



March 28, 2024

Maundy Thursday

Welcome! We encourage wearing name tags.

Restrooms: main level (exit front left), lower level (at foot of entry stair/elevator)

The Love of God Gathers Us

Gathering Music

We gently settle into sacred time and space

Words of Welcome

***Call to Remembrance**

Come and remember the love of Jesus, gathered at table with friends.
We come to receive from Christ the bread of life, the cup of blessing.

Come, receive the tender service Jesus models for us.
We come to be challenged by the commandment to love one another.

Come and contemplate the many ways we might embody love,
accompanied by a suffering God.
**We come to travel with Jesus the way of the cross, so that our Easter alleluia
will take on new meaning.**

Let us worship together, reflecting upon the life of Christ,
Remembering what discipleship may cost and what it may reap.

* = Sitting or standing

NCH = *New Century Hymnal*

***Opening Hymn (NCH #539) “Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant?”**
verses 1-5

Acknowledging Our Need for God’s Grace

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

Prayer of Confession and Longing (*unison*)

Ever gracious God, we gather this evening as friends gathered with Jesus in an upper room long ago. We come bearing the marks of a bitter and broken world. We come with dry and thirsty spirits. In the breaking of the bread and pouring of cup, remind us of our need and your sufficiency. Draw us nearer to each other in mutual service and closer to you in a covenant of faithfulness. As the night advances, deepen in us a sense of your steadfast love for us in Jesus Christ, our friend and savior. Amen.

Moment of Silence

we continue in quiet prayer...

Sung Response “Kyrie Eleison” (*Kyrie eleison = Lord, have mercy*) *Marty Haugen*
cantor sing once, all sing twice more

♩ = 72-76

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, e - le - i - son, e - le - i - son.

Assurance of Grace

***Passing the Peace** *to those with us online and onsite: smiles, peace signs, handshakes*

Hearing Sacred Stories of Faith

Scripture Reading

A tapestry from John 13: 1–15, Luke 22: 15–27, John 13: 33–35

Pastoral Reflection

Special Music

“The Love of God”

Nicholas Mroczek

Responding To God’s Love

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*



Offertory

“In the Garden ”

Miles

***Offertory Response**

**Praise, God, for these gifts;
we lift them up for heaven’s blessing.
Praise God, for these gifts;
we lift them up to serve you, Lord.**

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*

***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 Hymn (NCH #330)

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

all verses

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*unison*)

Everlasting God, we are grateful that you have invited us here as guests to a banquet, participants in your holy love. You have inspired our singing, our praying, our acts of service. Your Spirit has enlivened us once again. May our lives embody the life and ministry of Jesus the Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Praying with Jesus in the Garden

Scripture Reading

Mark 14: 32–42

***Prayer for Faithfulness**

Jesus Christ, Suffering Servant, we would learn from you the power of trust in God. Yet your ways seem too hard for us.

We fall asleep when we should be praying.

We run away when we should be staying.

Help us to see what you see and to know what you know.

Help us to know the love of God, so that we can trust the will of God. We hear you say, “O God, if it may be, let this cup pass from me. But if you will, I will drink it.”

We hear but we do not understand, and our eyelids close in sleep.
Christ, forgive us, and help us to watch with you.

Open our eyes so that we glimpse the reality of God's eternal realm.
Strengthen our wills so that we work to make that realm visible on Earth.

We are weak, but you make us strong.
Send your Spirit, and hear our prayer, which we offer in your name. Amen.

***Closing Hymn (NCH #219) "Journey to Gethsemane"**
verses 1 & 2

Sending Forth

Stripping of the Altar

*This liturgical act symbolizes our preparation
for facing Jesus' trials, crucifixion, and death tomorrow.*

Postlude

"Journey to Gethsemane"

Montgomery

*We quietly listen to the Postlude...
...and depart in silence*

PRAYER CORNER

We hold these joys and concerns in our prayers:

*For **Bob Neuenfeldt**, struggling with heart failure causing continued strokes.

*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.



Gerten's Spring Plant Sale is ON!

Our church receives 30% of all plant sales—AND you'll have beautiful plants for your summer garden!

TODAY is the LAST DAY to order!

See the Mid-Week news for how to order.

Plants/Flowers will be delivered on May 16th.

All ordering online. Instructions and the brochure are in the Mid-Week News. For assistance, contact Megan (office@stcroixunitedchurch.org or 651-439-5667).

Minnesota FoodShare Month - ends on Easter, **March 31st!**



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 contributed to music therapy and spiritual practices in the United States.

This Week at St. Croix United Church

March 29: Good Friday

- 7pm at St. St. Croix United Church w/ Bethlehem Lutheran

The word "Tenebrae" in Latin means "darkness." It will be a dramatic and moving experience of Christ's Passion, encompassing all of our senses. The service includes readings, the gradual extinguishing of light, passing the cross over our heads, a message from Pastor Amy Vigesa, anointing with oil, embodying the earthquake, and departing in silence and darkness.

March 31: Easter Sunday

- 6:45am Sunrise Service at People's Park (1003 5th Ave N, Bayport)


Come join friends in quiet wonder, gentle music and spoken word, and the warmth of community around the campfire.

