

January 14, 2024

“Will We Receive
and Trust God’s
Affirmation?”

Baptism of Christ
Sunday

Martin Luther King, Jr.
Day

Welcome!

Name tags are in Narthex

Feel free to bring coffee and tea into worship

Restrooms: main level (exit front right), lower level (at foot of Narthex stair/elevator)

Optional nursery care (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

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude and Candle Lighting “The Words in Your Heart”

Unknown

We acknowledge the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome

SPP = *Sing! Prayer and Praise*

* = Sitting or standing

NCH = *New Century Hymnal*

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

Water!	Life making. Body filling. World changing!
Spirit!	Life making. Soul filling. World changing!
Child of God!	Life making. Spirit filling. World changing!
Created by Love.	Created to love. Water. Spirit. Children of God.
Together in this place.	Remembering who we are.
Worshiping God.	Shining Light!

***Opening Song** (SPP #84)

“All My Days ”
all verses

Acknowledging Our Need for God’s Grace

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

God of all, we recognize that we hurt our loved ones and ourselves, turn our backs to avoid confronting uncomfortable realities, and inflict hurt in reaction to our own hurt. We confess our sins, knowing we sometimes miss the mark of love. Yet even as we speak these words, we feel your loving presence continuing to fill our lives and this community. Baptize us with the fire of your truth. Wash over us with your Spirit – that we may serve you in serving humanity. Make us strong and tender – that we may live more as you would have us live. In the name of Jesus, your Christ, we pray. 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 to those worshipping with us online
Then to those around us: smiles, peace signs, handshakes*

A Time With Children and Youth

Sung Invitation

...as 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”

**Avery Albright (7th - 3 yrs), Dennis Albright (10th),
Hannah Wulff (13th - 7 yrs), Wilkie Bjork (16th - 3 yrs), Claire Bjork (19th)**

Wondering Together

Blessing One Another

...with arms wide open

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 downstairs
PreK-Gr. 1, Gr. 2-5 | gather now for Sunday School downstairs
Youth Group (gr. 6-12) | gathers now in the Corner Meeting Room upstairs
We welcome sounds and movements of children in worship*

Proclaiming God's Love

A Reading from Hebrew Scriptures | *The Inclusive Bible*

1 Samuel 3:1-10

A Reading from the Gospels | *NRSV*

Mark 11:1-11

Morning Message

“Will We Receive and Trust God's Affirmation?”

Responding To God's Love

Prayer Hymn (NCH #454)

“Lord, I Want To Be a Christian”

verses 1, 3-4

Prayers of the People

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 plates
We give by cash, check or electronically (scanning the QR code)
Completed Welcome Forms also go in plates*



Offertory

“Christ is Our Life”

Green

*Offertory Response

Musical notation for the offertory response, consisting of two staves in G major and 4/4 time. The first staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The melody is written on a treble clef. Chords are indicated above the notes: G, D, G, C, Am, D. The lyrics are: Hal-le-Hal-le-Hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le-Hal-le-Hal - le - lu - ja. The second staff continues the melody with chords: G, B7, Em, Am, D7, G C G D. The lyrics are: Hal-le-Hal-le-Hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le-lu-ja. Hal - le - lu - ja.

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** (*unison*)

Holy One, receive this offering as a sign of our intention to live in your mercy, inspired by your Spirit, open to the joy of your presence, hospitable to one another, and generous toward your world. Amen.

Going Forth to Share God's Love

***Closing Hymn (NCH #448)** “Take My Life, God, Let It Be”
all verses

***Benediction**

***Sending Song** *We form a circle around the perimeter of the Sanctuary,
optionally linking elbows or holding hands*

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** “Now Let Your Children Go in Peace” *Trad. English*

Today Following Worship:

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

11:00—11:45 am | Adult Faith Conversations (*Fellowship Hall, childcare provided*)
today's focus: A Congregational UCC Way of Life

PRAYER CORNER

Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:

For persons known to us...

