



February 11, 2024

"Can We
Return to a
Mountaintop
Moment?"

Transfiguration
Sunday

Welcome!

We encourage wearing name tags. Coffee and tea are welcome in worship.
Restrooms: main level (exit front left), lower level (at foot of entry stair/elevator)
Optional nursery care (infant - age 3): downstairs, starts at 9:25

The Love of God Gathers Us

Gathering Music

We gently settle into sacred time and space

Ring the Bell, Prelude, Candle Lighting "Jesus Loves Me"

R. Manuel

We acknowledge the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome

***Prayer of Gathering** *(responsive)*

Holy and loving God, we boldly claim the promise of Christ—
That where two or three are gathered in that holy name, Christ is present.

With Christ among us, we know the power of your love for us.
With Christ among us, we see your glory in each other.

With Christ among us, we believe we can do all things—
Through love's strength at work in us.

Free us now to be a people renewed by transforming love—
Through the one who came that we might live more abundantly. Amen!

SPP = *Sing! Prayer and Praise*

* = Sitting or standing

NCH = *New Century Hymnal*

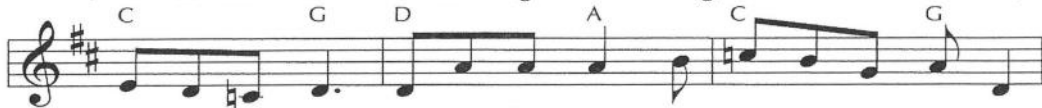
Here in This Place

401

Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Acknowledging Our Need for God's Grace

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

Creator God, we cast our cares toward you and share our burdens with each other.

Help us strip away our outer selves, dismantling our disguises.

Manifest your presence as we lay bare our hearts and souls.

Let your voice be heard in the silence of our spirits.

Let your acceptance waft over us like a warm breeze as your calm and comfort envelop and cradle us.

Let your love fill us with joy. May others sense your presence in our hearts and see you in our actions. Amen.

...the singing bowl welcomes us into silent prayer

***Assurance of Grace** *(responsive)*

The peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

***Passing the Peace**

To those with us online and onsite: 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, let it shine.

Singing "Happy Birthday"

Louie Favilla (8th), Forrest Whiterabbit, Sr (9th)

Wondering Together

Blessing One Another *(with open arms)*

God be with you **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, let it shine.**

*infant - age 3 | nursery care available downstairs (9:25-10:30)
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 the Gospels | *The Message*

Mark 9:2-10

A Reading from the New Testament | *The Inclusive Bible*

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Morning Message

“Can We Return to a Mountaintop Moment?”

Responding To God's Love

Prayer Song (SPP #201)

“Deep Peace”
verses 1-2

Prayers of the People

...God, in your love: **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)

Note: Checks currently need to be written to "People's Congregational Church"

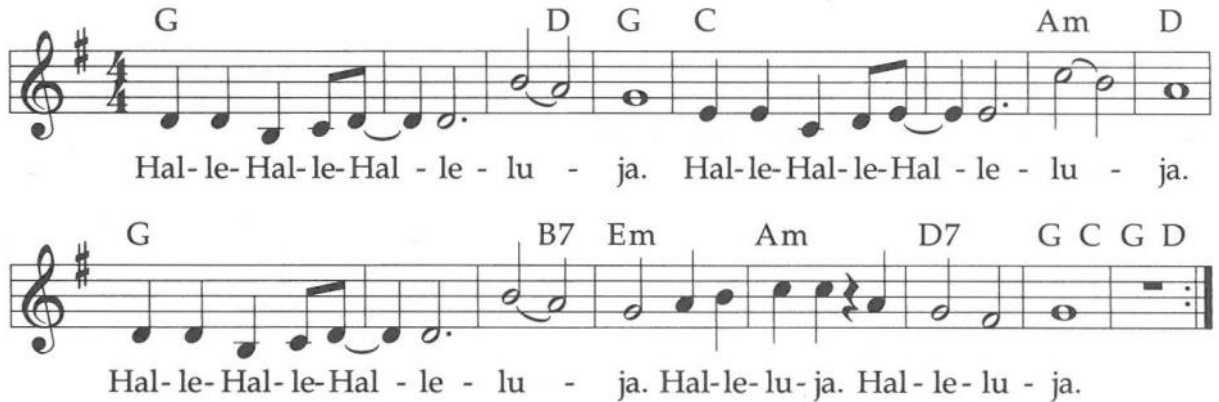


Offertory

"Our God is Holy"

M.S. Gast

*Offertory Response



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*)

God of all, we dedicate these gifts and our very selves to your way of empowering love. Stay with us as we share in the risks and challenges of living our faith. By your powerful Spirit, turn our fear to courage and our ambivalence to clarity. As your glory shone through the face of Jesus, so shine in our hearts and through our lives. Amen.

