



February 18, 2024

"How Do We
Lift Up
Our Souls?"

First Sunday in Lent

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

"Hear My Words"

Paulus

We acknowledge the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome

Invitation from our Strategic Vision Task Force

SPP = *Sing! Prayer and Praise*

* = Sitting or standing

NCH = *New Century Hymnal*

***Call to Awareness** (*responsive*)

Lent calls us to journey along the edge –
To anticipate that final trip to Jerusalem.

Lent calls us to the cutting edge, when the wheat falls to the ground –
And new life comes forth; the cutting of a new covenant.

Lent call us to give up something, but also to take up something:
The intention of true participation in the mystery of God-with-us.

***Opening Hymn (Chalice Hymnal, #575)** “Come and Find the Quiet Center”

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,
Find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see
All the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base,
Making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,
Raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,
Let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:
There's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,
In the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare!

Acknowledging Our Need for God's Grace

***Prayer of Confession and Longing** from Psalm 19 (*unison*)

To You, O Love, I lift up my soul!

O Heart within my heart, in You I place my trust.

Let me not feel unworthy; let not fear rule over me.

Yes! May all who open their hearts savor You and bless the Earth!

I know of your mercy, Blessed One, and of your unconditional Love;

You have been with me from the beginning.

Forgive the times I have walked away from you, choosing to follow my own will.

I seek your guidance once again, I yearn to know your peace.

Companion me as I open to your will! 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**

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"

Addison Albright (22nd, 6 yrs), Sharon Neuenfeldt (22nd), David Staberg (22nd), Beckham Bettin (23rd, 11 yrs)

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, 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 Psalms | *The Inclusive Bible*

A Reading from the Gospels | *NRSV, part 2, p.34*

Psalm 25:1-10

Mark 1:9-15

Morning Message “How Do We Lift Up Our Souls?”

Responding To God's Love

Prayer Hymn (NCH #207) “Just As I Am”

all verses

Prayers of the People

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

Note: Checks currently need to be written to “People’s Congregational Church”



***Offertory Response**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen**

***Prayer of Dedication** (*unison*)

Generous God, we give thanks for daily opportunities to share in your creative and restorative work. Because you dwell within and among us, we have much to offer. With these gifts, we express our gratitude and aspiration to be more fully your faithful community. Amen.

Going Forth to Share God's Love

***Closing Song (SPP #66)** "Every Step of the Way"
sung twice

***Benediction**

***Sending Song**

Forming a circle, optionally linking elbows or hands

"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**

"La Paz Sea Contigo"

D. Carlson

All are welcome downstairs for refreshments & good company!

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 (& How)?**
Fireside Room (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:

*For **Paul Spilseth** as he recovers from knee surgery.

*For Mary Ann Litfin's fiancé, **Jon**, as he journeys with cancer and prepares for abdominal surgery.

*For **Laura Corless** (personal care assistant to Sam Gromoll), smooth thumb surgery and recovery as she continues to offer loving care to Sam.

*For Sharon Neuenfeldt's granddaughter, **Maria**, as she struggles with depression.

*For **Cindy Parsons and Bob Dickie's nephew** as he awaits surgery.

*For **Sam Gromoll and family** as they prepare for Feb. 23 surgeries (femoral osteotomies and a likely pelvic osteotomy to correct hip dysplasia, construction of an ACL in his right knee). Pastor Clare will be away on personal leave, Feb. 24-27. To learn more about Sam's health journey, visit his CaringBridge:

<https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/samgromoll>.

*Celebrating anniversaries: **Claire and Paul Spilseth** (17th)

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)

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

Lenten Season at St. Croix United Church

Wednesday Evenings in Lent

Feb. 21 – Mar. 20

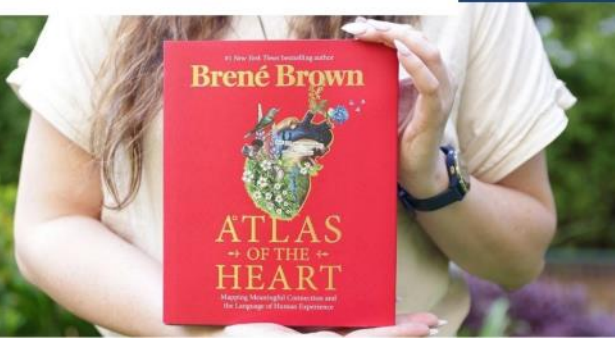
5:30 pm | Contemplative Worship

6 pm | Soup Supper

6:30 – 7:15 pm | Discussions

inspired by

Atlas of the Heart, by Brene Brown



Take One

Leave
One/\$1

Book Sale

Would you like to pass along the gift of a good book?
Or declutter your home of books you no longer need?

Books of all genres and for all ages are welcome!

(no magazines, newspapers, CD*, DVD, or VHS)

*exception: audio books in CD format are welcome

We welcome you to drop a bag or box of books
in the Fellowship Hall.

***Beginning Feb. 25, you can peruse the sale anytime,
taking a book in return for 1 book or \$1.***

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 ONA process, we are gifting \$1,000 from our Blessing Fund to the Nan Leekley LGBTQ Youth Fund (through the St. Croix Valley Foundation).

We are invited to add individual gifts through Feb. 29th. (Cash or checks to People's Congregational Church, memo: "LGBTQ Youth Fund.")

We make an annual gift to Walker West (St. Paul) as reparations for use of "This Little Light of Mine" and other Black spirituals. *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.*

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Michael Bjork (Choir Director), SCUC Choir, Bob Dickie & Cindy Parsons (greeters), Addison Albright (acolyte), Sharri Kinkead (liturgist), Lori Mildon (flute), Kathy & Bob Iverson (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Lisa Culbertson (Childcare Provider), Carol Dusbabek, Claire Spilseth, & Kathy Iverson (preK-Gr1), Wendy Staberg (Gr2-Gr5), Naomi Kirstein (Sunday School Float), David Kirstein (Youth Leader), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Andi Favilla (decorations), Kathleen Dennison, Bob Dickie & Jill Greenhalgh (Strategic Vision Task Force)



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Just as I Am

207

Charlotte Elliott, 1836; alt.

John 6:37; Eph. 2:14

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea but that your
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a
3 Just as I am, you will re - ceive, will wel - come,
4 Just as I am, your love un - known has bro - ken

blood was shed for me, And that you called in -
con - flict, many a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with -
par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; Be - cause your prom - ise
ev - ery bar - rier down; Now to be yours, and

vit - ing me, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
yours a - lone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

This text appeared in Charlotte Elliott's Invalid's Hymn Book, published in England in 1836. Disabled at age thirty, she continued a career of writing and editing. This hymn has been translated into many languages.

Tune: WOODWORTH L.M.
William B. Bradbury, 1849

Every Step of the Way

66

$\text{♩} = 128$
F C/E Dm C B \flat Dm/A C/G Gsus G

Help me do the jus - tice to be
done to - day. Help me love kind -
ness in all I do and say.
Help me walk hum - bly with you, O God I pray
ev - 'ry step of the way,
ev - 'ry step of the way.

Based on Micah 6:8.

Words and Music: Christopher Grundy

Music arrangement: Christopher Grundy and Gregory Milton

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