



December 3, 2023

"In What Ways
Do We Need
Restoration?"

First Sunday
of Advent

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 "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" Prichard

Acknowledging the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome

Opening Song (SPP #20) "Waiting for You"
cantors sing once, then all sing together

* = Sitting or standing

Advent Candle Liturgy (*responsive*)

We come to this season of Advent and gather around... We are empowered by the advent of Emmanuel, God with Us, because of whom Isaiah prophesied no bruised reed would be broken nor dimly burning wick quenched until justice fills all that lives and grows. We light the candle of HOPE for Earth and air and seas, for the creatures dwelling among us and the plants alive with God's Spirit. Let us pray: **Emmanuel, we celebrate the Advent of the past with its precious words and traditions, and we light an Advent of new hope for all the seasons of your children. Amen.**

***Sung Response**

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

traditional carol, words by Maren Tirabassi

**O Come, O come Emmanuel
make true the stories prophets tell –
so all those chained by fear find release,
and, war forgotten, bring a world of peace.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
is come to birth where all God's children dwell.**

Acknowledging Our Need for God's Grace

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

O God – you are the ever-present, ever-loving, ever-compassionate power that governs the world. Like generations before us, we fail in our efforts to live out your peace and harmony. As in Isaiah's time, we become unclean. Our righteous deeds become as filthy cloths. Yet you are Father, Mother, and Potter. You fashion us from clay in your holy image. In these silent moments, hear the sighing of our spirits as we lay open our hearts to you. Mold us anew, O God. Recreate a right image within us. 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 – to those with us online
To those around us: we offer a smile, peace sign, or 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”

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 | gather now 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 | *NRSV*—part 1, p694 Isaiah 64:1-9

A Reading from *Psalms for Praying* Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19 (*paraphrased*)

Morning Message

"In What Ways Do We Need Restoration?"

Responding To God's Love

Prayer Song (SPP #128)

**“Change My Heart, O God”
verses 1-2**

Prayers of the People

*We share aloud prayers for ourselves, others, and parts of the world
We add them to our Prayer Corner (tell Pastor Clare if you don't want yours printed)*

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.

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

Shared Ministry Inventory (*an annual spiritual practice*)

Our Nominating Team invites all members and friends to complete our Shared Ministry Inventory during the Offertory. ***Place your completed inventory in a marked basket*** at either exit as you depart. Thank you!

***Offertory Response (NCH #128)** “In the Bleak Midwinter”

**What can I offer, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise one, I would do my part;
but what can I offer: all my heart.**

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

*3-4 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 empty cups in receptacles on either front row pew.*

Sung Response (NCH #330)

“Let Us Break Bread Together”
all verses

***Litany of Thanksgiving** (*responsive*)

Long ago, people watched and waited for a Savior to bring Good News in the midst of great difficulty.

Reading the signs, they went to Bethlehem, which means “place where bread is baked.”

Like them, we too watch for signs and hunger for the Bread of Life. **Nourished and strengthened by this Christ Bread and Cup today, we give thanks. May we embody Christ to all who need Good News. Amen!**

Going Forth to Share God’s Love

***Closing Hymn (NCH #121)**

“Toda la Tierra/All Earth Is Waiting”
vs. 1 in Spanish, then vs. 1 in English

***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*

“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**

“May the Blessing”

Winter

Today Following Worship:

10:30 am | All are welcome in the Fellowship Hall (downstairs)
for treats, beverages, and good company!

11 am | Faith Conversations (an adult forum, childcare provided)
Naomi Kirsten leads in “exploring the first chapter of John to inspire us to find the Word or a word that can lead us to a deeper sense of personal wholeness and understanding of ourselves, others, and our world. Being able to see again is the treasure, the gift we search, and long for in this Advent Season. Our hope is that together we may catch a glimpse of new meanings in an old ancient story.”

Thanks for all submitted Intended Giving Forms!

Thus far, 27 giving units are intending \$100,100.

Our goal zone for 2024 giving is \$165-200k.

