



December 17, 2023

“What Does Your
Soul Proclaim?”

Third 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 “Do You Hear What I Hear?” *Regney/Shayne*

Acknowledging the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome

Opening Song (SPP #20) "Waiting for You"
sung twice

SPP = *Sing! Prayer and Praise*

* = Sitting or standing

NCH = *New Century Hymnal*

Advent Candle Liturgy (*responsive*)

We come to this season of Advent and gather around...

We light the candle of HOPE...

We light the candle of PEACE...

We light the candle of JOY... Let us pray:

Emmanuel, we celebrate your Advent in Jesus with precious words and traditions. And we light an Advent of new hope in this time and place. Amen.

Sung Response

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

traditional carol, chorus by Maren Tirabassi

**O come, Desire of Nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
Make envy, strife, and quarrels cease;
fill the whole world with heaven’s peace.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
is come to birth where all God’s children dwell.**

Choral Anthem

“Be Still”

Karen Marrolli

Acknowledging Our Need for God’s Grace

Prayer of Confession and Longing (*unison*)

God of all, we find ourselves in this season of watchful preparation. We hear hope and joy raised in song, praising the story of Jesus’ birth. We feel embraced by your peace in the stillness of quiet moments. We feel your love when you invite Mary to not be afraid, even in the midst of a terrifying thing. Be with us as we prepare to receive Christ into our hearts once again this Christmas. When we forget to have grace with ourselves and others, remind us of your forgiveness and acceptance for all people. 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 those worshiping with us online
To those around us: we offer a smile, peace sign, or 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"

**Michael Favilla (17th), Milan Horak (17th), Peter Favilla (17th),
Rory Staberg (18th)**

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 the Gospels | *The Inclusive Bible*

Luke 1:26b-56

Morning Message

"What Does Your Soul Proclaim?"

Responding To God's Love

Prayer Song (SPP #201)

**“Deep Peace”
all verses**

Prayers of the People

*We briefly 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)

**Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,
Holy and blessed is your true name.
We pray for your reign of peace to come,
We pray that your good will be done,
Let heaven and Earth become one.
Give us this day the bread we need,
Give it to those who have none.
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,
From each one to each one.
Lead us to holy innocence
Beyond the evil of our days —
Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:
Forever your name is All in One. 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.



After-Worship Fellowship

*All are welcome to join us in the Fellowship Hall
for treats, beverages, and good company!*

Today Following Worship:

11 am | Park Land Listening Session (*Fellowship Hall, childcare provided*)

PRAYER CORNER

Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:

For persons known to us...

*For **Cindy Parsons' and Bob Dickie's niece** as she continues to struggle with mental health.

*For several **members and friends** recovering from COVID infections.

*For **Mary Ann Litfin's fiance John** as he struggles with cancer treatments and for Mary Ann as she accompanies him.

*With Megan Adams, we pray for her friend **Farrah and her family** as they navigate grief and logistics in the aftermath of a house fire.

*With Mary Maren Bjork, we pray that love will surround her cousin **Jan** as she grieves the recent death of her husband, Larry (from complications from pneumonia on top of cancer).

*With Bob Schwartz, we give thanks as granddaughter **Bea** returns to Kindergarten and continue to pray for her well-being.

*With **Jere Fetter**, we give thanks for the return of strength and continued healing.

And in the wider community...

*With Aidan Gromoll, we give thanks that a charity with which she has volunteered opened a second kitchen on Dec. 8th - serving 1000-2000 meals daily near **Gaza** (with shelling in the background).

*For all **caregivers**, we pray strength, resilience, and support as they care for loved ones.

*For **all who struggle with mental health challenges** as well as with **grief** during the holidays. May empathy and other vital resources surround all of us.

Mark your calendar for the next Blood Drive!

Dec. 22nd | 9am—3pm

Register by calling 1-800-733-2767 OR at RedCrossBlood.org, enter “Bayport”

Volunteers needed:

8-9am | Setup (welcome Red Cross staff, hold doors open, etc.)

