



February 4, 2024

"What is Worship
All About?"

Welcome!

We encourage wearing nametags

Feel free to bring coffee and tea into 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 greet those around us or sit quietly, settling into sacred time and space

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude and Candle Lighting "The Love of the Lord"

Joncas

We acknowledge the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome

SPP = *Sing! Prayer and Praise*

* = Sitting or standing

NCH = *New Century Hymnal*

***Invocation** (*responsive*)

Living God, come! Be known among us.

Help us to perceive your presence – as near as breath, yet hidden.

Help us to seek you as you seek us. Speak your word of power.

Make us true disciples of Christ.

Transform us through your fiery Spirit.

All glory be to you, O God – in Christ and through the church forever! Amen.

***Opening Song (SPP#16)**

"Come to the Water "

verses 1-3

Acknowledging Our Need for God's Grace

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

Loving God, in recent days we have let good intentions slip away, averted our eyes from the sorrow or pain of another, failed to renew our own physical, emotional, and spiritual resources, and made decisions without the guidance of prayer. We have excused these sins without regard for consequences. Forgive us and make us newly self-aware. Plant a bothersome conscience in the middle of our lives as we lean into your grace. 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 worshiping with us online

Then to those around us: smiles, peace signs, handshakes

Choral Anthem

"Umoja Tunaimba (United We Sing)"

Victor C. Johnson

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"

**Mary Binger (28th), Aidan Gromoll (30th), Kathy Whiterabbit (31st),
Laura Mayaka (Feb. 2nd), Louie Favilla (Feb. 8th),
Forrest Whiterabbit, Sr (Feb. 9th)**

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 (9:25-10:30)
PreK - Gr. 1 | Sunday school downstairs (they return for Communion)
Older children and youth remain in worship on 1st Sundays
We welcome sounds and movements of children in worship
("busy bags" available in Narthex)*

Proclaiming God's Love

A Reading from Hebrew Scriptures | *The Inclusive Bible*

Isaiah 40:25-31

A Reading from Hebrew Scriptures | *Psalms for Praying*

Psalm 147: 1-11

A Reading from the Gospels | *NRSV (part 2, p 35)*

Mark 1:29-39

Morning Message

"What is Worship All About?"

Responding To God's Love

Prayer Song (SPP #81) "More Than We Can Ask"
cantor sings refrain, then we sing from the beginning

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)

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

Completed Welcome Forms also go in plates



Offertory Anthem

"Gifts of Bread and Wine"

Ruth Elaine Schram

***Offertory Response**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Sharing in Holy Communion

*Holy Communion is open to members and friends of all ages
as we seek to follow Jesus in the way of radically inclusive love*

***The Invitation and Prayer**

God be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to the God of all.

**Loving God – you are Creator of energy and matter, the heavens and the Earth.
We celebrate you – joining our voices with the wind and streams, animals and
flowers, the living and the dead (*pause*), the stars, planets, and all members of
creation — forever proclaiming your expansive love. Amen.**

Words of Remembrance and Blessing

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

*Forming two lines down the center aisle, please proceed to 1 of 2 serving stations
Partake of (gluten-free) bread and a cup of juice, receiving words of blessing
Place empty cups in trays on front pews, returning to seats by side aisles*

Sung Response (NCH #330) “Let Us Break Bread Together”
all verses

***Prayer of Thanksgiving (*unison*)**

**Loving God, we give thanks for the bond of this sacrament, linking us in
solidarity with all who call upon your name. May your wisdom grow within us.
Send us out into the world as people of courage, compassion, and
commitment. Amen!**

Going Forth to Share God’s Love

***Closing Hymn (NCH #584) “I Am the Light of the World”**
verses 1-3

***Benediction**

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

**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**

“There's Bread for the Journey”

Strathdee

Today Following Worship:

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

11:00—11:55 am | Adult Faith Conversations: **Who Do YOU Say Jesus Is?**
Fellowship Hall (childcare provided) & Zoomed

Apocalyptic firebrand. Mystical faith healer. A meek and mild teacher? Placing Jesus in the context of first century history and Jesus' own religious traditions offers us a framework to ponder together and perhaps renew our curiosity for a Jesus who is relevant to current faith questions of the 21st Century.



