



January 28, 2024

"How Does Faith
Help Us To Be
Unflinching?"

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

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude and Candle Lighting "Blessed Be Your Name"

Redman

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*)

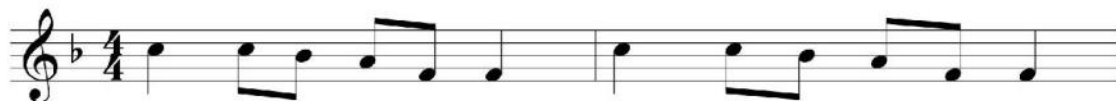
We are here because we have heard the call of Jesus in our lives.
We are here to challenge and support one another to rise up and follow.

We are here because we want to be God's people.
We want to learn more about what it means to be people of God.

We come – seeking to be moved, changed, and made whole by the Spirit of the living God.
Let us open our hearts to the moving of the Spirit, and prepare to leave this place as true disciples of Christ. Amen.

***Opening Song** "Come, Let Us Worship God"
one side leads, the other side echoes

Come, Let Us Worship God



Leader: Come, let us wor-ship God. Come, let us wor-ship God.



Come, let us wor-ship God. Come, let us wor-ship God.



Wel - come ev - 'ry - one_ Wel - come ev - 'ry - one



to the love of God. to the love of God.

2. Food for the hungry...
3. Rest for the weary...
4. Hope for the children...
5. Come, let us worship God...

Acknowledging Our Need for God's Grace

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

O Divine Healer, we confess that we long for you to completely remove our pain, illness, and suffering. Open our eyes to recognize the teachings and tools you have given us - for seeking healing in the midst of our afflictions. You whisper to us that wholeness requires self-care and rest. You nudge us toward caregivers to support and advise us. You breathe into us energy to move, stretch, and reach toward health. You place in us an urgency to work toward health care for all. Renew our spirits in the midst of our pain, illness, and suffering. Transform us – for the health of your whole creation. 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"

Carol Dusbabek (22nd), Bronson Bettin (24th - 9 yrs), Mary Binger (28th), Aidan Gromoll (30th), Kathy Whiterabbit (31st), Laura Mayaka (Feb. 2nd)

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 | *Psalms for Praying*

Psalm 111

A Reading from the Gospels | *The Inclusive Bible*

Mark 1:21-28

Morning Message "How Does Faith Help Us to Be Unflinching?"

Responding To God's Love

Prayer Hymn (NCH #492)

"I Would Be True"

all verses

Prayers of the People

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)

Completed Welcome Forms also go in plates



Offertory

“Deep Within Our Hearts”

Liberatore

*Offertory Response

“Praise God” by John Mueller
sung twice

**Praise, God, for these gifts;
we lift them up for heaven’s blessing.**

**Praise God, for these gifts;
we lift them up to serve you, Lord.**

*Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

Creative and generous God, from whom new possibilities spring – make a way for us where there has been no way. We give thanks as you refresh our spirits with the living water of your boundless love. Free us to offer our whole selves in return, participating fully in your way of love. Amen.

Going Forth to Share God’s Love

*Closing Song (SPP #163)

“Your Love Is Amazing”
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**

“God is Our Shelter and Strength”

Colligan

Today Following Worship:

10:30am Brunch | All are welcome in the Fellowship Hall (*downstairs*)

11:00—11:55 am | Annual Meeting (*Fellowship Hall, childcare provided*)

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

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.

PRAYER CORNER

Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:

For persons known to us...

*For **Dave Staberg**, who will undergo surgery at Regions Hospital on Feb. 1st, removing part of his lung for biopsy. We pray for a safe surgery, smooth recovery, and helpful information.

*For **Chrissy Staberg** (younger sister to Dave) as she heals from abdominal surgery.

*With Mary Maren Bjork, we pray comfort for family and friends of **Nancy McDonald** who had struggled with Alzheimer's and died recently.

*Celebrating anniversaries: **Mark and Michele** Stephan (24th)

Weekly Offering envelopes are now available!

In the Fellowship Hall... or contact Megan in the church office if you would like to receive envelopes.