Going Forth to Share God's Love

*Closing Hymn (NCH #181)

"You Are Salt for the Earth, O People"

verses 1-2 & 4

*Benediction

***Sending Song**

Forming a circle, optionally linking elbows or 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**

“Go Out Now in Peace”

M. Annis

Today Following Worship:

10:30am | All are welcome in the Fellowship Hall for refreshments & good company!

11:00—noon | Adult Faith Conversations: **What Can We Know About Jesus (and How)?** *Fellowship Hall (childcare provided) & Zoomed*

The DVD series is designed for its audience to interact with well-known, Progressive theologians who challenge Christians to think about the relevance of a renewed understanding of Jesus in the context of our current culture.

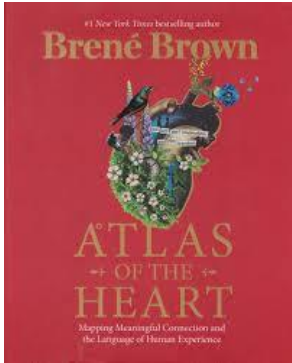
PRAYER CORNER

We hold these joys and concerns in our prayers:

- *With Therese Thorson, we pray for granddaughter **Lauren**, healing from a recent leg surgery.
- *For **Loretta** who is facing into a diagnosis of metastasized cancer.
- *For **Sue Favilla**, healing energy as she seeks answers for severe hip pain.
- *For Cindy and Bob's **nephew**, taken to the ER last Sunday.
- *For **beautiful music** offered in worship (choral, instrumental, hymn leading).
- *For **peace** to permeate individual lives and spaces where violence is occurring throughout the world.
- *For the **children of Ukraine**, particularly in the city of Kharkiv where school is being offered underground in the subways.

Ash THURSDay | **Feb. 15, 6:30pm**

Come for **candlelight, music, prayer, readings, reflections, Holy Communion, and the imposition of ashes** on forehead or hand. Let us seek the love of God in the company of one another.



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

5:30pm | contemplative worship (*helpers needed*)

6:00pm | soup supper (*hosts needed*)

6:30-7:15 pm | discussions inspired by

Atlas of the Heart: Mapping Meaningful Connection and the Language of Human Experience

There are 3 copies now in stock at Valley Bookseller (Stillwater)!
Reading the book is optional: conversations will be accessible for anyone.

You are Invited to Our Next Inquirers Gathering! | February 17, 9:30am

For newer and long-time friends alike... learn about:

The life and work of St. Croix United Church

Our denominational affiliations

How to deepen your participation in our congregation

What membership (a pledge of mutual support) means to us



Please let Pastor Clare know if you would like to attend on Feb. 17th
(pastor@stcroixunitedchurch.org or 651-600-6409).



Mark your calendars... Red Cross Blood Drive

Feb. 28 | 9 am—3 pm

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)

We have adopted an Open and Affirming (ONA) Welcome Statement!

"St. Croix United Church is an open and affirming Christian community, which is faithfully committed to ministries of compassion, diversity, equity, and social justice. United by the grace, love, and forgiveness we know in Jesus Christ, we honor the sacredness of relationships with our neighbors. We welcome persons of every gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, physical ability, mental health status, and socio-economic condition into the full life and ministry of the church. By embracing our diversity, we learn and grow into a stronger community."


Special Offering: As part of our Open and Affirming process, we are gifting \$1000 from our Blessing Fund to the Nan Leekley LGBTQ Youth Fund.

We invite the congregation to add individual gifts during the month of February. (Write checks to "PCC," memo: "LGBTQ Youth Fund.")

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.*

Thanks to... Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Michael Bjork (Choir Director), SCUC Choir, Jane Hanson & Cheri Schwartz (greeters), Jonah Gromoll (youth greeter), 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-Gr5), Alisea Rangel (Sunday School Float), David Kirstein (Youth Leader), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer, outdoor sign), Andi Favilla and Jenni Shaller (decorations)



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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. _____

You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

181

Paraphr. by Marty Haugen, 1986; alt.

Matt. 5:13-15

Unison
D (allow to ring off)

1 You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the reign of God!
 2 You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: light for the Cit-y of God!
 3 You are a seed of the Word, O peo-ple: bring forth the reign of God!
 4 We are a blessed and a pil-grim peo-ple: bound for the reign of God!

Share the fla- vor of life, O peo- ple: life in the Cit-y of God!
 Shine so ho- ly and bright, O peo- ple: shine for the Cit-y of God!
 Seeds of mer- cy and seeds of jus- tice, grow in the Cit-y of God!
 Love our jour-ney and love our home-land: love is the Cit-y of God!

Refrain

Bring forth the reign of mer- cy, bring forth the reign of peace;

Bring forth the reign of jus- tice, bring forth the Cit-y of God!

During a residency at Holden Village, a retreat center in the state of Washington, Marty Haugen wrote this hymn to be used as a "processing song" for outdoor worship. The lectionary readings focusing on Jesus' teaching about the "reign of God" provided the basis for the text.

Tune: BRING FORTH Irr. with refrain
Marty Haugen, 1986