Reception and Conversation with Rev. Ashley Cook Cleare, Executive Director, National Association of Congregational Christian Churches. She looks forward to learning about the present moment in our life as a new congregation. We are also welcome to bring our questions about the life of the NACCC!

Feb. 8 | 5pm (in our Fellowship Hall & Zoom)

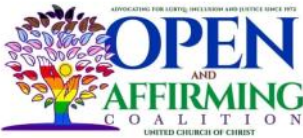
PRAYER CORNER

We hold these joys and concerns in our prayers:

- *With Aidan Gromoll, we pray for friend **Julie**, who underwent back surgery on Feb 1st. For the team caring for her and a speedy recovery.
- *For **Dave Staberg**, healing energy after a recent surgery on his lung.
- *For **Barb Hilliard**, healing energy after a recent bile duct stone removal.
- *For **Forrest Whiterabbit, Sr.**, swift healing after cataract surgery.
- *With **Forrest Whiterabbit, Jr.**, we give thanks and celebrate his accomplishment in becoming a career USPS worker.
- *With Bob and Cheri Schwartz, we pray for friend **Amanda** and baby **Astrid** as they look ahead to a kidney transplant from mother to child.
- *With Bob and Cheri Schwartz, we continue to pray for granddaughter **Bea** as she transfers to a new school during kindergarten.
- *For the wellbeing of strong, beautiful, fragile planet **Earth** as climate change wreaks havoc.

We adopted an Open and Affirming Welcome Statement at our Annual Meeting!

(We will soon share it publicly.)



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.** (Mark gift as “LGBTQ Youth Fund.”)

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

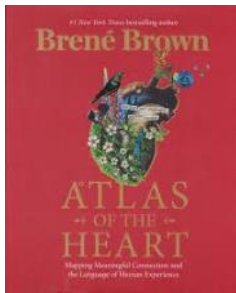
We look forward to our next New Member Sunday - **in March or April!**

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



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

Come for **candlelight, music, prayer, readings, brief 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.



Lenten Book Study: *Atlas of the Heart: Mapping Meaningful Connection and the Language of Human Experience*

by Brené Brown

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 | topical discussion (based in *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), SCUC Choir, Kathy & Bob Iverson (greeters), Sam Gromoll (youth greeter), Jonah Gromoll (acolyte), Mary Binger (liturgist & communion server), Sue Favilla (communion preparer & childcare provider), Arly Fuhr & Kathleen Dennison (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Carol Dusbabek, Claire Spilseth, & Kim Klisch (preK-Gr1), Naomi Kirstein (Adult Faith Conversations), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer, outdoor sign), Andi Favilla and Jenni Shaller (decorations)




St. Croix United Church

Rev. Clare Gromoll, Pastor

pastor@stcroixunitedchurch.org

309 Third St. N, Bayport MN 55003-1028

(651) 439-5667 / office@stcroixunitedchurch.org

www.stcroixunitedchurch.org  @SCUCBayport

CREDITS & PERMISSIONS | **Invocation, Prayer of Confession & Longing** reprinted or adapted by permission of the publishers from *Touch Holiness*, ed. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. Copyright © 1990 by The Pilgrim Press. **Prayer of Thanksgiving** reprinted or adapted by permission of the publisher from *Before the Amen: Creative Resources for Worship*, ed. Maren C. Tirabassi & Maria I Tirabassi. Copyright © 2007 The Pilgrim Press. **Scripture Readings** from the *Inclusive Bible* and *NRSV*. **Psalm reading** reprinted or adapted by permission of the publisher from *Psalms for Praying* by Nan C. Merrill. Copyright © 2007 by Continuum International Publishing Group, www.PsalmsForPraying.com. Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-703858. All rights reserved.