If you are a member or friend who anticipates offering financial support in 2024, **please turn in your form at your soonest convenience.** This helps our Finance Committee and Leadership Council make plans for what ministry will be possible in 2024.

(Stewardship packets in Narthex.)

Goal Zone: \$165,000 - \$200,000



Help us stock the **Free Little Pantry**
by placing items in the grocery cart in the Narthex.

Needed: summer sausage, tuna packets, boxed grains, boxed pastas, cereal, oatmeal, granola bars, snack crackers, dried fruit, beef jerky

**Please note that protein and high-quality items are preferred
**Cardboard and plastic packages (no glass or metal during winter)*

Christmas Solstice and Christmas Eve Services

“Light in the Darkness: A Contemplative Christmas Solstice Service”

Dec. 21 | 7pm

Acknowledging both difficult & nurturing darkness, we honor what is and what may be... God with us in both.

Christmas Eve Services

3pm (special music) and 10pm (choral music)



PRAYER CORNER

Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:

For persons known to us...

- *With the Stephans, we celebrate Michelle's mother, **Dorothy's** 102nd birthday!
- *For Pat Mazzitello and Nat Graf's daughter-in-law, **Jessy**, who fell on Thanksgiving and broke a toe - we pray for smooth surgery and healing.
- *For Sharri Kinhead's son Peter's friend, **Lucas**, who was recently in a terrible accident that left him in a coma - we pray for healing energy and recovery.
- *For Kathy Whiterabbit's brother, **Jacob**, exposed to Agent Orange and currently battling an infection. And for **all veterans**, access to physical and mental health resources that support them in living full lives after bravely serving our country.
- *For Bob and Cheri Schwartz's granddaughter **Beatrice** and Bea's mother **Amanda** - physical, mental, and spiritual wellbeing in the midst of stressful circumstances.

And in the wider community...

- *A prayer of thanks for the rescue of the **41 workers in India** who were trapped in a tunnel for two weeks!

Mark your calendar for the next Blood Drive!


Dec. 22nd | 9am—3pm

See Mid-Week News to register OR call 1-800-733-2767



Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Michael Bjork (Choir Director), SCUC Choir, Kathy and Bob Iverson, Rory Staberg (greeters), Mary Maren Bjork (liturgist), Lori Mildon (flute), Mindy Peters (communion preparer and server), Cindy Parsons (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  @SCUCBayport

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Waiting for You

20

♩=110

We are wait - ing for you, know - ing that you_

al - ways a - bide,___ we are wak - ing_ to your pres - ence

and our hearts are___ o - pen wide,

o - pen_ wide.____ o - pen_ wide.

Words and Music: Christopher Grundy

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RESPOND

128

Change My Heart, O God

$\text{♩} = 100$
C

G/B F/A Dm Gsus C F/G

C B/G F/A Dm G7 Am Em7/G

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Change my heart, O God,___ | make it ev - er true. ___ |
| *2. Cleanse my soul, O God,___ | wash it with your grace. ___ |
| *3. Stir my mind, O God,___ | move it to be - lieve. ___ |
| *1. Change our hearts, O God,___ | make them ev - er true. ___ |
| *2. Cleanse our souls, O God,___ | wash them with your grace. ___ |
| *3. Stir our minds, O God,___ | move them to be - lieve. ___ |

Fmaj7 Cmaj7/E Dm G7 C G7/B

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Change my heart, O God,___ | may I be like you. ___ |
| Cleanse my soul, O God,___ | ten - der your em - brace. ___ |
| Stir my mind, O God,___ | help me to per - ceive. ___ |
| Cleanse our hearts, O God,___ | may we be like you. ___ |
| Cleanse our souls, O God,___ | ten - der your em - brace. ___ |
| Stir our minds, O God,___ | help us to per - ceive. ___ |

Chorus

Esus E Am Dm G Am Gadd9

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| You are the Pot - ter, | I am the clay. ___ |
| You are the Pot - ter, | we are the clay. ___ |

