



April 21, 2024

“Being
the
Beloved”

Guest Preacher:
Vicki Wunsch

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

“This Day God Gives Me”

Quinn

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*

***Call to Worship** (*responsive*)

Come, all who are weary from the bustle of each day –
God's steadfast love awaits us.

Come, all who delight in the abundance of everyday treasure –
God's steadfast love awaits us.

Come, all who are restless in the face of acquiescence to injustice –
God's steadfast love awaits us.

Come, all who search for glimpses of quiet transcendence –
God's steadfast love awaits us.

Come, all whose spirits are frayed by unforeseen difficulties –
God's steadfast love awaits us.

Come with open hearts, ready to listen for the mystery –
God's steadfast love awaits us.

***Opening Hymn (NCH #11)** "Bring Many Names" verses 1, 4-6

Acknowledging Our Need for God's Grace

Centering Ourselves ...*as the singing bowl's vibrations invite us into depths of grace*

Prayer of Confession and Longing | based on Psalm 139 (*unison*)

God of all, we cannot escape your love. We find no place to hide. You search us out wherever we may be. We may travel to the moon or to the depths of the ocean: your love is there. We may think ourselves to greater levels of sophistication: your love is there. We may fall into the pits of sin: your love is there. Loving God, we confess our need for your steadfast mercy. Thank you for being there, wherever we are. 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”

**Bill Stokes (17th), Jackie Savage (19th), David Kirstein (22nd),
Sue Voosen (24th)**

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 Psalms | *NRSV, part 1, p. 577*

Psalm 139: 1-16

A Reading from the Epistles | *NRSV, part 2, p. 240*

1 John 3: 16-24

One Here ends the readings.

All May God speak to us through these sacred words.

Morning Message

“Being the Beloved”

Responding To God's Love

Prayer Song (SPP #61)

"Call to Prayer"
all verses

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.**

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

"Abundant Life"

M.Haugen

*Offertory Response

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen**

***Prayer of Dedication**

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 #23)** "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"
both verses

***Benediction**

***Sending Song** *Forming a circle, optionally linking elbows or hands*

Irish Blessing
sung twice

**May the road rise to meet you
May the wind be at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face
The rain fall soft upon your fields
And until we meet again
Till we meet again
May God hold you in the palm of God's hand**

We carry the light of Christ with us in all times and spaces

***Postlude** "Send Us Out" Parks

Today Following Worship:

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

11:00—noon | Adult Faith Conversations: *"Limiting resurrection to a miraculous event that happened to Jesus long ago or something that will also be the fate of true believers in some distant future has ceased to have meaning or relevance for many rational and faithful Christians today. What are the implications of seeing resurrection as a metaphor for new life—a symbol of the call to renewal."* (Marcus Borg)

PRAYER CORNER

We hold these joys and concerns in our prayers:

- *With Gina Buberl, we pray for friend **Barb**, navigating a new lymphoma diagnosis.
- *With Sharon Neuenfeldt, we pray courage, hope, and clarity for her friend **Cindy** as she faces tough situations for herself and family.
- *For **Pastor Clare Gromoll** and **Aidan Gromoll** as they enjoy a relaxing and renewing vacation this week.
- *Celebrating anniversaries: **Jere and Dawn Fetter** (16th)

And in the wider community...

- *For the **children and people of Gaza** amidst pain, suffering, and fear of the unknown. May we continue to pray for wholeness and hope.
- *For **those in power** around the world - especially in Israel, Iran - may they find a way forward in peace.



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)

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."

Full article linked in our Mid-Week News.



MEET UNITED'S 2024 DISTINGUISHED ALUM & SPIRIT OF UNITED AWARD RECIPIENTS

We're thrilled to announce **Sue Swanson** ('05) as our 2024 Distinguished Alum and **Rev. Clare Gromoll** ('14) as the second-ever recipient of the Spirit of United Award.



Guest Preacher Rev. Vicki Wunsch currently serves as a Hospice Chaplain and Grief Counselor with Interim Hospice. She is also an educator and support group facilitator for caregivers/family members of loved ones with Alzheimer's or related dementia.

Vicki previously worked to design and develop a learning model for clergy and lay leaders in partnership with the Wisconsin Conference (The Damascus Project) while on staff with the Minnesota Conference as the Director of Leadership Development.

Before graduating from United Theological Seminary, Vicki worked in a number of non profit organizations and spent 8 years doing racial equity training with teachers and staff in Minneapolis and St. Paul school districts.

After living in the Twin Cities for 32 years, Vicki moved back to Wausau, WI where she was born and raised in order to be closer to her parents. Vicki has one daughter, Emily, and 6 month old granddaughter who live in Bayport.

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

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)
Nat Graf, Leadership Council Moderator (651-470-0408, 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.

Please RSVP to Megan for April 30th by April 23rd.

