



October 20, 2024

Guest Preacher:

Rev. Désirée

Hartson Gold

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 “The Power of Your Love”

Bullock

We acknowledge the light of Christ among us

Welcome and Announcements

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

Come, all who labor and are weighed down with responsibility, uncertainty, and worry.

We come, because the load we carry is heavier than we can bear alone.

Come, all who seek to relate work and worship, leisure and service – into a meaningful whole.

We gather for spiritual renewal and practical challenge, for support in making choices and carrying out commitments.

Come, with your hatreds and loves, your failures and successes, your sorrows and joys.

We respond to the Spirit's leading and open ourselves to receive God's gracious gifts.

***Opening Song (SPP #16)** "Come to the Water"

verses 1—4

Acknowledging Our Need for God's Grace

Prayer of Confession and Longing (*unison*)

Glorious God of power and majesty, you hear our every sigh. Help us to release our pride, and teach us humility. Prevent us from trying to raise ourselves by lowering others. Take down the barriers of self-defense, and teach us the security that comes from trust in you and shared life in mutual respect among neighbors. Lead us in the steps of Jesus the Christ, our servant and sovereign. 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”

**Finley Hintze-Graf (10/21 - 5 yrs), Walt Richey (10/21),
Chris Bordeaux (10/21)**

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 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 Carol and Kathy
Youth Group | Youth (gr. 5-12) go with Telae 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 Scripture | NRSV (part 1, p. 683)

Isaiah 53:4-12

A Reading from the Gospels | NRSV (part 2, p. 47)

Mark 10:35-45

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, where people of all ages and backgrounds can gather, explore, and grow through music.

Responding To God's Love

Prayer Hymn (NCH #492) "I Would Be True"
all verses

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

"What Does the Lord Require of You"

Strathdee

***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*)

O God, your importance in our lives is reflected in our gifts. We return to you, through the ministry and outreach of this church, a portion of all you have entrusted to us. We promise that these offerings will not be the end of our giving. We will also invest our time and abilities in your work of healing, comforting, teaching, guiding, and proclaiming good news. Bless each gift, whatever its size, and multiply the good to be done through our time, talents, and treasure. Amen.

Going Forth to Share God's Love

***Closing Hymn** (NCH #454) "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"
verses 1—2 & 4

***Benediction**

***Sending Song** *...optionally holding hands*

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"

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**

"On our Way"

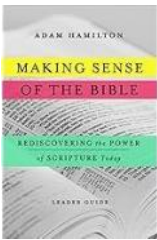
C. Melton

We welcome Rev. Désirée Hartson Gold as guest preacher

Rev. Désirée Hartson Gold is a graduate of Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, MO and has been ordained in the United Church of Christ for over twenty years. She has served UCC churches in Sacramento, CA; Baltimore, MD; and Cottage Grove, MN. In recent years, she has engaged in short term ministries, such as sabbatical supply pastorates and bridge ministry. In 2024, she ended a years-long stint on the Minnesota Conference UCC Committee on Ministry. Désirée lives with her husband, daughter, and two cats in South St. Paul.



Adult Faith Conversations | **TODAY, 11 am**

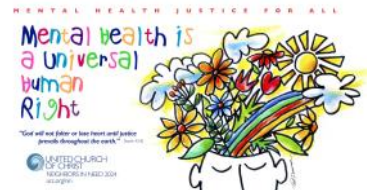


Adult Faith Conversations will begin a weekly Fall DVD discussion series with Adam Hamilton's *Making Sense of the Bible*. In September some of us looked at the thought-provoking book *The False White Gospel*. This DVD series examines church and cultural divisions through a somewhat different lens, looking at the nature of scripture and how we might interpret it.

Hamilton addresses often misunderstood themes in the Bible and leads us to a deeper appreciation of it so we might hear God speaking through it and experience its relevance to our life today.

Neighbors in Need: Third Quarter Special Offering

The Neighbors in Need theme is “Mental Health Justice For All,” supporting the General Synod of the United Church of Christ’s resolution to become WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) for mental health.



A just world for all is a world where the human rights and well-being of people with mental health challenges are respected, no matter who you are or where you are in life’s mental health journey. See our *Midweek News* for how funds are used.

Special envelopes are available. Please mark all checks "Neighbors in Need."

Collected through Oct. 31st.

PRAYER CORNER

*For Pat Mazzitello and Nat Graf's nephew, **Billy and his family**, as they use their time, energy, and resources to help the people of Asheville, NC recover after Hurricane Helene. Prayers of thanks for all who help and serve their communities in such generous ways. *(If you'd like to learn more or donate to help Billy and Reenie continue this work - see the Midweek News.)*

*For **Finley Hintze-Graf**, who was ill on Sunday and visited the hospital. All tests came back negative and she is home recuperating from flu-like symptoms. (Prayers for **Tony Graf**, as he now has similar symptoms.)

