



May 5, 2024

“In What Ways  
Do We Need  
Pruning?”

### **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**

**“Blessed Assurance with No Other Name”**

*arr by Carol Tornquist*

*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*)

Jesus said, “This is my commandment: Love one another.”

**We come to worship the God who is Love, as we learn to love one another.**

Jesus said, “No longer do I call you servants; now I call you friends.”

**We come to worship the God whose friends we are through Christ.**

Let us worship God, living in love and friendship toward the human family –

**Following in the way of Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn (NCH #43)** "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"  
**verses 1-2**

**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*)

**Keeper of heaven and Earth, guardian of our coming and going forth, of our times of tender reflection, and our moments of turmoil —**

**Our shared life is fragile, and we sometimes fray the fabric of life. Sharpen our sensitivities. Teach us to prefer listening to speaking, tenderness rather than aggression, community in a world of alienation. Deepen for us the meaning of resurrection, that we not only speak words of transformation, but embody those words in our life.**

**Healer, Renewer, Sustainer, Source of hope and joy — we offer thanks and praise, Alleluia, Alleluia, 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** "God is Always With Me" *by Nancy Wieder, arr. by Jay Althouse*

**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"**

**Shaun Stokes** (April 28th), **Sharon Binger** (2nd), **Evelyn Wulff** (2nd - 10 yrs),  
**Frank Cole** (2nd), **Tor Thorsen** (3rd), **Jane Hanson** (7th), **John Norheim** (10th)

**Wondering Together**

**Spare Change Collection for our Food Sharing Pantry**

**\*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 remain in worship on 1st Sundays (or join younger ones)*

*We welcome sounds and movements of children in worship*

**Proclaiming God's Love**

**A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles** | *The Inclusive Bible*

**Acts 10:1-48**

**A Reading from the Gospels** | *The Inclusive Bible*

**John 15:1-15**

Here ends the readings.

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

Responding To God’s Love

Prayer Song (SPP #128) "Change My Heart, O God"  
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*)

**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

“Come, Bless the Lord”

Hunter

\*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 Hymn (Chalice Hymnal #414)**

**“Eat This Bread”  
sung repeatedly**

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev-er be hun - gry.

The first line of musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). It consists of a vocal line and a bass line. The vocal line begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev-er be hun - gry." The bass line begins with a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev-er be hun - gry."

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst. *Fine*

The second line of musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). It consists of a vocal line and a bass line. The vocal line begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst. *Fine*" The bass line begins with a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst. *Fine*"

**\*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. As the body of the risen Christ, we pray. Amen.**

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

**\*Closing Hymn (NCH #347)** "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"  
**all 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** "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" *Lutkin*

**Today Following Worship:**

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

**11:00—noon** | Adult Faith Conversations: Join us in a conversation about the concept of atonement. Drawing on an excellent DVD resource, we will explore its impact in Christian history and what role (if any) it plays in our faith journeys today.

## PRAYER CORNER

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

\*For **Lisa Culbertson** (our Childcare Provider), successful hip replacement surgery on May 6th and a smooth start to healing and recovery.

\*For Rebecca Dennis' husband, **Aaron**, and his friend **Nathan** who are traveling in the Grand Canyon. May they have safe travels and amazing experiences!

\*Prayers of gratitude for Bob Dickie and Cindy Parson's daughter, **Erin**, for a safe road trip from Colorado through difficult weather.

\*For **Bob Dickie and Cindy Parson's niece**, struggling with mental health and soon leaving the hospital. May she continue to heal.

\*We give thanks for Sharon **Neuenfeldt**, **Lori Mildon**, and all who offer their musical talents on Sunday mornings!

*And in the wider community...*

\*For college students and professors struggling with issues concerning freedom of speech. May God embolden and sustain those who speak out for justice and peace.



### 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.

Mark your calendars for our next

### Red Cross Blood Drive!

Thursday, **June 6th** | 9 am—3 pm

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

Give Blood.  
Every 2 seconds someone  
in the U.S. needs blood.  
American Red Cross



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.


We support Walker West (St. Paul) as reparations for use of “This Little Light of Mine” and other Black spirituals. *Walker West creates a music learning community rooted in the African-American cultural experience, where people of all ages and backgrounds can gather, explore, and grow through music.*



**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), Jane Hanson (greeter & communion preparer), Sharon Binger (liturgist), Mary Binger, Dan & Marianne Warnes (communion servers), Kathy & Bob Iverson (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Carol Dusbabek, Claire Spilseth, (preK-Gr1), Jackie Savage (preK-Gr1 & sanctuary organizer), Andi Favilla (decorations)



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## Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Mal. 3:1; 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17; Eph. 5:27

Charles Wesley, 1747; alt.