*With **Michele and Mark Stephan**, and all who grieve the passing of Michele's mother, Dorothy Miels, on Wednesday afternoon at age 102.

*For **Barb Hilliard**, who recently returned home from transitional care and is recovering well.

*We give thanks that **Aidan Gromoll** has arrived safely in Magura, Bangladesh after 2.5 days of travel! She will now open and run a medical clinic for people with limited or no access to medical care. The clinic will be above a newly opened school in a recently built community center.

*With Rolf Dittmann, we pray for **Jeffrey**, a friend grieving the recent death of a girlfriend of ten years.

*With Rolf Dittmann and all who grieve the death of his high school friend, **Paul**, on Christmas Day.

*With **Rebecca Dennis**, we pray for love and comfort to surround her extended family as they grieve the recent deaths of both of her husband's parents.

*With **Sharri Kinkead**, we give thanks for a wonderful Christmas with her son and former husband. We give thanks for opportunities to connect with family across the holidays and long winter months.

Weekly Offering envelopes are now available!

Contact Megan in the church office if you would like to receive envelopes.

office@stcroixunitedchurch.org or 651-439-5667



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)*

We make an annual gift to Walker West (St. Paul, MN) as a reparations 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.

A Congregational UCC Way of Life
Adult Faith Conversations | Jan. 14 & 21, 11:00-11:45am
(childcare provided)

We launched as St. Croix United Church in October 2023. St. Peter's United Church of Christ was a long-standing member of the MN Conference UCC. People's Congregational Church was a long-standing member of the National Association of Christian Congregational Churches (NACCC) and added an affiliation with the MN Conference UCC in May 2023. Now we are a dually affiliated congregation.

In February & March, a Strategic Vision Task Force will lead us in distilling our core values, creating vision & mission statements, and designing a visual logo for our church. *(Please contact Jill Greenhalgh or Pastor Clare if you'd like to serve on this task force - we will soon meet for a first planning session!)*

Across the next two Sundays, our adult Faith Formation Team invites members and friends into fuller understanding of what our dual affiliation means for us. What commonalities and differences exist between the UCC and NACCC? What resources do we gain (for doing our particular ministry in the St. Croix valley) by being connected within larger networks of churches? Many of us come from Baptist, Roman Catholic, Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, Unitarian and other religious and non-religious roots. All perspectives and questions are welcome!

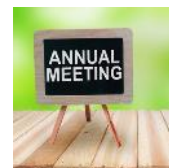


God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



Annual Reports Due Today!

It's that time of year! Megan will compile many reports into the Annual Report packet for the congregation to review just ahead of our January 28th Annual Meeting. **We ask the Chair/point person of each committee or team to please submit your year-end report as a word document (.docx) or within an email (no PDFs, please!).**



Special thank you to ALL our leaders!

Notification of Annual Meeting...

Jan. 28, 11:00 am (after brunch)

- *Elections (Leadership Council & standing committees) *2024 budget
- *Open and Affirming Welcome Statement *Relational Covenant
- ...And an update about park land negotiations

Per our bylaws: Electronic and hard copies of our Annual Report, 2024 budget, ONA Welcome Statement, and Relational Covenant will be available beginning Jan. 21.


Inquirer's Gathering | **Jan. 27, 10 am**

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.

Our next New Member Sunday will be Feb. 18 if there are persons who feel ready to join! To attend our upcoming Inquirers Gathering (at church, with a Zoom option), please let Pastor Clare know (pastor@peoplescongregational.org, 651-600-6409).

