

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

Ringing 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** 

\*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

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

Acts 10:1-48 John 15:1-15

Here ends the readings.

May God speak to us through these sacred words.

### **Morning Message**

## "In What Ways Do We Need Pruning?"

### **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



\*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



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.



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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#### 43

## 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; Fin - ish, then, your new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less may we prove; Fix in hum - ble dwell-ing, all your faith - ful mer - cies crown; let us find your prom-ised rest; Let us all in you in - her - it, re - turn, and ne - ver, ne - ver-more your tem - ples leave. Sud-den - ly Let us see your great sal - va - tion per-fect - ly re - stored in 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 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, us with your sal - va-tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart. of faith, as its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty. 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

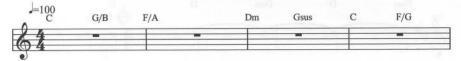
Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL

For another harmonization, see 368, 495

#### RESPOND

## 128

# Change My Heart, O God







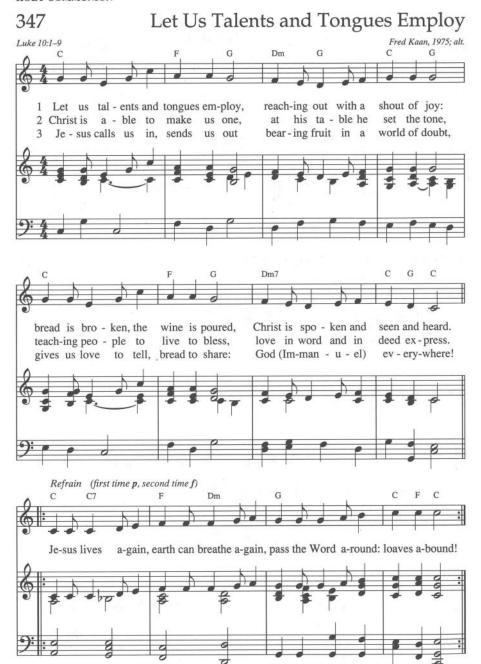
<sup>\*</sup>Words in italics are new lyrics and have been added with permission of the publisher.

Words (verse 1) and Music: Eddie Espinosa

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