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel-ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,  
 2 Breathe, O breathe your lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;  
 3 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all your life re - ceive;  
 4 Fin - ish, then, your new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less may we prove;



Fix in us a hum - ble dwell - ing, all your faith - ful mer - cies crown;  
 Let us all in you in - her - it, let us find your prom - ised rest;  
 Sud - den - ly re - turn, and ne - ver, ne - ver - more your tem - ples leave.  
 Let us see your great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in you;



Je - sus, you are all com - pas - sion; pure, un - bound - ed love im - part.  
 Take a - way our love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;  
 You we would be al - ways bless - ing, love you as your an - gels love,  
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,



Vis - it us with your sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
 End of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 Pray and praise for your un - fail - ing, wound - ed arms out - stretched a - bove.  
 Crowned as saints, we ev - er shall be lost in won - der, love, and praise.



*This hymn is said to have been suggested by a "Song of Venus" from Dryden's King Arthur. It is one of 6,500 written by Charles Wesley, the "sweet singer of Methodism," who was skilled at interweaving literary and scriptural images.*

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.

John Zundel, 1855

Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL

For another harmonization, see 368, 495

RESPOND

128

Change My Heart, O God

♩=100  
C

G/B F/A Dm Gsus C F/G

C B/G F/A Dm G7 Am Em7/G

|                                  |                                |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Change my heart, O God,___    | make it ev - er true. ___      |
| *2. Cleanse my soul, O God,___   | wash it with your grace. ___   |
| *3. Stir my mind, O God,___      | move it to be - lieve. ___     |
| *1. Change our hearts, O God,___ | make them ev - er true. ___    |
| *2. Cleanse our souls, O God,___ | wash them with your grace. ___ |
| *3. Stir our minds, O God,___    | move them to be - lieve. ___   |

Fmaj7 Cmaj7/E Dm G7 C G7/B

|                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Change my heart, O God,___    | may I be like you. ___         |
| Cleanse my soul, O God,___    | ten - der your em - brace. ___ |
| Stir my mind, O God,___       | help me to per - ceive. ___    |
| Cleanse our hearts, O God,___ | may we be like you. ___        |
| Cleanse our souls, O God,___  | ten - der your em - brace. ___ |
| Stir our minds, O God,___     | help us to per - ceive. ___    |

Chorus

Esus E Am Dm G Am Gadd9

|                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| You are the Pot - ter, | I am the clay. ___   |
| You are the Pot - ter, | we are the clay. ___ |

F E Am Dm G/D D G Gsus G

|                          |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Mold me and make ___ me, | this is what I pray.  |
| Mold us and make ___ us, | this is what we pray. |

C G/B F/A Dm Am

|                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Change my heart, O God,___   | make it ev - er true. ___   |
| Change our hearts, O God,___ | make them ev - er true. ___ |



Change my heart, O God,\_\_\_ may I be like you.\_\_\_\_  
*Change our hearts, O God.\_\_\_\_ may we be like you.\_\_\_\_*



You are the Pot - ter, I am the clay.\_\_\_\_  
*You are the Pot - ter, we are the clay.\_\_\_\_*



Mold me and make\_\_\_ me, this is what I pray.  
*Mold us and make\_\_\_ us, this is what we pray.*



Change my heart, O God,\_\_\_ make it ev-er true.\_\_\_\_  
*Change our hearts, O God,\_\_\_ make them ev-er true.\_\_\_\_*



Change my heart, O God,\_\_\_ may I be like you.\_\_\_\_  
*Change our hearts, O God,\_\_\_ may we be like you.\_\_\_\_*

*\*Words in italics are new lyrics and have been added with permission of the publisher.*

Words (verse 1) and Music: Eddie Espinosa

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# Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Luke 10:1-9

Fred Kaan, 1975; alt.

C F G Dm G C G

1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em-ploy, reach-ing out with a shout of joy:  
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at his ta - ble he set the tone,  
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear-ing fruit in a world of doubt,

C F G Dm7 C G C

bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.  
 teach-ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.  
 gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im-man - u - el) ev - ery-where!

*Refrain (first time p, second time f)*

C C7 F Dm G C F C

Je-sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a-bound!

*This hymn came into being when composer Doreen Potter asked poet Fred Kaan to write a text for her adaptation of a Jamaican folk melody. It was first used at the World Council of Churches Assembly in Nairobi (1975), and in Vancouver (1983).*

Tune: LNSTEAD L.M. with refrain  
 Jamaican folk song  
 Adapt. Doreen Potter, 1975