Collecting Items from Harvest Fest

For those of you who bought wreaths and porch pots during Harvest Fest, please consider bringing back the “doo-dads” (berries, decorations, etc) from your wreaths and porch pots so the team may use them again next year. There will be a box in the Fellowship Hall to collect them.

Thanks!



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)*

Lenten Book Study

Atlas of the Heart:

Mapping Meaningful Connection and the Language of Human Experience

by Brené Brown

We hope this will be a meaningful, life-sustaining Lent and Easter season. You are welcome to participate in any opportunities that sound nurturing to you!

Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14) - we will gather for a 6:30pm worship service

Wednesday Evenings in Lent (Feb. 21 - Mar. 20)

5:30pm | contemplative worship

6:00pm | soup supper

6:30-7:15 pm | topical discussion (based in Atlas of the Heart)

St. Croix United Book Club welcomes you to our discussions of Brene Brown's *Atlas of the Heart*. There are 3 copies now in stock at Valley Bookseller (Stillwater)!

Reading the book is optional: conversations will be accessible for anyone.

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Michael Bjork (Choir Director), Cheri & Bob Schwartz (greeters), Maya Solano-Klisch (youth greeter), Mary Maren Bjork (liturgist), Sue Favilla (brunch), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Lisa Culbertson (Childcare Provider), Carol Dusbabek, Claire Spilseth, & Kathy Iverson (PreK-Gr1), Cindy Baker (Gr2-Gr4), Cheri Schwartz (Sunday School Float), David Kirstein (Youth Leader), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer, outdoor sign), Andi Favilla and Jenni Shaller (decorations)




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Phil. 4:8-9

St. 1, 2, Howard Arnold Walter, 1917

St. 3, anon.; alt.

1 I would be true, for there are those who trust me; I would be
 2 I would be friend of all, the foe, the friend-less; I would be
 3 I would be prayer-ful through each bus-y mo-ment; I would be

pure, for there are those who care; I would be strong, for
 giv-ing, and for-get the gift; I would be hum-ble,
 con-stant-ly in touch with God; I would be tuned to

there is much to suf-fer; I would be brave, for
 for I know my weak-ness; I would look up, and
 sense God's slight-est whis-per; I would have faith to

there is much to dare, I would be brave, for there is much to dare.
 laugh, and love, and live, I would look up, and laugh, and love, and live.
 keep the path Christ trod, I would have faith to keep the path Christ trod.

The first two stanzas of this hymn are from "My Creed," a poem that Howard Walter sent to his mother from Japan, where he taught English before becoming a Congregational minister. Walter died at the age of thirty-five while working for the Y.M.C.A. in India.

Tune: PEEK 11.10.11.10.10.
 Joseph Y. Peek, 1911

Your Love Is Amazing

$\text{♩} = 100$
 C_{sus}² G/B D_{sus}

1. Your love is a - maz - ing, stea - dy and un - chang -
 - ing, I can feel it ris -
 - ing, stea - dy and un - chang -

C_{sus}² D_{sus}

- ing, your love is a moun - tain, firm be - neath my feet.
 - ing, all the joy that's grow - ing deep in - side of me.
 - ing, your love is a moun - tain, firm be - neath my feet.

C_{sus}² G/B

— Your love is a mys - t'ry, how you gent - ly lift—
 — Ev - 'ry time I see you all your good - ness shines
 — Your love is a mys - t'ry, how you gent - ly lift—

C_{sus}² D_{sus}

— me. When I am sur - round - ed your love car - ries me.
 — through. I can feel this God song ris - ing up in me.
 — me. When I am sur - round - ed your love car - ries me.

C_{sus}² G D_{sus} Em⁷

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah,

C_{sus}² G D_{sus}

your love makes me sing. Ha - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, ha - le - lu -

Em⁷ C_{sus}² 1.2. 3. G

- jah, your love makes me sing. 2. Your love is sur - pris - Hal le - lu - jah.
 3. Your love is a - maz -

Words and Music: Brenton Brown and Brian Doerksen

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