



August 18, 2024

Guest Preacher:
Rev. Fritz West

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

“As the Deer”

Nystrom

We acknowledge the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome & Announcements

***Call to Worship** | based on Psalm 34 (*responsive*)

Abandon yourself into Love's hands, O you holy ones,
For those who give themselves to the Beloved lack no good thing.

Everyone separated from Love is empty and hungry within.
But those who open their hearts to the Beloved are filled to overflowing!

O come and see, come and hear, how we honor the Beloved.
Many there are who desire Life, who yearn for fulfillment, who covet the wisdom of Truth.

Keep your heart open and free, take time to dwell in the Silence.
Become a peaceful presence in the world.

***Opening Hymn (NCH #20)** "I Sing the Praise of Love Almighty"
verses 1-2

Acknowledging Our Need for God's Grace

Centering Ourselves

Prayer of Confession and Longing (*unison*)

God our Creator, we come to you a rebellious people. We have denied your intentions for us; we have sought our own ways rather than the way of Christ. We have refused to learn the lessons of the past. We remain bound up with past offenses. We dream of what cannot be and fail to devote ourselves to laying a foundation for genuine hope. Forgive what we have been, amend what we are, and direct what we shall be – that we may rise with Christ, serving you with trust and joy. 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"

Mark Stephan (24th)

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*

Proclaiming God's Love

A Reading from Hebrew Scriptures | NRSV

Proverbs 9:1-6

A Reading from the Gospels | NRSV

John 6:51-58

Here ends the readings.

May God speak to us through these sacred words.

Morning Message

Responding To God's Love

Prayer Hymn (NCH #20)

"I Sing the Praise of Love Almighty"

verses 3-4

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

“God's Love Endures Forever”

Colligan

*Offertory Response

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen**

***Prayer of Dedication** (*unison*)

O God, through the offering of these gifts may we become a more open people...

open-minded in hearing your Word and wisdom,

open-hearted in healing a broken world,

open-handed in heeding your call for charity and enacted love.

With thanks for all good gifts, we present a portion of our substance and the whole of ourselves. Amen.

***Closing Song** (SPP #66)

“Every Step of the Way”

sung twice

Going Forth to Share God’s Love

***Benediction**

***Sending Song**

Optionally linking elbows or holding hands

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**

“May the Blessing of God”

Winter

After-Worship Fellowship

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

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.

PRAYER CORNER

*For **Meg**, friend of Mary Binger, prayers for successful brain surgery at Mayo Clinic on Aug. 20th.

*For **Jane** (dear friend of Aidan Gromoll) and her family as they grieve the death of her father.

*With Bob Dickie, we offer prayers of comfort for all who grieve the recent passing of his friend **Robert**.

*With Roger Klish, we offer prayers of healing, hope, and health for his sister, **Catherine**, who recently received a kidney transplant.

*For **all those who struggle with mental health challenges** - may we continue to destigmatize and remove restraints of silence around them so that healing can happen.

*For the **62 people** who perished in a recent plane crash in Brazil, and for all who are grieving their sudden deaths.

*Celebrating anniversaries: **Dale and Jennifer Shaller** (19th)



All-Church Potluck

Tue. August 20, 5:30—7pm

Fritz West's home (Marine on St. Croix)

200 Oak Knoll Dr, Marine on St. Croix MN 55047

Bring a chair if you have one handy

(Fritz can provide some seating)

All are welcome! Please bring a friend!

Planning Groups Need Your Help!

Many opportunities to jump in and be part of these exciting events
—all are welcome to attend these planning meetings.

Grand Opening Planning Group | **Aug. 23, 1:30 pm** @ Church

Sunday School & Youth Team Helpers | **Aug. 23, 9 am** @ Church

OR **Aug. 25, 8:15 am** @ People's Park

Harvest Fest Planning Group | Please connect with Mary Binger
(mehbinger@gmail.com, 651-357-8601) if you're able and willing!

Healing Sessions

August 24, 10:00 am - 12:00 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. Their objective is to help you deeply relax and find relief from discomfort in body, mind, and spirit.



Walk-ins welcome. No fee.