16

Come to the Water

$\text{♩} = 88$

1. All who are thirst-y__ for jus - tice, all who are thirst-y__ for
 2. All who are thirst-y__ for mer - cy, all who are thirst-y__ for
 3. All who are thirst-y__ for heal - ing, all who are thirst-y__ for
 4. All who are thirst-y__ for beau - ty, all who are thirst-y__ for

- peace. All who are thirst - y__ for peace, for jus - tice,
 love. All who are thirst - y__ for love, for mer - cy,
 touch. All who are thirst - y__ for touch, for heal - ing,
 truth. All who are thirst - y__ for truth, for beau - ty

- come, come to__ the wa - ter__ of life._____
 come, come to__ the wa - ter__ of life._____
 come, come to__ the wa - ter__ of life._____
 come, come to__ the wa - ter__ of life._____

5. All who are thirst-y__ for free - dom, all who are thirst-y__ for hope.
 6. All who are thirst-y__ for laugh - ter, all who are thirst-y__ for joy.

- All who are thirst - y__ for hope, for free - dom, come,
 All who are thirst - y__ for joy, for laugh - ter, come,

- come to__ the wa - ter__ of life._____
 come to__ the wa - ter__ of life._____

81 More Than We Can Ask

$\text{♩} = 88$ C Am⁷

More than we can ask, more than we can ask,

Dm⁷ G

more than we can ask or i - mag - ine.

Vamp during prayer:

Following last prayer to Coda Ⓢ

Am F Am G Am F Am

Following each prayer:

One: Am G Many: Am G D.C.

Hear, oh hear_ our pray'r. Hear, oh hear_ our pray'r.

 Ⓢ Coda

C Am⁷

More than we can ask, more than we can ask,

Dm⁷ G

more than we can ask or i - mag - ine.

One: Am G Many: Am G C

A - - men. A - - men.

Words and Music: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, Copyright ©2004 This Here Music (ASCAP),
www.worldmaking.net. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

This arrangement: The Praise Song Advisory Team, Copyright ©2009, Local Church Ministries,
United Church of Christ. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
 * 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
 3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,

* "Share the cup" may be substituted for "drink wine."

The earliest version of this spiritual probably began with the current stanza three, and was a song some of the enslaved in Virginia used when gathering for secret meetings. The communion stanzas were added some time after the Civil War.

Tune: LET US BREAK BREAD
 10.10. with refrain
 Harm. David Hurd, 1983

HOLY COMMUNION

My God, have mer-cy on me.

1-2 3

1-2 3

The musical score is written in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in a soprano or alto clef and features a melody with a repeat sign and first/second endings. The piano accompaniment is in a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines. The lyrics are placed below the vocal line.

I Am the Light of the World

John 8:12

Jim Strathdee, 1969; rev. 1981

In response to a Christmas poem by Howard Thurman

F Unison Introduction

Refrain

B \flat C F

"I am the light of the world!"

B \flat C F Gm Dm C

You peo-ple come and fol-low me!" If you fol-low and love you'll

F Gm7 C B \flat F B \flat F *Last time, end*

learn the mys-ter-y of what you were meant to do and be.

F B \flat /D C F

1 When the song of the an-gels is stilled, when the
 2 γ To find the lost and lone-ly one, γ to
 3 γ To free the pris-oner from all chains, γ to
 4 To bring hope to ev-ery task you do, γ to

This text is based on a Christmas poem by Howard Thurman, a prolific twentieth-century writer, theologian, and teacher. The song grew out of Jim Strathdee's music ministry at an intercultural, bilingual congregation in Los Angeles.

Tune: LIGHT OF THE WORLD Irr.
 Jim Strathdee, 1969

Gm Dm C

star in the sky is gone, When the
 heal the bro - ken soul with love, 7 To
 make the pow - er - ful care, To re -
 dance at a ba - by's new birth, 7 To

F Bb C F

sag - es and the shep - herds have found their way home, the
 feed the hun - gry chil - dren with warmth and good food, To
 build the na - tions with strength of good will, to
 make mu - sic in . . . an old per - son's heart, and

Dm Bb Gm7 C *Return to %*

work of Christ-mas is be - gun:
 feel the earth be - low, the sky a - bove!
 see all God's chil - dren ev - ery - where!
 sing to the col - ors of the earth!