11am-1pm | Greeters (check-in, show people where to go)

1pm-3pm | Greeters

3-4pm | Tear-down (available to assist Red Cross staff)



Call or email Megan to volunteer: office@peoplescongregational.org



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)*

A few volunteers are still needed for our Christmas Services

Christmas Solstice | Dec. 21st | 7pm

1 liturgist

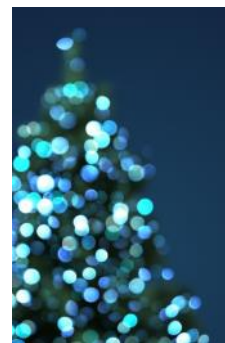
Early Christmas Eve | Dec. 24th | 3pm

1 liturgist, 1 greeter, youth greeter

Late Christmas Eve | Dec. 24th | 10pm

2 greeters

Sign-up in the Fellowship Hall, or by contacting Megan (651-439-5667).



Thanks for all 2024 Intended Giving Forms!

Thus far, 32 giving units (individuals and households) are intending \$126,100. 32 is approximately half the number of giving units funding our ministry in 2023.

If you are a member or friend who anticipates offering financial support in 2024, **please turn in your form before year end.** This will help our leaders finalize a budget (what ministry will be possible). (*Giving Forms in Narthex.*)



Christmas Solstice and Christmas Eve

Light in the Darkness: A Contemplative Christmas Solstice Service

Dec. 21, 7 pm

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

Early Christmas Eve | 3 pm
carols, candlelight, readings, special music

Late Christmas Eve | 10 pm
carols, candlelight, readings, choral music

Join us for any upcoming event.

You may find what you're looking for in our vibrant little congregation!

www.peoplescongregational.org | 651-439-5667

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Michael Bjork (Choir Director), SCUC Choir, Jill Greenhalgh and Kim Klisch (greeters), Maya Solano-Klisch (youth greeter), Addison Albright (acolyte), Rolf Dittmann (liturgist), Cheri Schwartz and Lori Mildon (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Lisa Culbertson (Childcare Provider), Carol Dusbabek, Claire Spilseth, Kathy Iverson (PreK-Gr1), Chris Bordeaux (Gr2-4), Jackie Savage (Sunday School Float), David Kirstein (Youth Group), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer, outdoor sign), Andi Favilla and Jenni Shaller (decorations)




St. Croix United Church

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Waiting for You

20

$\text{♩} = 110$

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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Deep Peace

$\text{♩} = 44$

G D Em Bm C G/B Cmaj⁷ D

1. Peace, peace, deep peace, my peace I give to you. _____
 2. Love, love, strong love, my love I give to you. _____
 3. Joy, joy, great joy, my joy I give to you. _____

E Bm⁷ Cmaj⁷ Gmaj⁷ Cmaj⁷ D G

Peace, peace, deep peace, my peace I give to you. _____
 Love, love, strong love, my love I give to you. _____
 Joy, joy, great joy, my joy I give to you. _____

Em Bm⁷ Cmaj⁷ G Am⁷

Not as the world gives, I give to you, not as the
 Not as the world gives, I give to you, not as the
 Not as the world gives, I give to you, not as the

B¹¹ B B⁷ Em D G D Em

world gives, I give to you. Peace, peace, deep
 world gives, I give to you. Love, love, strong
 world gives, I give to you. Joy, joy, great

Bm C Am⁷ Bm/D D⁷ G Am/G G

peace, my peace I give to you. _____
 love, my love I give to you. _____
 joy, my joy I give to you. _____

My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise

106

Ruth Duck, 1985

Luke 1:46-55

A D A/E E7 A

1 My heart sings out with joy - ful praise to God who rais - es me,
 2 The arm of God is strong and just to scat - ter all the proud.
 3 The prom - ise made in a - ges past at last has come to be,

A D A/E E7 A

Who came to me when I was low and changed my des - ti - ny.
 The ty - rants tum - ble from their thrones and van - ish like a cloud.
 for God has come in power to save, to set all peo - ple free.

E A D E7 A E

The Ho - ly One, the Liv - ing God, is al - ways full of grace
 The hun - gry all are sat - is - fied; the rich are sent a - way.
 Re - mem - bering those who wait to see sal - va - tion's dawn - ing day,

A D A/E E7 A

To those who seek their Mak - er's will in ev - ery time and place.
 The poor of earth who suf - fer long will wel - come God's new day.
 Our Sav - ior comes to all who weep to wipe their tears a - way.

The "Magnificat," a traditional text for evening prayer as well as Advent, is paraphrased here by Ruth Duck. She developed it to make the ancient rite of evening prayer available to her own worshipping communities.

Tune: MARIAS LOVSÅNG C.M.D.
 Swedish folk melody

Alternate tunes: ELLACOMBE, TALLIS' THIRD