



May 26, 2024

“The  
Burden  
of a Soldier”

Preacher:  
Rev. Naomi Kirstein

## **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)

## **The Love of God Gathers Us**

### **Gathering Music**

*We gently settle into sacred time and space*

### **Ring the Bell**

### **Prelude & Candle Lighting**

“Remember”

*Stevens*

*We acknowledge the light of Christ among us*

### **Words of Welcome & Announcements**

SPP = *Sing! Prayer and Praise*

\* = Sitting or standing

NCH = *New Century Hymnal*

**\*Prayer of Gathering** *(responsive)*

If God is for us, who can be against us?

**What, then, should be our response?**

God offers us new life, a fresh start, a second chance.

**What, then, should be our response?**

God, who is for us, desires wholeness and joy for all.

**Let us respond with that truth, worshiping God with our whole selves.**

**\*Opening Hymn (NCH #23)** “There is a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

**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** *(responsive)*

Gracious Spirit, when the dry wind of confusion fills our every breath;  
when the shadows of fear echo every step,

**Restore our hearts into hope, that we might seek a good path.**

When every door seems locked up tight; when every thought seems  
weighted down,

**Restore our hearts into hope, that we might seek a good path.**

When the ground becomes unstable and entangled; when the  
nourishing streams turn dry and arid,

**Restore our hearts into hope, that we might seek a good path. 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"

**Adam Bettin (20th), Walter Vandre (20th - 6 yrs), Lisa Culbertson (24th),  
Jill Greenhalgh (27th), Edith Stokes (28th - 4 yrs), Bob Iverson (29th)**

### Wondering Together

### Blessing One Another

*...with arms wide open*

Children: God be with you

**All: And also with you**

### Sung Affirmation

*...as young people return to families*

**Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine...  
...let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

*Families with infants & toddlers are welcome to use the nursery downstairs  
We also welcome sounds and movements of children in worship*

## Proclaiming God's Love

**A Reading from The Psalms** | *adapted from NRSV & The Inclusive Bible*      Psalm 121

**A Reading from the Gospels** | *Common English Bible*      Matthew 5:43-48

Here ends the readings.

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

### Morning Message

**"The Burden of a Soldier"**

*Rev. Naomi Kirstein*

## Responding To God's Love

**Prayer Hymn (see insert)**

**"Taps: The National Call of Remembrance"  
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*)

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



## Offertory

“Sois la Semilla”

*Gabarain*

## \*Offertory Response

**Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-u-ja.  
Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-u-ja.  
Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-u-ja.  
Halleluja! Halleluja!**

## \*Prayer of Dedication

**God of generous love, we give thanks for opportunities to share in your creative and restorative work among people. Because you empower us, we have much to give. These offerings express our gratitude and our aspiration to be ever more fully your embodied community. Amen.**

## Going Forth to Share God's Love

**\*Closing Song (SPP #139)** "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"  
**verses 1-4**

**\*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.**

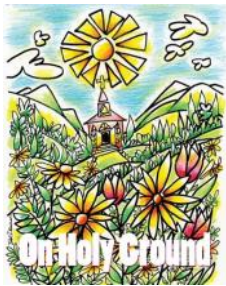
**Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.  
With ev'ry step I take, let this be my solemn vow;  
To take each moment, and live each moment in peace eternally!  
Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me.**

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

**\*Postlude** "Let Us Now Depart in Peace" *New Mexican Folk Song*

### **Today** Following Worship:

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



**"Strengthen the Church" 1 of 4 annual UCC mission offerings**  
**Today** (envelopes provided)

Support the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support 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.

*Write checks to St. Croix United Church, memo "Strengthen the Church"*

## PRAYER CORNER

*We hold these joys and concerns in our prayers:*

- \*For **Linda Tossey**, who continues to journey with cancer. She entered the hospital on Thursday for a transfusion and procedures. We pray for healing energy.
- \*Our Childcare Provider, **Lisa Culbertson**, appreciates our continued prayers, which have encouraged her as she heals and recovers after hip replacement surgery.
- \*With Cindy Siegel, prayers for friend **Sarah** (recently diagnosed with breast cancer) who recently lost her mother. May love surround her in this time.
- \*With Cindy Siegel, we offer gratitude for the **MN 5K for brain tumor research** - and for her daughter, **Jenna's**, continued recovery from a brain tumor.
- \*For **Aidan Gromoll**, who arrived on Monday to Calais, France, where she is providing medical care among refugees.
- \*For **Sam Gromoll**, who had orthopedic surgeries on Friday. We pray for healing energy as he begins a long journey toward recovery. (Find links to his Caring Bridge and visitor train in our Mid-Week News.)
- \*With Jackie Savage, we pray for sister **Debbie**, awaiting answers to health issues.
- \*We give thanks for **Forrest Whiterabbit, Jr's** promotion within the US Postal Service, freeing him to be with us on Sunday mornings.
- \*With Kathy Whiterabbit, we pray for sister **Bernice**, whose husband George recently died from a stroke. May love surround her in this time of grief.
- \*For the Afton Postmaster, **Mike Wotrang**, healing energy as he faces a new cancer diagnosis.
- \*For all who struggle with addiction and in journeys toward sobriety.
- \*During beautiful early summer days, safety and enjoyment in the outdoors.
- \*Happy anniversary: **Bob and Kathy Iverson** (20th), **David and Wendy Staberg** (30th)



