



April 14, 2024

“How Does  
Love  
Work Amidst  
Fear?”

### **Welcome!**

We encourage wearing name tags.

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** “Come, Now is the Time to Worship” *arr Tornquist*

*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)*

Rising One, come to us this day. Transform shadow into light.  
**Returning One, hear and embrace the sounds of our cries.**

Rising One, come to us this day. Wake us and move us to dance.  
**Returning One, sing in us songs of peace.**

Rising One, come to us this day. Appear over and over again.  
**Returning One, turn toward us as we turn toward you this Easter season.**

**\*Opening Song (SPP #163)**      “Your Love Is Amazing”  
**all verses**

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

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

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

Dancing Light, glow with the warmth of love within our souls –  
**Where aches linger, anger grows like mold, resentment ferments.**

Dancing Light, brighten the shadows deep within –  
**Where truth is hidden away, contempt lurks, distrust rustles.**

Dancing Light, shine upon the windows of our hearts,  
**Awakening love, forgiveness, and hope to work through us. Amen**

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

**Assurance of Grace** *(responsive)*

The peace of Christ be with you!      **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”**

**Rick Buberl (8th), Kathy Iverson (11th), Payton Wright (11th - 15 yrs),  
Phillip Wright (11th - 12 yrs), Jensen Wright (11th - 10 yrs), Bill Stokes (17th),  
Jackie Savage (19th)**

### **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 Epistles** | *The Inclusive Bible*

1 John 3:1-7

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

Psalm 4

**One** Here ends the readings.

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

### **Morning Message**

**“How Does Love Work Amidst Fear?”**

## Responding To God's Love

Prayer Hymn (NCH #485)

"O Love That Will Not Let Me Go"  
verses 1-3

### 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)

**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

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

*Please write any checks to St. Croix United Church*

*(We can no longer deposit checks written to our former church names)*



### Offertory

"May Love Be Ours, O Lord"

Dudley-Smith

### \*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.**

### \*Prayer of Dedication (unison)

**God of all, we dedicate our lives and all that we have to the work of life, of love, of peace. Receive our gifts and lead us in wisdom and courage. Amen.**

## Going Forth to Share God's Love

**\*Closing Hymn (NCH #476)** "My Life Flows On In Endless Song"  
verses 1—2 & 4

**\*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**

**"On Our Way Rejoicing"**

*Havergal*

### **Today Following Worship:**

**10:30am** | All are welcome in the Fellowship Hall for refreshments & good company!

**11:00—noon** | Adult Faith Conversations: *"A new wind blows -- Come watch a DVD in which Tripp Fuller of Homebrewed Christianity and Diana Butler Bass discuss their theologically eye-opening interpretation of the Resurrection with John Dominic Crossan."*

We support 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 **Sue Favilla**, we pray for a smooth recovery after hip replacement surgery.
- \*For Bob and Cheri Schwartz's granddaughter, **Bee**, safety and goodness in the midst of challenging circumstances.
- \*For Rebecca Dennis's family friend, **Gloria**, as she heals from a ruptured appendix and heart attack.
- \*Celebrating anniversaries: **Peter & Andi Favilla** (8th), **Jere & Dawn Fetter** (16th)



**Thank you for supporting MN FoodShare Month!**

**\$426** will be donated to One Great Hour of Sharing  
(through the United Church of Christ)

**\$916.31** will be donated to Valley Outreach  
(our community food shelf)

**(\$127.31 was from our coin collection!)**

**For a GRAND TOTAL of... \$1,342.41**

## Congratulations, Pastor Clare!

United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities is delighted to honor Rev. Clare Gromoll ('14) as its second **Spirit of United alum award recipient**.

Established last year, the Spirit of United award celebrates recent alums who have done "exceptional work that reflects the mission of United in the church, in faith communities, or in society."



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.

## Emergency Housing Services Building (EHSB) Open House

As Washington County Community Services continues to progress with the (EHSB) project, they will host three open houses to inform the public about the purpose, design, and timeline of the project. Walt Richey, member of St. Croix United Church, has participated in conversations leading to this exciting juncture.

The last Open house date:

- **Tuesday, April 16** | 6:00- 8:00 pm Oak Park Heights City Hall

## Join Attorney General Keith Ellison for a Forum | **April 23, 6:30 pm**

@ Trinity Lutheran Church in Stillwater

Make your voice heard. The Attorney General will share information about work being done to help Minnesotans who are overwhelmed by debt - particularly medical debt that comes after an accident or unexpected diagnosis. Then, they will invite those in attendance to ask questions and raise issues of concern. These forums are routinely held to be sure the work is grounded in what Minnesotans share about their hopes and concerns for themselves, their families, and their communities. **Registration is required—see Mid-Week News for the link...**



## Women's Gathering | **April 24, 6:30 pm**

@ Kathy Iverson's home in Stillwater

We are launching a new women's group for our new church!  
Join us for an evening of fellowship and refreshments.

*Sue Favilla, Pat Mazzittello, Kathy Iverson, Cindy Parsons, Wendy Staberg, Pastor Clare*  
Community Life Team

Help us stock the **Little Free Pantry**  
by placing items in the grocery cart in the Narthex.

Needed: summer sausage, tuna packets, boxed grains, boxed pastas, cereal, oatmeal, granola bars, snack crackers, dried fruit, beef jerky

*\*Please note that protein and high-quality items are preferred*



## Pastor Clare will be on a much-deserved vacation April 15–22

In the event of a question or urgent need, please contact one of the following:  
Megan Adams, Office Coordinator (651-439-5667, [office@stcroixunitedchurch.org](mailto:office@stcroixunitedchurch.org))  
Nat Graf, Leadership Council Moderator (651-470-0408, [ngraf11@gmail.com](mailto:ngraf11@gmail.com))

## Save the Dates! Strategic Visioning Full-Congregation Workshops

Thanks to everyone who responded to the recent survey. We have scheduled 3 dates for building consensus around core values, vision, and mission for our new church.

