



September 22, 2024

"For What Kind  
of Greatness  
Will We Strive?"

Grand Opening  
Sunday!

## **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 "We Will Celebrate"**

*Baloche*

*We acknowledge the light of Christ among us*

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

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

Come, Holy Spirit, come. Renew your whole creation!

**Move in and among us. Fill us with your creative energy and light!**

May our hearts be open and stirred –

**For the work of love and hope to which you call us.**

We pray in God's name, which is Love.

**Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn (NCH #451) "Be Now My Vision"**  
**verses 1 & 3**

**Acknowledging Our Need for God's Grace**

**Centering Ourselves**      *... as the singing bowl invites us into stillness*

**Prayer of Confession and Longing** *(unison)*

**God of love and mercy, in the quiet peace of morning we have gathered to praise you and to be touched by your gentle Spirit. We give thanks for the gift of Sabbath rest and renewal. Through our worship, you re-create us in your likeness once again. Let your cleansing Spirit enter our lives. Pierce the shadows in our souls with your brilliant light. Transform our destructive thoughts into expressions of beauty, reflecting your uncompromising love. We pray in the name of Jesus, your Revealer. 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**      "Gentle Shepherd"      *Gloria and William Gaither*

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.

## 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”

**Betsy Stokes (9/25), Nat Graf (9/26), Telae (9/26)**

### Wondering Together

### Blessing One Another

*...with arms wide open*

Young ones: 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.**

***Children's Activity*** | Children (age 3 - gr. 4) go downstairs with Cindy & Wendy

***Youth Group*** | Youth (gr. 5-12) go with Jane to their main-level meeting space

***Nursery*** | Families with infants & toddlers are welcome to utilize the downstairs nursery  
(the worship service can be heard in the nursery)

*We welcome the sounds and movements of children who stay in worship*

## Proclaiming God's Love

**A Reading from Hebrew Scriptures** | NRSV

Psalm 1

**A Reading from the Epistles** | NRSV

James 3:14 - 4:3, 7-8a

**A Reading from the Gospels** | NRSV

Mark 9:30-37

Here ends the readings.

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

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.*

**Morning Message**    **"For What Kind of Greatness Will We Strive?"**

**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*)

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:  
the hallowing of your name echo through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on Earth.  
With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.  
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.**

**Invitation to the Offering**

*We give by cash, check or electronically (scanning the QR code)  
Blue giving cards represent gifts made electronically.*



**Offertory**

**"Dance with Joy"**

*C.S. Camp*

**\*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*)

Holy One, your heart abounds with gifts. Receive this offering as a sign of our intention to live as channels of your mercy. May we be inspired by your Spirit, open to the joy of your presence, hospitable to one another, and generous toward your world. Amen.

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

**\*Closing Hymn (NCH #451)** "Be Now My Vision"  
verses 2 & 4

**\*Benediction**

**\*Sending Song**

*Optionally 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*

**\*Postlude**

"The Lord Bless You and Keep You"

*Lutkin*

***After-Worship Fellowship***

*All are welcome downstairs for refreshments & good company!*

## PRAYER CORNER

\*For **People's Park**... for those who envisioned and created the memorial garden and labyrinth, outdoor chapel, prairie grasses and fire pit, and community garden; for those who have worked tirelessly in caring for the land; for the unique memories, both magical and humorous, of services and events held there over the years; for the sounds of worship that have reached out into the neighborhood; and for all the ways plants and animals have welcomed us into this spiritual home... We give thanks and look forward to worshipping on this land again in new ways.

\*For **Linda Tossey**, recovering after a fall and hip-replacement surgery.

\*Celebrating anniversaries: **Bob Dickie & Cindy Parsons** (9/24), **Walt & Paula Richey** (9/27)

## Healing Sessions

**Sept. 24 | 6:00 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.

Women's  
Gathering



## Women's Gathering

**Sept. 25 | 6:30 pm** @ Church

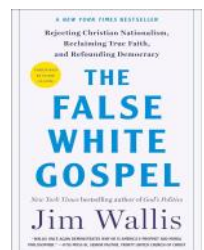
You are invited to come to the Women's Gathering. Join in conversation and laughter. Feel free to bring a friend!