- 9am Breakfast at St. Croix United Church Delight in great company and tasty food!
- 9:30am Easter Egg Hunt Witness our children immersed in joyful fun!
- 10am Worship Service
 - flute, organ, 2 choral anthems
 - a beautiful Easter garden on the Chancel
 - sacred time in sacred space with newer and older friends

*Our celebratory Easter worship takes on deeper meaning
when we've traveled together through Holy Week!*

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Michael Bjork (Choir Director & cantor), Lori Mildon (flute), Mary Binger & Carol Dusbabek (greeters & communion servers), Pat Mazzitello & Fritz West (liturgists), Jane Hanson (communion preparer), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Jenni Shaller (decorations)



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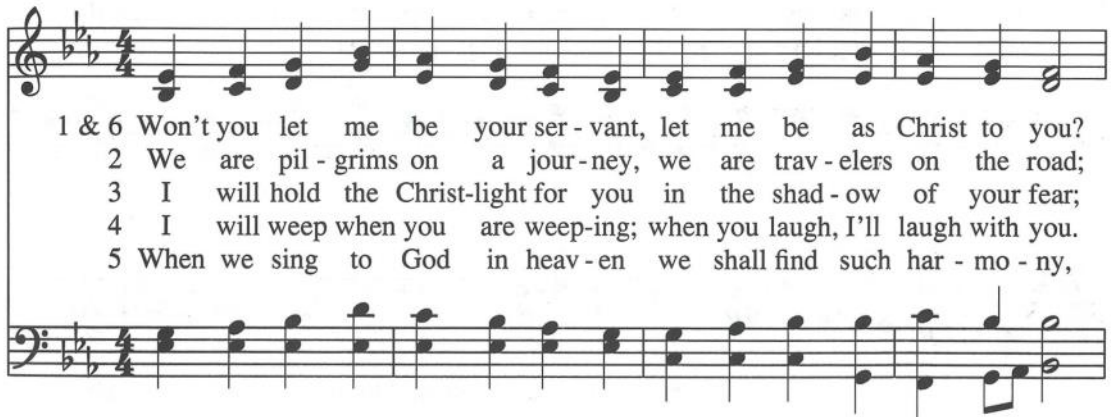
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Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

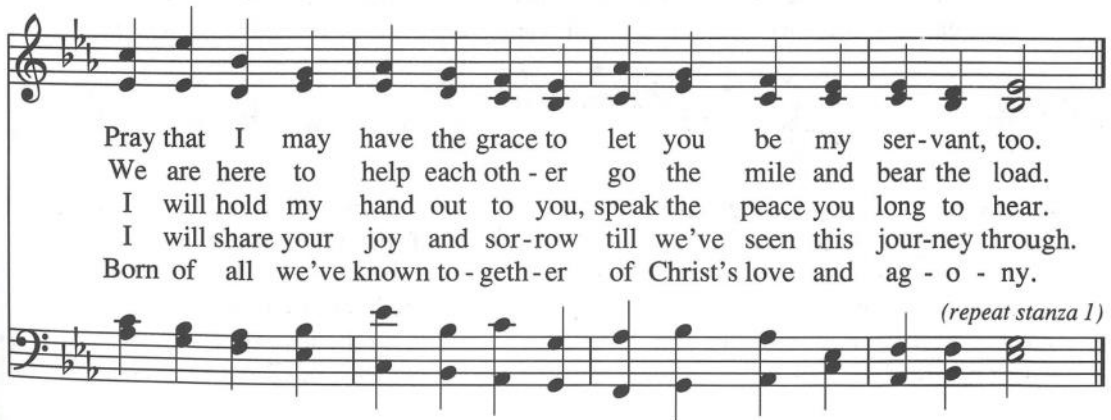
539

Richard Gillard, 1977; alt.

Rom. 12:9-18; Col. 1:24-29



1 & 6 Won't you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as Christ to you?
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - elers on the road;
3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shad - ow of your fear;
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
5 When we sing to God in heav - en we shall find such har - mo - ny,



Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser - vant, too.
We are here to help each oth - er go the mile and bear the load.
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
I will share your joy and sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.
Born of all we've known to - geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

(repeat stanza 1)

Richard Gillard was born in England and later made his home in New Zealand. Largely self-taught, Gillard has described his musical style as "folk." This is the best known of his many songs in the United States.

Tune: SERVANT SONG 8.7.8.7.

Richard Gillard, 1977

Arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham, 1977; adapt.

Let Us Break Bread Together

Acts 2:42

African-American spiritual

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

John 18:1-20:18

James Montgomery, 1820; alt.

1 Jour - ney to Geth - se - ma - ne, go and feel the
 2 Fol - low then to Pi - late's hall, view the Lord of
 3 Cal - vary's mourn - ful moun - tain climb, see the Sav - ior
 4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb, hear the cry of

tempt - er's power; Your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,
 life ar - rained; Crowned with thorns and mocked by all,
 lift - ed high, Mark the mir - a - cle of time,
 great sur - prise; Then the si - lence in the room,

watch the an - guish of this hour; Do not hide or
 faith - ful - ly this pain sus - tained; Great - er still than
 God's own Child is sac - ri - ficed; "It is fin - ished!"
 Je - sus there no long - er lies: Christ is ris - en!

turn a - way: learn from Je - sus how to pray.
 shame or loss, Je - sus now must face the cross.
 Je - sus cries: learn from Je - sus how to die.
 Re - al - ize that with Christ we, too, may rise.

James Montgomery, born of Moravian missionary parents, edited a newspaper in England. Risking imprisonment, he published articles advocating human rights, including the abolition of slavery. He wrote more than 400 hymns.

Tune: REDHEAD NO. 76 7.7.7.7.7.
 Richard Redhead, 1853