



March 31, 2024

“What Is
Easter’s Invitation
To You?”

Easter 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 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

“Christ Is Risen! Alleluia”

J.S. Monsell

We acknowledge the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome and Announcements

SPP = *Sing! Prayer and Praise*

* = Sitting or standing

NCH = *New Century Hymnal*

***Invocation** *(responsive)*

Giver of new life, we come today with open, expectant hearts.
We come to worship in beauty and in truth!

We trust that Jesus Christ is raised from the dead.
We welcome his resurrection to enter our lives and transform us!

Through Christ's spirit, may we grow to love one another.
Accept our worship, gracious God!

Be present with us as miracle, mystery, and tender hands of grace.
Amen!

***Opening Hymn (NCH #233) "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"**
verses 1, 3, 4

Acknowledging Our Need for God's Grace

The singing bowl's vibrations invite us into depths of grace

Prayer of Confession and Longing *(unison)*

God of new awakenings, we confess that we would sometimes rather stay asleep. We are afraid to hope and have our hopes shattered, to dream and have our dreams deferred. Open us like the tomb so that new life may pour forth. Shake us from our slumber and awaken us to our own resurrections. Open our eyes to the new day dawning in our hearts. Give us faith to believe, to hope, to dream anew. 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

Choral Anthem

“For We Are All His People”

by Jay Althouse

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”

Melissa Stephan (2nd), Nan Oswald (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 (10–11am)
PreK-Gr. 5 | gather now for Sunday School downstairs
(middle school youth are welcome to help with Sunday School if interested)
We welcome sounds and movements of children in worship*

Proclaiming God’s Love

A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures | *Psalms for Praying*

Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24

A Reading from the Gospels | *The Inclusive Bible*

John 20: 1-18

One: Here ends the readings.

All: May God speak to us through these sacred words.

Morning Message

“What Is Easter’s Invitation To You?”

Responding To God's Love

Duet

"He's Alive"

by Don Francisco

Prayers of the People

*We share aloud prayers for ourselves, others, and parts of the world
Please tell Pastor Clare if you prefer yours not be added to our printed Prayer Corner*

...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.**

Hymn (NCH #241)

"Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day"
all verses

Invitation to the Offering

Greeters pass offering plates

We give by cash, check or electronically (scanning the QR code)

Please write any checks to St. Croix United Church

(checks can no longer be written to our former St. Peter's and People's names)



Offertory

"Look at the Lilies"

Ylvisaker

***Offertory Response**

Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-u-ja.
Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-u-ja.
Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-u-ja.
Halleluja! Halleluja!

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

God of all, the gift of resurrection reminds us that all we possess comes to us by your grace. May our offerings extend gratitude outward in ever widening circles. May our gifts further your justice and love in the world. May we live in new life and share that life with others. Amen.

Going Forth to Share God's Love

***Closing Hymn (NCH #4)** "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You"
verses 1-3

***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** "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" *Beethoven*

Minnesota FoodShare Month—ends TODAY!



As the largest grassroots fundraiser in the state, the MN FoodShare Campaign brings together individuals, community organizations, businesses, and faith communities to help nearly 300 food shelves statewide.

Our local community food shelf, Valley Outreach, is the only nonprofit in the St. Croix Valley/Stillwater, MN area that provides people with a wide range of support – whether they need food, clothing, or help navigating resources during challenging times.

The Local Outreach Team has decided that all monetary donations will be sent to Valley Outreach to help reach more people in the community. Cash and checks are welcome. (Please make checks out to People's Congregational Church, memo: MN FoodShare)



**You may also donate by going to valleyoutreachmn.org and click on DONATE (be sure to indicate “St. Croix United Church” as your organization!).*



Donations of food items will continue to be collected in the grocery cart in our entry area and put into the Little Free Pantry located at our St. Peter's building. We continue to stock it at least once/week (as it is being used regularly)!

**Reminder: Please donate nutritious items. No glass or metal packaging during the cold months.*

Tibetan singing bowls took form in the 6th and 5th centuries BCE. In some Buddhist traditions, singing bowls accompany meditation and chanting. Since the 1970s, singing bowls have also contributed to spiritual practices in the United States.

