



July 28, 2024

“Abundance”

Guest Preacher:  
Rev. Rebecca  
LeMenager

**Welcome!**

We encourage wearing name tags.

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

### **Gathering Music**

*We gently settle into sacred time and space*

### **Ring the Bell**

### **Prelude & Candle Lighting**

“You Shine”

*Doerksen*

*We acknowledge the light of Christ among us*

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

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

As we gather for worship, we call to mind those in need – needing food, friends, home, hope.

**But we are only a few loaves and fishes. Are we enough?**

We meet people who are ready, waiting, and longing for good news.

**But we are only a few loaves and fishes. Are we enough?**

We hear Jesus tell us to break ourselves open, to become vulnerable and available, to trust in God's promise of abundance.

**But we are only a few loaves and fishes. Are we enough?**

As we break ourselves open, we discover founts of living water and bread of healing and peace.

**There is more than enough for all. Baskets of leftovers spill onto the ground! May we learn to share.**

**\*Opening Song (SPP #26)** "You Are Welcome Here"

**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** (*responsive*)

Love us from the inside out, God. Take the thoughts we hide deep inside and refine them with your purifying fire.

**Take the roots of our fears and deaden their hold on our lives.**

Take the anxious thoughts in my mind and hold them in grace.

**Love me from the inside out. Take the hope you have planted in me and nourish it with the support of the church.**

Take the gift of your Spirit living in each of us and lead us into loving action. Love us from the inside out.

**May your love infuse our living. Amen.**

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.

**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”**

**Tony Graf (28th), Naomi Kirstein (1st), Terri Powell (3rd)**

**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.**

*Children are welcome to go to the playground (supervised by Lisa)  
Families with children age 3 and below need to supervise their child on the playground  
We welcome the sounds and movements of children who stay in worship*

*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.*

## Proclaiming God's Love

**A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures** | NRSV

2 Kings 4:42-44

**A Reading from the Gospels** | NRSV

John 6:1-14

Here ends the readings.

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

**Morning Message**

**"Abundance"**

## Responding To God's Love

**Prayer Song (SPP #66)**

**"Every Step of the Way"  
sung twice**

## **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)  
Blue giving cards represent gifts made electronically.



**Offertory**

“You are My All and All”

*Germigain*

**\*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** (*unison*)

**God of all, as we invest our money and energy in your work of love, you bring new life through our community. We trust your love to multiply and share our gifts wherever there is hunger for your fierce grace. Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn (NCH #46)** “We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky”  
**all verses**

### **Going Forth to Share God’s Love**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Sending Song**

*Optionally linking elbows or holding 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*

***After-Worship Fellowship***

*All are welcome to linger on the lawn for refreshments & good company!*

**PRAYER CORNER**

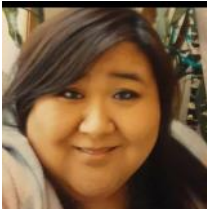
*We hold these joys and concerns in our prayers:*

- \*For the family and friends of longtime church member, **Joselle Rosengren**, who passed away July 19th - we offer prayers of love in this time of grief and loss.
- \*For Jennifer Halvorsen-Albright's friend **Emily and husband Lucas**, whose baby Samuel is not expected to survive birth. As they experience pressure from a religious leader to close themselves off from loved ones, we pray for open hearts and minds.
- \*For **Linda Tossey**, who was recently back in the hospital with more cancer-related challenges. We pray for healing energy in body, mind, and spirit.
- \*For Wendy Staberg's friend, **Trudy**, after the recent loss of her father, Don Watson, to suicide. May the spirit of love surround all who grieve this loss.
- \*For Sharon Neuenfeldt's brother, **Greg**, who has multiple myeloma and was hospitalized after arriving at the emergency room in extreme pain. The cancer has spread to his lungs and liver. Prayers that a biopsy and other tests provide clarity in moving forward. May love surround him in this difficult time.
- \*For Laura Corless' brother, **Marv**, prayers for a swift and full recovery from a liver infection requiring a hospital stay.
- \*With Jackie Savage, we pray for her friend, **Kris**, whose cancer has spread. May she take joy in her recent engagement and upcoming wedding.
- \*For **Eter**, recently diagnosed with Alzheimer's. May strength and courage be with him and his family as they move into this new journey.
- \*Prayers of gratitude that **Frank Cole** could worship with us last Sunday! And for all the ways our community steps up to help one another out.
- \*Celebrating anniversaries: **Matt and Emily Wulff** (30th), **Eric and Keely Vandre** (1st)

**School District Planning Process—Volunteers Needed!**

We will be selecting **3-4 people** to work on the planning and design process with the school district. You will have an opportunity to represent our interests and to help influence the design, honoring the land and other details of the new outdoor space.

If interested, please contact Megan by **July 28th**.



**Rev. Rebecca LeMenager** is a life-long UCCer who has been ordained for over 20 years. She currently works full time at the Virginia Public Library and resides on the Iron Range. She enjoys doing pulpit supply, bridge work, and serving on the Minnesota Conference Board of Directors.

### **New Youth and Outreach Director**

We are pleased to present the newest member of our church staff. Telae (*rhymes with today*) stood out from the others as an excellent fit for the position. She will begin her work with us on **August 1st**.

