to Remembrance (*responsive*)

In the morning and in the evening, may your love be ours, God,
may your love be ours to know.

In the morning and in the dying, may your love be ours, God,
may your love be ours to know.

In the beginning and in the ending, may your love be ours, God,
may your love be ours to know.

In the speaking and in the silence, may your love be ours, God,
may your love be ours forever and ever. Amen.

Remembering Those Who Have Died

Members & Friends of St. Croix United Church:

Gary McLaughlin, Ken Knutson, Barb Bachmeier, Cynthia West

Beloved Ones in our Wider Circles:

Molly Birch, *Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux's mom*

Janna Neperud, *Lori Mildon's sister*

Al Soukup, *Rolf Dittmann's friend*

Barb Huwe, *Mary Maren Bjork's friend*

Gina Spencer, *Sharon Binger's friend*

Peter Hintze, *Jesse Hintze's father*

Betty Julin, *John Norheim's mother*

Kenneth Schutt, *Carol Dusbabek's father*

Doug Rymerson, *Nat Graf's uncle*

Angela Burnett, *Wendy Staberg's niece*

Diane Sue LoneTree, *Kathy Whiterabbit's sister and "Nuunu"*

Vincent Killen, *father to Dave and Wendy Staberg's oldest three grandchildren*

Bob Kirsopp, *Mary Binger's Australian AFS (study abroad) dad*

Matthew Forrest, *friend in the Gromoll family's Lowe Syndrome community*

Bree Leopold, *friend in the Gromoll family's Lowe Syndrome community*

Tony Soto, *a homeless youth who received services from the Connect Center*

All our homeless Minnesotan neighbors who have died this year

Prayer for Living Saints (*unison*)

O Holy One, Source of all life – we give you thanks for your children just named, now at peace in your communion of saints. We remember the best of what they offered to us – acts of love and care, their talent and energies shared with us in the work of love.

We also remember with compassion those times when they failed to show love or made mistakes. In their humanness, they still reflected the journey we all share – becoming more fully what you intend us to become.

Hold their loved ones in your continued care. Bring comfort at times of sadness, assurance at times when the way seems unclear, and deeper gratitude for the gifts of this life – even in the midst of ongoing grief and sorrow.

We give thanks for all that sustains the work we love to do as a church. We ask for courage to move on in faith as today and future days summon our best. In the name of Jesus the Christ, the one we follow and through whom we find you. 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 (*responsive*)**

God be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to the God of 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 members of creation forever proclaiming your glory. Amen.

Words of Remembrance and Blessing

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

6 people at a time gather around the welcome table.
Take (and hold) a piece of (gluten-free) bread and a small cup of juice.
Partake together as you receive words of blessing.
Place your empty cup in a receptacle on either front row pew.

Musical Interlude

“Arioso”

Bach

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

O God, we give thanks that you have refreshed us at your table, touched our deepest needs, and called us to a life shared in memory and hope. Send us forth with courage and joy in the name of Jesus the Christ—that we, too, may become bread and peace for one another and the world. Amen.

Going Forth to Share God’s Love

***Closing Hymn (NCH #299)**

“For All the Saints”
verses 1, 3-4

***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.*

**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”

Dosia Carlson

*Please join us downstairs immediately after worship for fellowship and
10:40 Open and Affirming (ONA) learning session (see insert)*

PRAYER CORNER

Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:

For persons known to us...

*For love to surround the family of **Naomi** (a bright light of joy, former student of Michael Bjork), who passed away in her sleep from severe asthma.

*For **Lori Mildon's friend**, whose son died by suicide this week. Prayers for love to surround them in their overwhelming loss and grief.

*For **Barb Hilliard**, continued healing after hospitalization with sepsis. We give thanks that foreign objects have now been removed from her esophagus.

*Prayers for **patience and grace** in the midst of life's challenges.


*For **Pastor Daniel** as he steps into his next chapter - continuing as a therapist, chef's assistant, and dad while exploring what comes next.

*With Mary Maren Bjork, we pray for **the family of little Mocha**, a dog who died last week.

*Celebrating anniversaries: **Megan and Mike Adams** (Nov. 1st), **Sue and Mike Favilla** (Nov. 2nd)

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Michael Bjork (Choir Director), SCUC Choir, Kathy and Bob Iverson (greeters), Maya Solano-Klisch (youth greeter), Jill Greenhalgh (liturgist), Mindy Peters (communion preparer & server, fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Lisa Culbertson (Childcare Provider), Carol Dusbabek, Claire Spilseth, Kim Klisch (PreK-Gr1), Naomi Kirstein (Sunday School Float), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer, outdoor sign), Andi Favilla and Jenni Shaller (decorations)



St. Croix United Church
Rev. Clare Gromoll, Pastor
pastor@peoplescongregational.org
309 Third St. N, Bayport MN 55003-1028
(651) 439-5667 / office@peoplescongregational.org
www.peoplescongregational.org  @PCCBayport

CREDITS & PERMISSIONS | **Prayer of Confession and Longing** reprinted or adapted by permission of the publisher from *Before the Amen: Creative Resources for Worship*, ed. Maren C. Tirabassi & Maria I Tirabassi. Copyright © 2007 The Pilgrim Press. **Call to Remembrance, Prayer for Living Saints** authors unknown. **Prayer of Thanksgiving** reprinted from *Flames of the Spirit: Resources for Worship* by Ruth C. Duck. Copyright © 1985 Pilgrim Press. **Scripture Readings** from the *Inclusive Bible*. Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-703858. All rights reserved.