GENTLE TAI CHI



Comunion... Balance... Renewal

Gentle Tai Chi

Every Monday | 7pm @ Lakeside Park

Just south of the playground. Park in the south parking lot, not the one by the beach and bathrooms.

Inquirers Gathering

August 28, 6:30 pm | @ Church

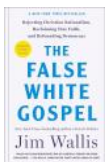
For new and long-time friends alike... we'll share personal introductions, learn about the life and work of our church, and explain a bit about our affiliations. Co-hosted by Pastor Clare and members of our Community Life Team.



If you'd like to attend, please let Pastor Clare know (pastor@stcroixunitedchurch.org).

A Zoom link is available if you can't be with us onsite.

Book Club | **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* to help deepen our understanding of Christian Nationalism and learn ways of combating its message.

Whether you've read the book or not, you're welcome to come and listen or join in the discussions. Copies are available at Valley Bookseller in Stillwater with a 15% discount, and there are e-book copies available at the Washington County Library.



Pastor Clare is on vacation in Wisconsin, August 12—19th

In the event of a question or need, please contact one of the following:

Urgent pastoral concerns: Rev. Dan Warnes (402-200-9680)

Megan Adams, Office Coordinator

(651-439-5667, office@stcroixunitedchurch.org)

Nat Graf, Leadership Council Moderator (651-470-0408, ngraf11@gmail.com)

Mark Your Calendars...

Connection Sunday (Blessing Backpacks, Sunday School & Youth Group) | **Sept 8, 9:30am**

Red Cross Blood Drive @ our church building | **Sept. 17, 9am-3pm**

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony @ our front lawn | **Sept. 17, 11 am**

Grand Opening Celebration @ our front lawn | **Sept. 22, 11-1 pm**

Harvest Fest | **Nov. 23**

Thank you to today's partners: Rev. Fritz West (Guest Preacher), Telae (Youth & Outreach Director), Sharon Neuenfeldt (accompanist), Lori Mildon (flute), Carol Dusbabek & Jackie Savage (greeters), Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux (liturgist), Mary Ann Litfin (cantor), Jill Greenhalgh & Rolf Dittmann (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Lisa Culbertson (childcare)




St. Croix United Church

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I Sing the Praise of Love Almighty

Gerhard Tersteegen, 1757
 Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1993

1 I sing the praise of Love al - might - y, which shines re - vealed in
 2 How lov - ing - kind you are, how gen - tle, how your heart reach - es
 3 Se - cure my heart and all my be - ing, in you, my Sav - ior,
 4 May my heart bear the deep im - pres - sion of love that Je - sus

Je - sus' face. I of - fer up all that de - lights me,
 af - ter mine! My heart re - sponds in el - e - men - tal
 cru - ci - fied. You gave your life to work my heal - ing,
 shares with me, My life be - come a pure ex - pres - sion

all mean de - sires, each fond em - brace, Turn from my - self, in
 sym - pa - thy, beat - ing per - fect time. This mu - tual love, this
 bleed - ing for me, you groaned and died. Be - lov - ed Je - sus,
 of all that Chris - tian love can be: Each word, each act, a

pure de - vo - tion, and eag - er plunge in love's vast o - cean.
 strong at - trac - tion, I know no oth - er sat - is - fac - tion.
 my sal - va - tion, you have, through love, re - stored cre - a - tion.
 bright re - flec - tion of joy in Love's own res - ur - rec - tion.

Gerhard Tersteegen was an 18th-century hymn-writer and mystic, nurtured in the German Reformed Church. The four stanzas that comprise "Ich bete an die Macht der Liebe" were drawn from a longer poem and became popular in this form when published by Pastor Johannes Evangelist Gossner in his Choralbuch of 1825.

Tune: ST. PETERSBURG 9.8.9.8.9.9.
 Dimitri Bortniansky, 1825

Every Step of the Way

66

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

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo of 128. It consists of seven staves of music. The first staff shows the key signature (F major) and the first six chords: C/E, Dm, C, B \flat , Dm/A, C/G, Gsus, and G. The second staff begins with a repeat sign and contains the melody for the first line of lyrics. The subsequent staves continue the melody and lyrics, with various chords indicated above the notes. The lyrics are: "Help me do the justice 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." The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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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