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Michael Bjork (Choir Director), Lori Mildon (flute), Cheri & Bob Schwartz (greeters), Maya Solano-Klisch & Jonah Gromoll (youth greeters), Sam Gromoll (acolyte), Cheri Schwartz (liturgist), Rolf Dittmann & Jill Greenhalgh (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Lisa Culbertson (Childcare Provider), Carol Dusbabek, Claire Spilseth, & Roger Klisch (PreK-Gr1), Wendy Staberg (Gr2-Gr4), Alisea Rangel (Sunday School Float), Sue Favilla (Youth Leader), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer, outdoor sign), Andi Favilla and Jenni Shaller (decorations)



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All My Days

84

$\text{♩} = 78$
N.C. A⁷sus

1. You

D D/F# G A⁷sus G/B D D/F# D G

know my_ words, be - fore they're said. You know my need and
I should fly_ be - yond the_ dawn, the shad - ows will_ not
ev - ery_ thought, each word we say, - the whole of_ time, the
mend my_ heart and free my_ voice. From sin re - leased, I

E/G# Esus A F#7/A# Bm F#m7 G Am D7 Gadd9

I am_ fed. You give me_ life... You know my_ ways, my
o - ver - come. If I lie_ down in deep - est_ night, still
pre - sent day, - are held with - in_ your might - y_ hand too
will re - joice. O search me_ now, my spir - it_ cries, and

D/A G/B Em/C#F#aug Bm D7/A D/G D/F# Em7

strength, my path_ for all my_ days, my strength, my_ path, for
you are_ there, my truth, my_ light, still you are_ there, my
won - der - ful_ to com - pre - hend, too won - der - ful_ to
let my_ song of praise a - rise, - and let my_ song of

Asus N.C. A⁷sus Asus N.C. Dadd9

1. 2. 3. 4.

all my days. _____ 2. If praise a - rise. _____
truth, my light. _____ 3. Our
com - pre - hend. _____ 4. O

Words: Laurie Zelman

Music: Mark A. Miller

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Lord, I Want To Be a Christian

454

African-American spiritual

Deut. 6:5-6; 10:12-16

1 Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in my heart;
 2 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart, in my heart,
 3 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart, in my heart;
 4 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

Refrain

In my heart, In my heart, in my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

Many of the enslaved of antebellum America did not want to become Christians because they did not want to adopt the religion of their captors. But this spiritual attests that the Christian faith was an internal strength and aim for many.

Tune: I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN
 8.6.8.3. with refrain
African-American spiritual
 Arr. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992

Take My Life, God, Let It Be

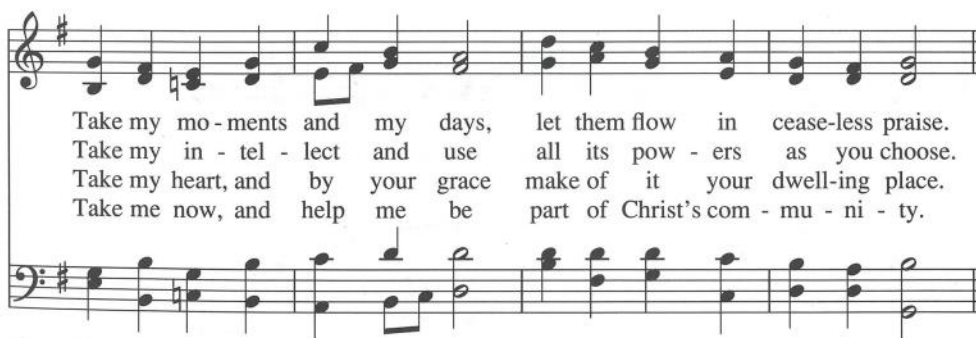
448

Frances R. Havergal, 1874; alt.

Rom. 12:1



1 Take my life, God, let it be con - se - crat - ed faith - ful - ly.
2 Take my spir - it, let it move at the im - pulse of your love.
3 Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.
4 Take my love and help it grow; let my lov - ing ov - er - flow.



Take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease - less praise.
Take my in - tel - lect and use all its pow - ers as you choose.
Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwell - ing place.
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's com - mu - ni - ty.

Frances R. Havergal wrote her hymn following a visit to Areley House in Worcestershire, England. Among the ten persons at the house were "some unconverted . . . some converted but not rejoicing." Before she left, "everyone had got a blessing."

Tune: VIENNA 7.7.7.7.
Justin H. Knecht, 1797
Alternate tune: HENDON