Supper will be provided at 5:00pm.

Each workshop will run 5:30–7:45/8:00pm.

Childcare provided. See email for details.




Please reserve these evenings on your calendar:

**Tuesday, April 30; Wednesday, May 22; Tuesday, June 11.**

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Michael Bjork (Choir Director), SCUC Choir, Cheri & Bob Schwartz (greeters), Kathy Iverson (liturgist), Jonah Gromoll (youth greeter), Sam Gromoll (acolyte), Mary Binger, Kathy & Bob Iverson (fellowship), Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Lisa Culbertson (Childcare Provider), Carol Dusbabek & Kim Klisch (preK–Gr1), David & Naomi Kirstein (Youth Leaders), 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

CREDITS & PERMISSIONS | **Invocation, Prayer of Confession & Longing, Prayer of Dedication** Reprinted or adapted by permission of the publisher from *Before the Amen*, eds. Maren C. Tirabassi and Maria I. Tirabassi. Copyright © 2007 The Pilgrim Press. **Offertory Response** written by John Mueller. **Scripture Readings** from the *Inclusive Bible* and 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](http://www.PsalmsForPraying.com). Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-703858. All rights reserved.



## Your Love Is Amazing

163

$\text{♩} = 100$

1. Your love is a - maz - ing, stea - dy and un - chang -  
 - ing, I can feel it ris -  
 - ing, stea - dy and un - chang -

- ing, your love is a moun - tain, firm be - neath my feet.  
 - ing, all the joy that's grow - ing deep in - side of me.  
 - ing, your love is a moun - tain, firm be - neath my feet.

— Your love is a mys - t'ry, how you gent - ly lift —  
 — Ev - 'ry time I see you all your good - ness shines  
 — Your love is a mys - t'ry, how you gent - ly lift —

— me. When I am sur - round - ed your love car - ries me.  
 — through. I can feel this God song ris - ing up in me.  
 — me. When I am sur - round - ed your love car - ries me.

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah,

your love makes me sing. Ha - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, ha - le - lu -

- jah, your love makes me sing. 2. Your love is sur - pris - Hal - le - lu - jah.  
 3. Your love is a - maz -

Words and Music: Brenton Brown and Brian Doerksen

Copyright ©2000 Vineyard Songs (UK/EIRE). Administered in North America by Music Services o/b/o Vineyard Music Global Inc. (PRS) All rights reserved. Used by permission.

# O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

485

George Matheson, 1882; alt.

Rom. 8:38-39; John 8:12

1 O Love that will not let me go,  
2 O Light that fol - lows all my way,  
3 O Joy that seeks me through my pain,  
4 O Cross that rais - es up my head,

I rest my wea - ry soul in you;  
to you I yield my flick - ering flame;  
to you I can - not close my heart;  
from you I dare not seek to flee;

I give you back the life I owe, that  
Re - new my spir - it's fee - ble ray, that  
I trace the rain - bow through the rain, and  
Life's glo - ries with - er and are dead, but

in your o - cean depths its flow may swell with ar - dor true.  
from your bril - liant sun - lit day it may new bright - ness claim.  
know the prom - ise is not vain that you will ne'er de - part.  
from the ground there blos - soms red, life that shall end - less be.

*Although he was nearly blind, George Matheson studied for the Church of Scotland ministry, assisted by his sisters, who learned Latin, Greek, and Hebrew to help him. Matheson wrote this hymn in five minutes on June 6, 1882, at his parsonage.*

Tune: ST. MARGARET 8.8.8.8.6.  
Albert L. Peace, 1885

# My Life Flows on in Endless Song

(How Can I Keep from Singing)

Ps. 46:1-7; 1 Cor. 3:21-23; 2 Cor. 5:17

Anon. in Bright Jewels for the Sunday School,  
ed. Robert Lowry, 1869; alt.  
St. 3, Doris Plenn, c. 1957

1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam - en -  
2 What though my joys and com - forts die? My Sav - ior still is  
3 When ty - rants trem - ble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells  
4 I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue a -

ta - tion, I hear the sweet, though far - off hymn that  
liv - ing. What though the shad - ows gath - er 'round? A  
ring - ing; When friends re - joice both far and near, how  
bove it; And day by day this path - way smooths, since

hails a new cre - a - tion. Through all the tu - mult  
new song Christ is giv - ing. No storm can shake my  
can I keep from sing - ing? In pris - on cell and  
first I learned to love it. The peace of Christ makes

and the strife, I hear the mu - sic ring - ing; It  
in - most calm, while to that Rock I'm cling - ing; Since  
dun - geon vile our thoughts to them are wing - ing; When  
fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring - ing; All

In various nineteenth-century hymnals this hymn was attributed to different poets, including Anna Warner. The earliest published source credits Robert Lowry as the composer, although Silas Vail later claimed the music. The third stanza was written by

Tune: ENDLESS SONG 8.7.8.7.D.  
Attrib. to Robert Lowry in Bright Jewels  
for the Sunday School, New York, 1869



finds an ech - o in my soul— how can I keep from sing-ing?  
Love com-mands both heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?  
friends by shame are un - de - filed, how can I keep from sing-ing?  
things are mine since I am Christ's— how can I keep from sing-ing?

