



May 12, 2024

“How Do Our
Taproots Sink
Into Love?”

Mother’s Day

Welcome!

We encourage wearing name tags. Coffee and tea are welcome in worship.
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 “Mother Dearest, Mother Fairest” *Trad. Melody*

We acknowledge the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome & Announcements

SPP = *Sing! Prayer and Praise*

* = Sitting or standing

NCH = *New Century Hymnal*

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

Springtime changes are bursting forth around us –
The Earth awakens with a display of wondrous color.

The cycle of living and dying continues –
As it has for ages past, and will for ages to come.

Lent has passed and the celebration of Easter is over –
But Easter's message of awakening to new possibilities continues.

Glory to God!
Alleluia!

***Opening Hymn (NCH #28)** "For the Beauty of the Earth"
all verses

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 *(unison)*

God of peace and justice, we long for your peace within and among us. We long to find serenity in the midst of life's struggles. We long for harmony in our relationships. We long for the day when every family might live in peace and without fear. Yet we confess that there is much anxiety, fear, distrust, and even violence within us. When we do not feel ready and able to take the risks and make the sacrifices which peace requires, grant us courage and resolve. Through the grace of Jesus Christ, 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

Choral Anthem "All Things New" *by Elaine Hagenberg & Frances Havergal*

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”

Jane Hanson (7th), John Norheim (10th)

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. 3 | gather now for Sunday School downstairs

Youth Group (gr. 4-12) | gathers now in the Resource Room upstairs

We welcome sounds and movements of children in worship

Proclaiming God's Love

A Reading from the Psalms | *The Inclusive Bible*

Psalm 1

A Reading from the Gospels | *The Inclusive Bible*

John 17:6-19

Here ends the readings.

May God speak to us through these sacred words.

Morning Message

“How Do Our Taproots Sink Into Love?”

Responding To God's Love

Duet

"Like a Tree By the River"

Mary Dorn Lippert

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**

A Mother's Day Litany

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
Blue giving cards in the plate represent gifts made electronically.*



Offertory

“Praise the Lord”

Coomes/Fields

*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**

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

Going Forth to Share God's Love

***Closing Hymn (NCH #433)** "In The Bulb There Is a Flower"
all verses

***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"

Melton

All are welcome downstairs for refreshments & good company!



*Each woman present today is invited to take a flower as you depart.
We give thanks for the many ways God nurtures us
through the women in our lives.*

PRAYER CORNER

We hold these joys and concerns in our prayers:

*With Jane Hanson, we pray for **Willis Dey**, who was recently diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease and is progressing more quickly than expected.

*For **Lisa Culbertson**, continued healing as she recovers from a successful hip surgery.

*With Bob and Cheri Schwartz, we give thanks for baby **Astrid** doing so well that a kidney transplant was not needed after all.

*With Bob and Cheri, we also give thanks for granddaughter **Bee's** wellbeing.

*We give thanks for **Barb and Stan Hilliard's** presence with us on Sunday after a prolonged physical absence due to health challenges!

*With Jennifer Halvorsen-Albright, we pray for friend **Emily** who will soon deliver a baby who is not expected to survive.

*With Jennifer, we also pray for **Angie**, a childhood friend whose adult child Baile is in an induced coma while experiencing organ failure.

*With **Barb Hilliard**, we give thanks for companionship experienced in our congregation.

*With **Mary Ann Litfin**, we pray for capacity to find and experience joy and goodness in the midst of hardship.

*We give thanks for **Frank Cole's** heartfelt sharing about Stephen's Ministry, and we pray for discernment as we consider beginning a congregational care ministry.

*Celebrating anniversaries: **Bob and Kathy Iverson** (20th)

And in the wider community...

*Prayers that we would hear and heed a prophetic word in the midst of protests around the violence in Gaza.



"Strengthen the Church" 1 of 4 annual UCC mission offerings

May 19 & 26 (envelopes will be provided)

This offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

We're planning a party! Do you want to help?

Our Grand Opening Team is meeting Tuesday, **May 14th** at 5:30 pm to dream and plan for our newly merged church's Grand Opening in September. Feel free to join in!



2nd Strategic Visioning Full-Congregation Workshop

May 22nd

Supper at 5:00pm | Workshop will run 5:15/5:30-8:00pm.
An RSVP survey will be sent out the week prior.

Memorial Day Parade Hospitality | Monday, **May 27th**, 8:30 am

We will once again provide treats & coffee on our church lawn during the parade. Contact Cindy Siegel (cindysiegel98@gmail.com, 651-343-3270) or Megan (office@stcroixunitedchurch.org, 651-439-5667) if you can help!

Women's Gathering

Thursday, **May 30th**, 6:30pm @ Church

All are welcome for conversation, laughter, and deepening relationships.



You are Invited to Our Next Inquirers Gathering!

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 **June 1st**.

Gentle Tai Chi with Mary Ann Litfin

Resumes weekly sessions **June 2nd** at 8:30 am @ People's Park

All are welcome for a gentle and easy-to-learn moving meditation that invites connection, balance, and renewal.






**Outdoor
Worship is
Back!**

**June 2nd
People's Park**

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Michael Bjork (Choir Director), SCUC Choir, Lori Mildon (flute), Bob Dickie & Cindy Parsons (greeters), Sam Gromoll (acolyte), Sharri Kinkead & Jonah Gromoll (liturgist), Arly Fuhr & Sarah Thorson (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Carol Dusbabek, Claire Spilseth, & Kim Klisch (preK-gr.3), David & Naomi Kirstein (gr.4-12), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Andi Favilla (decorations)



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For the Beauty of the Earth

St. 1-3, Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1864; alt.

St. 4, Miriam Therese Winter, 1993

1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the splen-dor of the skies,
 2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,
 4 For the good that love in-spires, for a world where none ex-clude,

For the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
 Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,
 For a faith that nev-er tires, and for ev-ery heart re-newed,

Refrain

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

Folliot S. Pierpoint, author of numerous hymns, penned these verses near his native city of Bath, England, on a late spring day when flowers were in full bloom and all the earth seemed to rejoice.

Tune: DIX 7.7.7.7. with refrain
 Conrad Kocher, 1838
 Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861

Natalie Sleeth, 1985

Unison

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise; but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn for ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.