



March 3, 2024

“What Will We  
Face with Zeal?”

Third 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 downstairs (infant - age 3)

## **The Love of God Gathers Us**

### **Gathering Music**

*We gently settle into sacred time and space*

### **Ring the Bell**

### **Prelude & Candle Lighting**

“Thy Holy Wings”

*Swedish Tune*

*We acknowledge the light of Christ among us*

### **Words of Welcome**

SPP = *Sing! Prayer and Praise*

\* = Sitting or standing

NCH = *New Century Hymnal*

**\*Prayer of Gathering** (*unison*)

**God of love, you are our guide on this journey of life. We give thanks for companions along the way. We pray for each one with whom our paths intersect. Make of us a new world of peace – through Jesus Christ, who lived and died that all might be one. Amen.**

**\*Opening Song (SPP #26)**      “You Are Welcome Here”  
**verses 1 & 2**

**Acknowledging Our Need for God’s Grace**

*The singing bowl’s vibrations invite us into depths of grace*

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

God of all – your world weeps, yearning for a sign of mercy.  
**Your love can work through our hands.**

A friend is in anguish, besieged by unexpected pain.  
**Your love can work through our ears.**

A multitude are harmed and weary from prejudicial ways.  
**Your love can work through our eyes.**

A stranger faces death alone, wondering if anyone will remember.  
**Your love can work through our tears.**

A neighbor is lonely, longing for someone to come alongside.  
**Your love can work through our bodies.**

**Forgive our resistance and open us further to your Spirit’s movement – through all that we are and all that we do. Amen.**

**\*Musical Interlude**      *...to accompany our quiet prayers*

**\*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"**

**Joe Legato (28th), Mary Ann Litfin (Mar. 2nd), Wendy Staberg (Mar. 2nd),  
Michael Bjork (4th), Claire Stokes (5th)**

### **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 | gather now for Sunday School downstairs  
Older children and youth remain in worship on 1st Sundays  
We welcome sounds and movements of children in worship*

## Proclaiming God's Love

**A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures** | *NRSV, part 1, p. 66*

**Exodus 20:1-17**

**A Reading from the Gospels** | *The Inclusive Bible*

**John 2:13-22**

### **Morning Message**

**"What Will We Face with Zeal?"**

## Responding To God's Love

**Prayer Hymn (NCH #581)**

**"Lead Us from Death to Life"  
verse 1**

## 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  
(as our bank awaits IRS confirmation of our new name)*



### Offertory

“Aleluya, Aleluya”

*Jose Abraham Jesus*

### \*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**

*Please approach the serving table by the center aisle  
Take a piece of (gluten-free) bread and a cup of juice, receiving words of blessing  
Place your empty cup in a basket on a front pew, returning by a side aisle*

### **Communion Song (SPP #112)**

**“Come to the Table of Grace”  
all verses**

**Come to the table of grace (peace, love, joy)  
Come to the table of grace  
This is Christ’s table, not just yours or mine  
Come to the table of grace**

### **\*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 #581)**      “Lead Us from Death to Life”  
verses 2-3

**\*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**      “God Is Our Shelter and Strength”      *Colligan*

*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: **The World into Which Jesus Was Born**  
*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.

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.*

## PRAYER CORNER

*We hold these joys and concerns in our prayers:*

\*For **Debi Orff**, former pianist for St. Peter's UCC, as she heals from surgery to repair a 2nd retinol tear and waits to be put on the kidney donor list as she struggles with kidney failure.

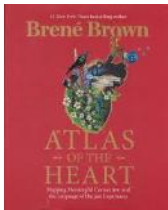
\*For **Aidan Gromoll**, we pray for safe and fruitful work as she provides first aid and medical care to refugees and migrants in Dunkirk, France throughout March.

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

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

6:00pm | soup supper 6:30-7:30 pm | discussions inspired by  
*Atlas of the Heart: Mapping Meaningful Connection and the Language of Human Experience*

Reading the book is optional: conversations are accessible for anyone.



## One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing® is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries.

Share the light.



Join us **today and March 10th**, in giving a special offering to support this mission.

Cash and checks are welcome.

(please make checks out to People's Congregational Church, memo: OGHS)

## You are Invited to Our Next Inquirers Gathering!

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 March 9th.



ST. CROIX UNITED CHURCH  
WEEKLY WORSHIP SERVICE, SUNDAYS 9:30



## Holy Week Services

**Palm Sunday** | March 24, 10 am

*An outdoor community-wide service,  
worshipping with surrounding churches.*

*Watch our website for this year's  
outdoor and indoor locations!*

**Maundy Thursday** | Mar. 28, 7 pm

**Good Friday Tenebrae** | Mar. 29, 7 pm

*With Bethlehem Lutheran @ St. Croix United Church*

**Easter Sunday** | Mar. 31, 10 am worship

*Sunrise service @ People's Park 6:45 am*

*Breakfast 9 am ~ Easter egg hunt 9:30 am*

Join us for any upcoming event.