PRAYER CORNER

We hold these joys and concerns in our prayers:

*For **Bob Neuenfeldt**, struggling with heart failure which is causing continued strokes (including a 7th in recent days). We pray for healing energy and strength for both Bob and Sharon.

*For Cindy Siegel's friend, **Sara**, with the new diagnosis of breast cancer; awaiting more tests and a plan of action.

*Celebrating anniversaries: **Tom and Carol Dusbabek** (26th)

And in the wider community...

*To our Muslim neighbors, a blessed Ramadan. [March 10 - April 4, Muslims observe Ramadan as a time of fasting, prayer, reflection and community. Eid al-Fitr marks the end of the month-long dawn-to-sunset fasting of Ramadan.]



You are Invited to Our Next Inquirers Gathering!

April 6 | 9:30—11 am

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

The life and work of St. Croix United Church

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

Please let Pastor Clare know if you would like to attend on **April 6th**.


For those who may be feeling ready to commit to membership (a pledge of mutual support along the faith journey), our next New Members Sunday will likely be April 14 or 28! Please also reach out to Pastor Clare if you would like to have a conversation about membership.

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, Lori Mildon (flute), Dennis Peters (trumpet), Bob Dickie, Cindy Parsons, & Therese Thorson (greeters), Sam Gromoll (youth greeter), Jonah Gromoll (acolyte), Kathy Iverson (liturgist), Community Life Team (Easter Breakfast), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Lisa Culbertson (Childcare Provider), Carol Dusbabek, Claire Spilseth, Kim & Roger Klisch (preK-Gr5), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Andi Favilla (decorations & Easter Egg Hunt), Kim Klisch (Easter Egg Hunt)



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Matt. 28:5-8; 1 Cor. 15:20-22; 54-57

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!

Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
 God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

The unknown editor of Lyra Davidica wanted music with more movement and spirit than found in the grave, slow-paced psalm tunes, with one note to a syllable. Easter Hymn was among the first of a new popular style.

Tune: EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7. with alleluias
 Arr. from Lyra Davidica, London, 1708

Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day

241

Latin, c. 5th century

Luke 24:36-37

Transl. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt.

1 Joy dawned a - gain on Eas - ter Day, the sun shone
2 O Je - sus, Sav - ior, Gen - tle One, come take our
3 O Sov - ereign One, with us a - bide in this our

out with bright ar - ray; For when the A - pos - tles
hearts to be your own, That we may give you
joy - ful Eas - ter - tide; From ev - ery weap - on

hid in fear, the Ris - en Christ to them ap - peared.
all our days the will - ing trib - ute of our praise.
death can wield, your own re - deemed for - ev - er shield.

The musical score is written in treble and bass clefs with a key signature of two sharps (D major) and a 3/4 time signature. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

This anonymous Latin hymn of uncertain date is one of the two earliest hymns assigned to a special season. From that beginning grew a full list of medieval Latin hymns assigned to specific times and seasons.

Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR L.M.

German carol, 15th century

Adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1609

Harm. George R. Woodward, 1910

4

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Ps. 145:10; Isa. 49:13

Henry van Dyke, 1907; alt.

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore you, God of glo - ry, God of love;
 2 All your works with joy sur - round you, earth and heaven re - flect your rays,
 3 You are giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blessed,
 4 Mor - tals, join the might - y cho - rus which the morn - ing stars be - gan;

Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore you, open - ing to the sun a - bove.
 Stars and an - gels sing a - round you, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!
 Bound - less love is reign - ing o'er us, re - con - cil - ing race and clan.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the storms of doubt a - way;
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flower - y mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
 Lov - ing Spir - it, Fa - ther, Moth - er, all who love be - long to you;
 Ev - er sing - ing, move we for - ward, faith - ful in the midst of strife,

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, teach us what our praise should be.
 Teach us how to love each oth - er, by that love our joy re - new.
 Joy - ful mu - sic leads us on - ward in the tri - umph song of life.

Henry van Dyke was a noted church leader, U.S. ambassador, Navy chaplain, and prolific writer. Many people associate this hymn with Beethoven's ninth symphony, but few are aware of the original poem by the German classicist F. Schiller (1759-1805) that inspired Beethoven.

Tune: HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7.D.
 Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824
 Adapt. and harm. Edward Hodges, 1846