On this Memorial Day weekend,  
we honor the memories of those who have  
given their lives in service of our country.  
And we acknowledge those who grieve their deaths.

## 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) if you can bring baked or store-bought treats!

## Let's Celebrate the Graduates!

Is someone in your family graduating (preschool through a post-secondary degree or certificate program)?

Please send these details to Megan by **May 28th**:

- 1) Who is graduating?
- 2) From what institution?
- 3) From preschool, high school, or with what degree or certificate?
- 4) What are their plans for next steps after graduation?
- 5) Is your graduate available for 9:30am worship on June 2nd, 9th, or 16th?



## Women's Gathering

**May 30th** at 6:30 pm at Church

Join us for an evening of fellowship and refreshments.

## 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, easy-to-learn moving meditation. We invite connection, balance, and renewal. *Casual dress welcome in worship.*

## Red Cross Blood Drive!

Thursday, **June 6th** | 9 am—3 pm

Schedule your appointment at [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org)

Give Blood.  
It's a powerful connection  
to the U.S. health blood  
system.



## Park Land Sale Conversations

**June 4th, 6pm** - Land Sale Q&A Forum (in the Fellowship Hall and Zoomed)

**June 9th, 11am** (after indoor worship at church building) Special Congregational Meeting to vote on final approval of the land sale. The meeting will occur in the Fellowship Hall. Voting will be by silent ballot and allowed in person and electronically. Per our bylaws, there will be no proxy or early/late voting options.



Please plan to participate in this important event at a time of deep transition. Together, we will close one chapter of our history as we begin the next.

*More info available in the Mid-Week News.*

## Outdoor Worship is Back!

**June 2nd**

People's Park (1003 5th Ave. N in Bayport)



We shift back to indoors on June 9th, then outdoors the remainder of the summer.

Thank you to today's partners: Rev. Naomi Kirsten (Preacher), Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Rolf Dittmann (cantor), Lori Mildon (flute), Carol Dusbabek, Therese Thorson, Maya Solano-Klisch (greeters), Sharri Kinkead (liturgist), Jonah Gromoll (acolyte & liturgist), Jane Hanson & Cheri Schwartz (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Andi Favilla (decorations)




## St. Croix United Church

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## 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

## I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me 139

$\text{♩} = 68$

F Bbmaj7/C F F7

1. I'm gon-na live so \_\_\_\_\_ God can use me \_\_\_\_\_ an - y -
2. I'm gon-na work so \_\_\_\_\_ God can use me \_\_\_\_\_ an - y -
3. I'm gon-na pray so \_\_\_\_\_ God can use me \_\_\_\_\_ an - y -
4. I'm gon-na sing so \_\_\_\_\_ God can use me \_\_\_\_\_ an - y -

B $\flat$  Cm/B $\flat$  B $\flat$  B $\flat$ /D Gm/F C/F Gmsus/F

- time, Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ and an - y - where. \_\_\_\_\_
- time, Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ and an - y - where. \_\_\_\_\_
- time, Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ and an - y - where. \_\_\_\_\_
- time, Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ and an - y - where. \_\_\_\_\_

F C7 F F/E $\flat$  D7 A7/E

- I'm gon-na live so \_\_\_\_\_ God can use me \_\_\_\_\_
- I'm gon-na work so \_\_\_\_\_ God can use me \_\_\_\_\_
- I'm gon-na pray so \_\_\_\_\_ God can use me \_\_\_\_\_
- I'm gon-na sing so \_\_\_\_\_ God can use me \_\_\_\_\_

D7 D7/F# G9 C7sus Bbmaj7/C F

- an - y - time, Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ and an - y - where. \_\_\_\_\_
- an - y - time, Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ and an - y - where. \_\_\_\_\_
- an - y - time, Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ and an - y - where. \_\_\_\_\_
- an - y - time, Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ and an - y - where. \_\_\_\_\_