You may find what you're looking for in our vibrant little congregation!

[www.stcroixunitedchurch.org](http://www.stcroixunitedchurch.org) | 651-439-5667

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Lori Mildon (flute), Michael Bjork (Choir Director), SCUC Choir, Cheri & Bob Schwartz, Sam Gromoll (greeters), Jonah Gromoll (acolyte), Kathleen Dennison (liturgist), Lori Mildon & Kathy Iverson (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Lisa Culbertson (Childcare Provider), Carol Dusbabek, Claire Spilseth, & Roger Klisch (preK-Gr1), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Andi Favilla (decorations)



### St. Croix United Church

Rev. Clare Gromoll, Pastor

[pastor@stcroixunitedchurch.org](mailto:pastor@stcroixunitedchurch.org)

309 Third St. N, Bayport MN 55003-1028

(651) 439-5667 / [office@stcroixunitedchurch.org](mailto:office@stcroixunitedchurch.org)

[www.stcroixunitedchurch.org](http://www.stcroixunitedchurch.org) @SCUCBayport

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## You Are Welcome Here

26

$\text{♩} = 100$

G D G A D G/D D G A

You are wel-come here, no mat-ter who you are,

G A D G D C G A

no mat-ter where you are. on life's jour - ney. You are

D G/D D G A G A

wel-come here, no mat-ter who you are, come and

D G D G A D

join with us, we're u - ni-ted in the church of Christ. 1.2.3.

A G D A D G D

1. Come now all peo - ple, join in the song, come be a part of the fam-  
 2. We pray for jus - tice; we pray for peace; we hear the word of the Sav-  
 3. Lift - ing each oth - er; do - ing what's right; stand - ing to - geth - er, what - ev -

G A A G D A D

- ly of God. We are God's peo - ple and you be - long,  
 - ior of all. We find God's mer - cy; we find re - lease,  
 - er may come; prais - ing our Sav - ior, shin - ing our light,

G A G/D D

share in the joy of Christ. You are  
 shar - ing the joy of Christ. You are  
 shar - ing the joy of Christ. You are

4.

## 581

## Lead Us from Death to Life

2 John 1:3; Isa. 2:2-4

Refrain, Satish Kumar  
Stanzas, Marty Haugen, 1985

*Refrain* C C7 F G C G/B Am

Lead us from death to life, from false-hood to truth, from de -

Dm7 G C Dm7 C7/E C7 Dm7

spair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to

G C/E E7 Am Dm7 G

love, from war to peace; let peace fill our hearts, let

Em Am Dm7 C/E Dm/F C/G G7 C

peace fill our world, let peace fill our u - ni - verse.  
*to Stanzas*

Dm7 G Em7 Am

1 Still all the an-gry cries, still all the an-gry guns, still now your  
 2 So man - y lone-ly hearts, so man - y bro-ken lives, long-ing for  
 3 Let jus-tice ev - er roll, let mer-cy fill the earth, let us be -

Dm7 G7 C Am Dm7

peo-ple die, earth's sons and daugh-ters. Let jus-tice roll, let  
 love to break in - to their an - guish. Come, teach us love,  
 gin to grow in - to your peo - ple. We can be love,

E7 Am F D7/F# C/G G7 C to Refrain

mer - cy pour down, come and teach us your way of com - pas-sion.  
 come, teach us peace, come and teach us your way of com - pas-sion.  
 we can bring peace, we can still be your way of com - pas-sion.

The text for the refrain of this hymn is known as the "World Peace Prayer." It is a paraphrase of a verse from the Upanishads, the most ancient scriptures of Hinduism. Since its introduction at a service in Westminster Abbey on Hiroshima Day, 1981, the prayer has been translated into numerous languages and circulated around the world. The musical setting and additional stanzas were composed by Marty Haugen, composer-in-residence at Mayflower United Church of Christ, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Tune: WORLD PEACE PRAYER  
 12.11.9.10. with refrain  
 Marty Haugen, 1985

## 112 Come to the Table of Grace

♩=90

1. Come to the ta - ble of grace. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. Come to the ta - ble of peace. \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. Come to the ta - ble of love. \_\_\_\_\_  
 4. Come to the ta - ble of joy. \_\_\_\_\_

- Come to the ta - ble of grace. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Come to the ta - ble of peace. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Come to the ta - ble of love. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Come to the ta - ble of joy. \_\_\_\_\_

- This is Christ's ta - ble not just yours or mine.  
 This is Christ's ta - ble not just yours or mine.  
 This is Christ's ta - ble not just yours or mine.  
 This is Christ's ta - ble not just yours or mine.

- Come to the ta - ble of grace. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Come to the ta - ble of peace. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Come to the ta - ble of love. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Come to the ta - ble of joy. \_\_\_\_\_