F E Am Dm G/D D G Gsus G

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Mold me and make___ me, | this is what I pray. |
| Mold us and make___ us, | this is what we pray. |

C G/B F/A Dm Am

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Change my heart, O God,___ | make it ev - er true. ___ |
| Change our hearts, O God,___ | make them ev - er true. ___ |

RESPOND

F Dm⁷ Gsus C G

Change my heart, O God, ___ may I be like you. ___
Change our hearts, O God. ___ may we be like you. ___

Esus E 3 Am Dm A

You are the Pot - ter, I am the clay. ___
You are the Pot - ter, we are the clay. ___

Esus E 3 Am Gsus/D D G

Mold me and make ___ me, this is what I pray.
Mold us and make ___ us, this is what we pray.

C G/B F/A Dm G⁷ Am Em/G

Change my heart, O God, ___ make it ev-er true. ___
Change our hearts, O God, ___ make them ev-er true. ___

F Cmaj⁷/E Dm G C

Change my heart, O God, ___ may I be like you. ___
Change our hearts, O God, ___ may we be like you. ___

*Words in italics are new lyrics and have been added with permission of the publisher.

Words (verse 1) and Music: Eddie Espinosa
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In the Bleak Midwinter

Christina G. Rossetti, 1872; alt.

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Our God tran-scends all heav - en, earth, and its do - main;
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath-ered there,
 4 What can I of - fer, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a-way when Christ comes to reign;
 cher - u - bim and ser - a-phim thronged the mid - night air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb.

Snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 In the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed the
 But his moth - er on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
 If I were a wise one, I would do my part; but

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 sov - ereign God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
 what can I of - fer: all my heart.

Christina Rossetti has portrayed the Christmas story, not in warm Bethlehem, but in the winter of her native England. Rossetti was an accomplished writer of poetry and prose, noted for her deep spirituality.

Tune: CRANHAM Irr.
 Gustav Holst, 1906

HOLY COMMUNION

330

Let Us Break Bread Together

Acts 2:42

African-American spiritual

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
 * 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
 3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,

* "Share the cup" may be substituted for "drink wine."

The earliest version of this spiritual probably began with the current stanza three, and was a song some of the enslaved in Virginia used when gathering for secret meetings. The communion stanzas were added some time after the Civil War.

Tune: LET US BREAK BREAD
 10.10. with refrain
 Harm. David Hurd, 1983

Toda la Tierra

(All Earth Is Waiting)

Isa. 40:3-5; Luke 3:4-6; Matt. 1:23

Alberto Taulé, 1972; alt.
Transl. Gertrude C. Suppe, 1987; alt.

Unison

D D/F# Em A7 D F#m

1 To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor y el sur - co a - bier - to, la
2 Di - ce el pro - fe - ta al pue - blo de Is - ra - el: "De ma - dre vir - gen ya
1 All earth is wait - ing to see the Prom - ised One, and o - pen fur - rows, the
2 Thus says the proph - et to those of Is - ra - el, "A vir - gin moth - er will

G A Bm F#m G D

o - bra del Crea - dor; es el mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad,
vie - ne Em - ma - nuel," se - rá "Dios con no - so - tros," se - mi - lla se - rá,
sow - ing of our God. All the world, bound and strug - gling, seeks true lib - er - ty;
bear Em - man - u - el": One whose name is "God with us," our Sav - ior shall be,

Bm F#m Em A7 Em A7 D

re - cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. (4 dar - nos li - ber - tad.)
con él la es - pe - ran - za al mun - do vol - ve - rá.
it cries out for jus - tice and search - es for the truth. (4 brings us lib - er - ty.)
through whom hope will blos - som once more with - in our hearts.

Alberto Taulé, composer and author of this new Advent hymn, has served as a parish priest and music editor for the Roman Catholic Church in Spain. This hymn was his first to be published in the United States.

Tune: TAULE 11.11.12.12.
Alberto Taulé, 1972
Harm. Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1988