#### **A note from Telae:**



Hello! I am so excited and honored to be given the role of Youth and Outreach Director at St Croix United Church. I have been committed to youth work and education for the last 10 years, working with young people in afterschool programs and teaching music in public school classrooms. I have a heart for youth, seeing it as a privilege to be a part of their journey in development and personal growth.

I am a Minnesota girl, born and raised in Cambridge, MN. I have lived in Chicago and made the Twin Cities my home for the past 20 years. I am a proud mother of two sons, Kai(18) and Uriah(17). I value community and believe that love is the most powerful energy we have—the most clear representation of God that I know. I strive to lead with love and build lasting relationships.

I look forward to becoming a part of your faith community and inspiring our young people on their path to be the best versions of themselves, empowering them to lead by example and enjoy learning together. I also look forward to meeting the wonderful families who attend St. Croix United Church and walking together toward a beautiful and unified future.

- Telae

### **Book Group | Aug. 29, Sept. 12 & 26 | 6:30—8 pm**



In this polarized and often contentious political season, you are invited to join our book club reading of Jim Wallis' *The False White Gospel*.

More details in the Midweek News via email.

## Special Congregational Meeting

**Sunday, August 4 | 10:45 am** | @People's Park & Zoomed

Our Strategic Vision Task Force presented to our Leadership Council a set of proposed **Values, Vision, and Mission statements** to guide our congregation's ministry. The Leadership Council reviewed the proposed statements and forwarded them to the congregation for consideration and potential adoption in a special email and the Midweek News. (If you need a copy of them, please contact Megan.)

We thank everyone who has been actively involved in this process!

**Please plan to join us on August 4th as we vote to affirm our values, vision, and mission as St. Croix United Church!**

Nat Graf (Moderator) and Pastor Clare

## Healing Sessions

**Monday, July 29th at 6:30 - 8:30 pm** | @ St. Croix United Church (Fireside Room)

You are welcome to experience a healing session with Lori Mildon and Mary Ann Litfin! Both are members of SCUC; trained and experienced in both Reiki and Healing Touch energy healing modalities. Walk-ins welcome. No fee.

Thank you to today's partners: Rev. Rebecca LeMenager (Guest Preacher), Sharon Neuenfeldt (accompanist), Lori Mildon (flute & fellowship), Jackie Savage & Carol Dusbabek (greeters), Sharri Kinkead & Mary Binger (liturgists), Heather Kenndy-Bordeaux (cantor), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sign), Lisa Culbertson (childcare)




## St. Croix United Church

Rev. Clare Gromoll, Pastor

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## You Are Welcome Here

26

$\text{♩} = 100$

G D G A D G/D D G A

You are wel-come here, no mat-ter who you are,

G A D G D C G A

no mat-ter where you are. on life's jour - ney... You are

D G/D D G A G A

wel-come here, no mat-ter who you are, come and

D G D G A D 1.2.3.

join with us, we're u - ni-ted in the church of Christ.

A G D A D G D

1. Come now all peo - ple, join in the song, come be a part of the fam-  
 2. We pray for jus - tice; we pray for peace; we hear the word of the Sav-  
 3. Lift - ing each oth - er; do - ing what's right; stand - ing to - geth - er, what - ev -

G A A G D A D

- 'ly of God. We are God's peo - ple and you be - long,  
 - ior of all. We find God's mer - cy; we find re - lease,  
 - er may come; prais - ing our Sav - ior, shin - ing our light,

G A G/D D 4.

share in the joy of Christ. You are  
 shar - ing the joy of Christ. You are  
 shar - ing the joy of Christ. You are

## Every Step of the Way

66

$\text{♩} = 128$   
F C/E Dm C B $\flat$  Dm/A C/G Gsus G

Help me do the jus - tice to be

done to - day. Help me love kind -

- ness in all I do and say -

Help me walk hum-bly with you, O God I pray

ev - 'ry step of the way,

ev - 'ry step of the way.

Based on Micah 6:8.

Words and Music: Christopher Grundy

Music arrangement: Christopher Grundy and Gregory Milton

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## We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

*Ruth Duck, 1984; rev. 1989*

1 We can - not own the sun - lit sky, the  
 2 When bod - ies shiv - er in the night and,  
 3 God calls hu - man - i - ty to join as

moon, the flow - ers grow - ing, for we are part of  
 wea - ry, wait for morn - ing, when chil - dren have no  
 part - ners in cre - a - ting a fu - ture free from

all that is with - in life's riv - er flow - ing.  
 bread but tears, and war - horns sound their warn - ing,  
 want or fear, life's good - ness cel - e - brat - ing.

Tune: REJOICE, REJOICE 9.8.9.8.8.8.7.8.9.

*Marty Haugen, 1983*

With o - pen hands re - ceive and share the gifts of God's cre -  
 God calls hu - man - i - ty to wake, to join in com - mon  
 That new world beck - ons from a - far, in - vites our shared en -

a - tion, that all may have a - bun - dant life in  
 la - bor, that all may have a - bun - dant life in  
 deav - or, that all may have a - bun - dant life and

ev - ery earth - ly na - tion.  
 one - ness with their neigh - bor.  
 peace en - dure for - ev - er.