



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*

### **Ring the Bell**

### **Prelude & Candle Lighting**

“New Life”

*Parmeter*

*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*



## **\*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***

**John 20:19-31**

**A Reading from the Newer Testament | *NRSV part 2, p. 122***

**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”  
all verses**

**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](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.**

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**  
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



# Waiting for You

20

♩=110

D A/D Gadd9 D

We are wait - ing for you, know - ing that you -

A/D Gadd9 D A/D Gadd9

al - ways a - bide, we are wak - ing to your pres - ence

D A/D Gadd9

and our hearts are o - pen wide,

A7sus D A/D Gadd9 A7sus D

o - pen wide. o - pen wide.

Words and Music: Christopher Grundy

Copyright ©2004 Local Church Ministries, United Church of Christ. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## We Live by Faith and Not by Sight

256

Henry Alford, 1844; alt.

John 20:24-29

*Unison*

1 We live by faith and not by sight;  
 2 We may not touch Christ's hands and side,  
 3 Help then, O Christ, our un - be - lief;  
 4 That, when our life of faith is done,

no gra-cious words we hear From Christ who spoke as  
 nor fol-low where Christ trod; But in con-fess-ing  
 and may our faith a-bound To call on you when  
 in realms of clear-er light We may be-hold you

none e'er spoke, who still we know is near.  
 we re-joice: our Sav-ior and our God!  
 you are near and seek where you are found:  
 as you are, with full and end-less sight.

*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

♩=90

1. Come to the ta - ble of grace. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. Come to the ta - ble of peace. \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. Come to the ta - ble of love. \_\_\_\_\_  
 4. Come to the ta - ble of joy. \_\_\_\_\_

Come to the ta - ble of grace. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Come to the ta - ble of peace. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Come to the ta - ble of love. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Come to the ta - ble of joy. \_\_\_\_\_

This is Christ's ta - ble not just yours or mine.  
 This is Christ's ta - ble not just yours or mine.  
 This is Christ's ta - ble not just yours or mine.  
 This is Christ's ta - ble not just yours or mine.

Come to the ta - ble of grace. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Come to the ta - ble of peace. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Come to the ta - ble of love. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Come to the ta - ble of joy. \_\_\_\_\_

## Peace I Leave with You, My Friends

John 14:18-29

Ray Repp, 1967

*Refrain*

The musical score is written in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of six systems of music, each with a vocal line and a guitar accompaniment line. The guitar line includes chord diagrams and chord names: D, Em, G, D, F#m, Em, Gm, D, Em, G, D, F#m, Bm, Em, G, D, D, Em, G, D, F#m, Em/G, Gm.

Peace I leave with you, my friends, sha-lom, my peace, in  
all you do. Peace I leave with you, my friends. I give to  
you so you can give to oth - ers, too.

1 To share God's love is why I came,  
2 Take my hand and be at peace;  
3 With this love now all will know

to show God's kind - ness with - out end.  
the spir - it of our love I send.  
that lone - li - ness is at an end.

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

EASTER SEASON

D Em G D

Go now, my friends, and do the same,  
 And with this love you will be free,  
 Re-joice, my friends, al-though I go,

F#m G A7 *to Refrain*

un-til I come a - gain.  
 un-til I come a - gain.  
 for I will come a - gain.