*With Bob Schwartz we give thanks, in love and appreciation, for **our partners and companionship** throughout life's journey.

Healing Session

Tuesday, Oct. 22 | 6 - 8 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 | **Friday, Oct. 25** at 10 am

You are invited to come to the Women's Gathering.
Come for coffee/tea, donuts, and conversation!

Feel free to bring a friend!

Trunk Or Treat | **Thursday, Oct. 31** 4-7pm

Join us for a spooktacular evening!
Come in costume and trick or treat in the safety of the church
parking lot... *All are Welcome!*

Please contact Cindy Siegel (cindysiegel98@gmail.com)
if you can help!





Pastor Clare will be on vacation in Wisconsin, Oct. 14 –21

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

For 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)

All Saints Day | Sunday, Nov. 3rd



We're beginning to collect names of those we want to honor on All Saints Day. Please email Megan at office@stcroixunitedchurch.org with names you'd like to remember during this special service.

Thank you to today's partners: Rev. Désirée Hartson Gold (Guest Preacher), Telae (Youth & Outreach Director), Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Lori Mildon (flute), Cheri & Bob Schwartz (greeters), Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux (liturgist), Mary Ann Litfin (cantor), Chris Bordeaux (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Carol Dusbabek & Kathy Iverson (age 3 - gr 4), Jane Hanson (youth group), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Sharri Kinkead & Kathy Iverson (altar decor)




St. Croix United Church

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Come to the Water

♩=88

D G Asus A D G

1. All who are thirst-y__ for jus - tice, all who are thirst-y__ for
 2. All who are thirst-y__ for mer - cy, all who are thirst-y__ for
 3. All who are thirst-y__ for heal - ing, all who are thirst-y__ for
 4. All who are thirst-y__ for beau - ty, all who are thirst-y__ for

Asus A D G Em7 D/F#

peace. All who are thirst - y__ for peace, for jus - tice,
 love. All who are thirst - y__ for love, for mer - cy,
 touch. All who are thirst - y__ for touch, for heal - ing,
 truth. All who are thirst - y__ for truth, for beau - ty

G Em7 G Asus A

come, come to__ the wa - ter__ of life._____
 come, come to__ the wa - ter__ of life._____
 come, come to__ the wa - ter__ of life._____
 come, come to__ the wa - ter__ of life._____

E A Bsus B E A Bsus B

5. All who are thirst-y__ for free - dom, all who are thirst-y__ for hope.
 6. All who are thirst-y__ for laugh - ter, all who are thirst-y__ for joy.

E A F#7 E/G# A

All who are thirst - y__ for hope, for free - dom, come,
 All who are thirst - y__ for joy, for laugh - ter, come,

F#m7 A Bsus B E

come to__ the wa - ter__ of life._____
 come to__ the wa - ter__ of life._____

Phil. 4:8-9

St. 1, 2, Howard Arnold Walter, 1917

St. 3, anon.; alt.

1 I would be true, for there are those who trust me; I would be
 2 I would be friend of all, the foe, the friend-less; I would be
 3 I would be prayer-ful through each bus - y mo - ment; I would be

pure, for there are those who care; I would be strong, for
 giv - ing, and for - get the gift; I would be hum - ble,
 con - stant - ly in touch with God; I would be tuned to

there is much to suf - fer; I would be brave, for
 for I know my weak - ness; I would look up, and
 sense God's slight - est whis - per; I would have faith to

there is much to dare, I would be brave, for there is much to dare.
 laugh, and love, and live, I would look up, and laugh, and love, and live.
 keep the path Christ trod, I would have faith to keep the path Christ trod.

The first two stanzas of this hymn are from "My Creed," a poem that Howard Walter sent to his mother from Japan, where he taught English before becoming a Congregational minister. Walter died at the age of thirty-five while working for the Y.M.C.A. in India.

Tune: PEEK 11.10.11.10.10.
 Joseph Y. Peek, 1911

Lord, I Want To Be a Christian

454

African-American spiritual

Deut. 6:5-6; 10:12-16

1 Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in my heart;
 2 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart, in my heart,
 3 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart, in my heart;
 4 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

Refrain

In my heart, In my heart, in my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

Many of the enslaved of antebellum America did not want to become Christians because they did not want to adopt the religion of their captors. But this spiritual attests that the Christian faith was an internal strength and aim for many.

Tune: I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN
 8.6.8.3. with refrain
African-American spiritual
 Arr. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992