Thank you to today's partners: Rev. Vicki Wunsch (Guest Preacher), Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Michael Bjork (Choir Director), SCUC Choir, Cheri & Bob Schwartz (greeters), Mary Maren Bjork (liturgist), Diane & Joe Legato (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Lisa Culbertson (Childcare Provider), Carol Dusbabek, Claire Spilseth, & Roger Klisch (preK-Gr1), Cindy Baker (Gr2-Gr5), David & Naomi Kirstein (Youth Leader), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Andi Favilla (decorations)



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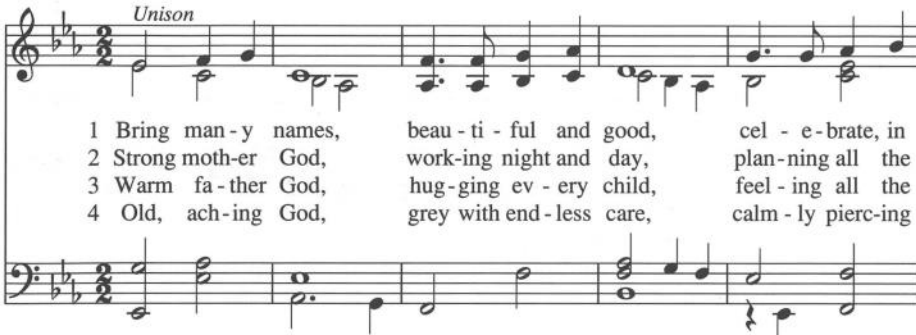
Bring Many Names

11

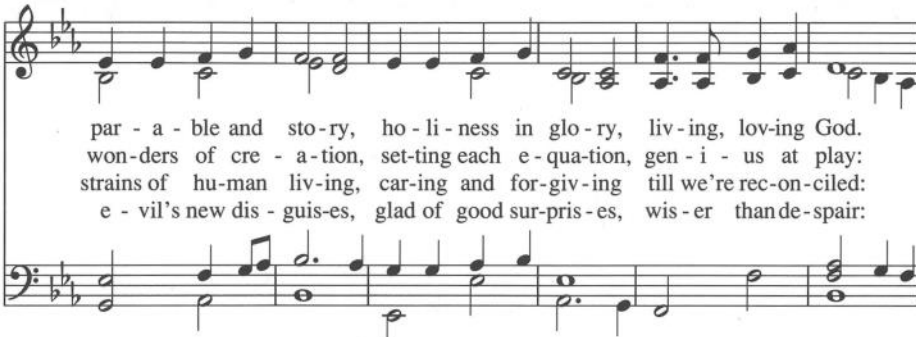
Brian Wren, 1989

Gen. 1:27

Unison



1 Bring man - y names, beau - ti - ful and good, cel - e - brate, in
 2 Strong moth - er God, work - ing night and day, plan - ning all the
 3 Warm fa - ther God, hug - ging ev - ery child, feel - ing all the
 4 Old, ach - ing God, grey with end - less care, calm - ly pierc - ing



par - a - ble and sto - ry, ho - li - ness in glo - ry, liv - ing, lov - ing God.
 won - ders of cre - a - tion, set - ting each e - qua - tion, gen - i - us at play:
 strains of hu - man liv - ing, car - ing and for - giv - ing till we're rec - on - ciled:
 e - vil's new dis - guis - es, glad of good sur - pris - es, wis - er than de - spair:



Hail and Ho - san - na! bring man - y names! great, liv - ing God!
 Hail and Ho - san - na, strong moth - er God!
 Hail and Ho - san - na, warm fa - ther God!
 Hail and Ho - san - na, old, ach - ing God!

5 Young, grow - ing God, ea - ger,
 on the move,
 say - ing no to false - hood and
 un - kind - ness,
 cry - ing out for jus - tice,
 giv - ing all you have:
 Hail and Ho - san - na,
 young, grow - ing God!

6 Great, liv - ing God, nev - er ful - ly known,
 joy - ful dark - ness far be - yond our see - ing,
 clos - er yet than breath - ing,
 ev - er - last - ing home:
 Hail and Ho - san - na,
 great, liv - ing God!

The author states that aspects of the divine are revealed in our maleness, femaleness, youth, and age in a moving, growing matrix of life in God. The tune Westchase was composed especially for this text.

Tune: WESTCHASE 9.10.11.9.
 Carlton Young, 1989

Call to Prayer

$\text{♩} = 100$

D G/D A/D G/D

D D/F# G D

1. Float - ing and flam - ing and fill - ing new life.
2. Search - ing and sav - ing and sooth - ing in - deed.
3. Call - ing and car - ing and chang - ing each heart.

F#m Bm E A

Hov - 'ring and heal - ing and help - ing with sighs.
 Teach - ing and turn - ing and tak - ing the lead;
 Lov - ing and lift - ing us to a new start;

Em A Bm/A A7 D/F# Em

Spir - it at work since the dawn - ing of time;
 Fa - ther - ing, Moth - er - ing, birth - ing new ways;
 Je - sus our Sav - ior, our teach - er, our Lord;

A Bm C#dim Bm G Em/G A D

meet us right here, touch us right now.
 meet us right here, touch us right now.
 meet us right here, touch us right now.

A Bm C#dim Bm G Em A D

Meet us right here, touch us right now.
 Meet us right here, touch us right now.
 Meet us right here, touch us right now.

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our minds;

there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
and the heart of the E - ter-nal is most won-der - ful - ly kind.

There's no place where earth-ly sor-rows are more felt than in God's heaven;
If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's word;

there's no place where earth-ly fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
and our lives would show thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our God.

Of Huguenot Protestant ancestry, Frederick William Faber was influenced by the Oxford Movement and eventually became a Catholic priest. He wrote 150 hymns to correspond to the number of psalms.

Tune: IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D.
Dutch melody
Arr. Julius Röntgen, 1906
Alternate tune: HOLY MANNA