

April 7, 2024

"What If
We Rarely Say
Never?"

#### 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

Ringing the Bell

**Prelude & Candle Lighting** "New Life"

Parmeter

We acknowledge the light of Christ among us

**Words of Welcome and Announcements** 

### \*Prayer of Gathering (responsive)

God of all, your power to transform life through death and resurrection is more than we can comprehend. Our response echoes through the ages: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

#### Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

God of endings and ceaseless new beginnings, we come to worship and praise you for this great mystery.

# We bring with us our longing for all that resurrection makes possible.

We come to offer up our hope and dreams, that you may breathe new life into them.

## Open our eyes to recognize your risen presence in our midst.

In the midst of despair and devastation, may we participate with you in revealing transformed life.

#### Amen!

\*Opening Song (SPP #20) "Waiting for You" sung twice

## **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 resurrection power, break through the locked doors and walls of our certainty. Encourage our wonderings and our questions. Break into our doubt and confusion, that we might come to know your presence more fully in our lives and in the world. When we begin to judge ourselves and others, open the locked doors of our hearts. Give us the patience of the risen Christ, in whose name we pray. 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"

Melissa Stephan (2nd), Nan Oswald (5th), Rick Buberl (8th), Kathy Iverson (11th), Payton Wright (11th - 15 yrs), Phillip Wright (11th - 12 yrs), Jensen Wright (11th - 10 years)

## **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 can join in or remain in worship on 1st Sundays
We welcome sounds and movements of children in worship

## **Proclaiming God's Love**

A Reading from the Gospels | The Inclusive Bible
A Reading from the Newer Testament | NRSV part 2, p. 122

John 20:19-31

Acts 4:32-35

One Here ends the readings.

All May God speak to us through these sacred words.

#### **Morning Message**

## "What If We Rarely Say Never?"

### **Responding To God's Love**

Prayer Hymn (NCH #256)

"We Live By Faith and Not by Sight" 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)

Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,
Holy and blessed is your true name.
We pray for your reign of peace to come,
We pray that your good will be done,
Let heaven and Earth become one.
Give us this day the bread we need,
Give it to those who have none.
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,
From each one to each one.
Lead us to holy innocence
Beyond the evil of our days —
Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:
Forever your name is All in One. Amen.

#### **Invitation to the Offering**

We give by cash, check or electronically (scanning the QR code) Checks should be made out to St. Croix United Church (checks can no longer be written to our former church names)



**Offertory** 

"We Share a Hunger"

Warner

#### \*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"

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)

O Holy One, in this place, at this table, we have touched, tasted, and heard signs of your love for us. Grant that we may depart from this service of worship filled with love for you and overflowing with love for those around us. May we become the body of the risen Christ. We pray in the name of Jesus, the risen one. Amen.

# **Going Forth to Share God's Love**

\*Closing Hymn (NCH #249) "Peace I Leave with You, My Friends" verses 1 & 3

\*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

"Let Us Now Depart in Thy Peace"

Bristol

#### **Today** Following Worship:

10:30am | All are welcome in the Fellowship Hall for refreshments & good company!
11:00—noon | Adult Faith Conversations: The Resurrection of Jesus. A conversation (via DVD) with Tripp Fuller of Homebrewed Christianity and Diana Butler Bass.
Fellowship Hall (childcare provided) & Zoomed

#### PRAYER CORNER

We hold these joys and concerns in our prayers:

- \*We give thanks for all who serve within our church; for the youngest among us who teach us with their beautiful and loving presence; and for the music that enriches our time together.
- \*With the Shaller family we offer prayers for **Lolly**, who lost her husband Ted last week and for all who grieve as the seasons turn.
- \*For open third chakras (healthy sense of self), can-do energy that Jesus has shown us, mindful presence with those around us, and courage to heal.
- \*Celebrating anniversaries: **Peter and Andi** Favilla (8th)

And in the wider community...

- \*For the **Baltimore community** after the fall of the Francis Scott Key bridge.
- \*We give thanks for friends and family gathered together at Eastertime. Mindful of those who are alone, may we reach out in companionship.
- \*We acknowledge and celebrate **Transgender Day of Visibility** (March 31st), praying for health, wholeness, and companionship for all.
- \*To our Muslim neighbors, a blessed **Ramadan** (March 10 April 9). Eid al-Fitr (April 10) marks the end of the month of dawn-to-sunset fasting and special focus on prayer, reflection and community.

#### **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. Open house dates:

- Wednesday, April 10 | 5:30-7:30 pm Stillwater City Hall: 216 North Fourth Street, Stillwater, MN 55082
- Thursday, April 11 | 5:30-7:30 pm Washington County Government Center Cafeteria: 14949 62nd Street N., Stillwater, MN 55082
- Tuesday, April 16 | 6:00 8:00 pm Oak Park Heights City Hall

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.

# Pastor Clare will be away following worship today—April 10,

as she participates in the NACCC Minister's Convention in Illinois.

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.

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

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Michael Bjork (Choir Director), Cheri Schwartz (liturgist), Jane Hanson (communion preparer), Mary Binger (communion server), Lori Mildon & Stinson Roofing (fellowship), Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Lisa Culbertson (Childcare Provider), Carol Dusbabek & Cheri Schwartz (preK-Gr1), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Andi Favilla & Jenni Shaller (decorations)



#### St. Croix United Church

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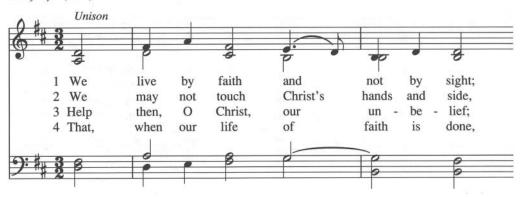
Words and Music: Christopher Grundy

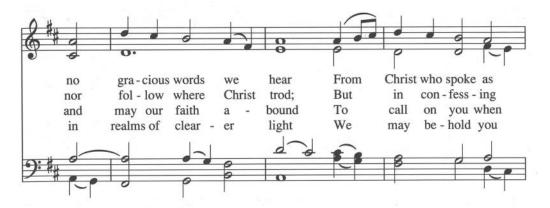
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# We Live by Faith and Not by Sight

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Henry Alford, 1844; alt. John 20:24–29







As dean of Canterbury, Henry Alford exemplified ecumenism by working closely with non-Anglican groups. He promoted New Testament scholarship with his famous commentary on the Greek New Testament, one of fifty books he published during his lifetime.

Tune: DUNLAP'S CREEK C.M.
Samuel McFarland, c. 1816
Harm. Richard Proulx, 1986

# 112 Come to the Table of Grace



#### 249

## Peace I Leave with You, My Friends



Songwriter Ray Repp has composed and recorded numerous albums of liturgical songs since 1965, when he introduced guitar into worship with his "Mass for Young Americans."

Tune: PEACE, MY FRIENDS Irr. with refrain Ray Repp, 1967

Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994