We Are Not Our Own

564

Brian Wren, 1987

Unison

1 We are not our own. Earth forms us, hu-man leaves on na-ture's grow-ing
2 We are not a-lone. Earth names us: past and pres-ent, peo-ples near and
3 Through a hu-man life God finds us; dy-ing, liv-ing, love is ful-ly
4 There-fore let us make thanks-giv-ing, and with jus-tice, will-ing and a-

vine, Fruit of man-y gen-er-a-tions, seeds of life di-vine.
far, fam-i-ly and friends and strang-ers show us who we are.
known, and in bread and wine re-minds us: we are not our own.
ware, give to earth, and all things liv-ing, lit-ur-gies of care.

5 And if love's en-coun-ters lead us
on a way un-cer-tain and un-known,
All the saints with prayer sur-round us:
we are not a-lone.

6 Let us be a house of wel-come,
liv-ing stone up-hold-ing liv-ing stone,
Glad-ly show-ing all our neigh-bors
we are not our own!

This hymn was commissioned for the tenth anniversary of the Liturgical Studies Program of Drew University, New Jersey, in 1987. Brian Wren's melody came to him early on in the writing process and was helpful in the creation of the final hymn text.

Tune: YARNTON 8.9.8.5.
Brian Wren, 1987
Arr. Fred Graham, 1987

Copyright © 1989 by Hope Publishing Company

Every Step of the Way

66

$\text{♩} = 128$
F C/E Dm C B \flat Dm/A C/G Gsus G

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo of 128. It consists of seven staves of music. The first staff is a whole rest. The second staff begins with a repeat sign and contains the melody for the first line of lyrics. The third staff continues the melody for the second line. The fourth staff continues for the third line. The fifth staff continues for the fourth line. The sixth staff continues for the fifth line. The seventh staff concludes the piece with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Help me do the jus - tice to be
done to - day. Help me love kind -
ness in all I do and say.
Help me walk hum - bly with you, O God I pray
ev - 'ry step of the way,
ev - 'ry step of the way.

Chords for the second staff: Cmaj⁹ G/B Am Am/G

Chords for the third staff: Dm⁷ Gsus G C G/B

Chords for the fourth staff: Am Am/G Dm⁷

Chords for the fifth staff: Gsus G Em⁷ F C \sharp dim Dm⁷ Gsus

Chords for the sixth staff: G F

Chords for the seventh staff: Dm⁷ C/E F/G C

Based on Micah 6:8.

Words and Music: Christopher Grundy

Music arrangement: Christopher Grundy and Gregory Milton

Copyright ©2004 Local Church Ministries, United Church of Christ. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Heb. 12:1

William W. How, 1864; alt.

1 For all the saints who from their labors rest, who to the
 2 You were their rock, their refuge, and their might: you, Christ, the
 3 Still may your people, faithful, true, and bold, live as the
 4 Ringed by this cloud of witnesses divine, we feebly
 5 And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long, steals on the

world their steadfast faith confessed, your name, O Jesus,
 hope that put their fears to flight; 'mid gloom and doubt, you
 saints who nobly fought of old, and share with them a
 struggle, they in glory shine; yet in your love our
 ear the distant triumph song, then hearts are brave a -

be for - ev - er blessed.
 were their one true light.
 glorious crown of gold. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 faith - ful lives en - twine.
 gain, and faith grows strong.

This traditional All Saints Day hymn originally consisted of eleven stanzas written for the Sarum Hymnal (1869) and set to a tune by that name, Sarum. It has grown in popularity since it was later paired with the enduring Sine Nomine in The English Hymnal (1906).

Tune: SINE NOMINE 10.10.10.4.
 Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Our Open and Affirming (ONA) Journey

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

November 5, 12 & 19 | 10:45-11:30am



Open and Affirming (ONA) is the United Church of Christ's designation for congregations, campus ministries, and other bodies in the UCC which make a public covenant of welcome into their full life and ministry to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. (ucc.org)

St. Peter's UCC was an ONA-designated congregation. In merger, we agreed that our new church would engage in an ONA process. This fall we will learn, craft a fresh ONA covenant, seek to adopt it by congregational vote, and live into it.

Please participate in these Adult Faith Conversations as we deepen and expand inclusive empowerment of people with all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. Our worship services will conclude by 10:20, then 15-20 minutes of Fellowship Time will lead into each week's learning session.



Nov. 5 | Why? What? Who? – Words Matter!

We will explore and build shared vocabulary around sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. We will place concepts such as gender dysphoria and practices such as the use of personal pronouns in conversation with our faith-based values. Bring your questions with you!

Turn over for more...

Continued...

Nov. 12 | Taking a Closer Look

We will surface and explore questions in small groups, sharing our own experiences with sexual orientation and gender diversity. We will harness the power of personal stories to break through the fragility of confusion and discomfort.

Nov. 19 | 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. They are an openly trans woman, an ordained UCC minister, a member of UCC New Brighton, an Associate Pastor for St. Luke Presbyterian Church in Minnetonka, wife to Laura, and a parent of two adorable little rebels.



A United Book Club | Nov. 29th 6:30pm
Hybrid: Church and Zoom



Our Open and Affirming Task Force and our book club invite everyone to read **Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family** by Amy Ellis Nutt.

It is the story of Nicole Maines, born with an identical twin brother, who started affirming her identity as a girl when a toddler.

RSVP to: office@peoplescongregational.org
Valley Bookseller in Stillwater has copies for 15% off!