## Book Club

**Sept. 26 | 6:30—8 pm** @ Church

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.

**If reading along, we will discuss Ch. 7-8 and "What's Next."**





## Memorial Service for Deb Francis

**October 5th @ Church**

**10 am** Visitation | **11 am** Memorial Service | **12 pm** Luncheon

## "Bridge the Gap" Community Hunger Walk

**Oct. 6 | 11 am**

Join in our 1st annual 1-mile walk to raise awareness about food accessibility in Bayport and raise funds to support our new Food Sharing Pantry!

*More information coming soon....*

Sponsored by our Local Outreach Team.



## Inquirers Gathering

**Oct. 10 | 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](mailto:pastor@stcroixunitedchurch.org)).

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

## Gentle Tai Chi

**Mondays | 7 pm @ Lakeside Park**  
**Wednesdays | 10 am @ Lakeside Park**

*Rain location: St. Croix United Church*

**GENTLE  
TAI CHI**



*Connection... Balance... Renewal*



## Mark your calendar:

Trunk or Treat | **Oct. 31**

Harvest Fest | **Nov. 23**

## St. Croix United Church

### \*Grand Opening Celebration\*

Sunday, Sept. 22 | 11-1pm

Fun \* Food \* Music

Be sure to stay for the celebration TODAY after worship!

At 12:30 pm we will conclude with a special Service of Blessing.

Help us stock our **Little Free Pantry** and our **BRAND NEW Food Sharing Pantry!** by placing items in the grocery cart in the Narthex.

Useful items for the pantry include:

**Canned or Pouched Meats:** Tuna, chicken, salmon, sardines, jerky, summer sausage  
**Grains:** Pasta, whole grain pasta, rice, quinoa, couscous

**Shelf-stable Items:** Hot and cold kid-friendly cereal, ready to eat soup, beans, peanut butter, granola bars, crackers, spices, cooking oils, condiments



Thank you to today's partners: Michael Bjork (Choir Director), Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Jane Hanson, Cheri Schwartz, Jonah Gromoll (greeters), Sharri Kinkead & Sam Gromoll (liturgists), Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux (cantor), Grand Opening Team (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Cindy Baker & Wendy Staberg (age 3 - gr 4), Jane Hanson & Cindy Siegel (youth group), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Sharri Kinkead & Kathy Iverson (altar decor)




### St. Croix United Church

Rev. Clare Gromoll, Pastor

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# Be Now My Vision

*Ancient Irish text, c. 8th century; transl. Mary E. Byrne, 1905  
Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912; adapt.*

*Unison*

1 Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;  
 2 Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;  
 3 Rich - es I need not, nor life's emp - ty praise,  
 4 Sov - ereign of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part—  
 ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;  
 you, my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;  
 may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

You my best thought, by day or by night,  
 Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,  
 You and you on - ly are first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.  
 now and for - ev - er your child I will be.  
 great God, my trea - sure, may we nev - er part.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

*Dating from the eighth century or earlier, this Irish hymn was translated into prose by Mary Byrne. It was then versified by Eleanor Hull, author of several books on Irish literature and history. David Evans arranged the Irish melody for this text in 1927.*

Tune: SLANE 10.10.9.10.  
*Traditional Irish melody  
 Harm. David Evans, 1927*

## Every Step of the Way

66

$\text{♩} = 128$   
F

C/E Dm C B $\flat$  Dm/A C/G Gsus G

Cmaj $^9$  G/B Am Am/G

Help me do the jus - tice to be

Dm $^7$  Gsus G C G/B

done to - day. Help me love kind -

Am Am/G Dm $^7$

- ness in all I do and say.

Gsus G Em $^7$  F C $\sharp$ dim Dm $^7$  Gsus

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

G F

ev - 'ry step of the way,

Dm $^7$  C/E F/G C

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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