



November 17, 2024

"Birth Pangs"

Guest Preacher:
Rev. Paula Northwood

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 Have Come to Join in Worship"

Moore

We acknowledge the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome and Announcements

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

Come, all who are weary from the bustle of each day –
God's steadfast love awaits us.

Come, all who delight in the abundance of everyday treasure –
God's steadfast love awaits us.

Come, all who are restless in the face of acquiescence to injustice –
God's steadfast love awaits us.

Come, all who search for glimpses of quiet transcendence –
God's steadfast love awaits us.

Come, all whose spirits are frayed by unforeseen difficulties –
God's steadfast love awaits us.

Come with open hearts, ready to listen for the mystery –
God's steadfast love awaits us.

***Opening Hymn (NCH #611)** "O Day of God, Draw Near"
all verses

Acknowledging Our Need for God's Grace

Prayer of Confession and Longing *(responsive)*

Gracious Spirit, when winds of confusion and distrust swirl among us,
when fear echoes every step, when envy and remorse grip our hearts –
We confess that we stray from our connection to your way of love. Restore our hearts into hope, that we might trust your presence.

When every door seems locked tight, each thought weighted down –
Restore our hearts into hope, that we might trust your presence.

When the ground feels unstable, when nourishing streams run dry –
Restore our hearts into hope, that we might trust your presence. 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...

Singing “Happy Birthday”

**Mary Maren Bjork (11/19), Andi Favilla (11/21), Bob Dickie (11/22),
Sandi Lundgren (11/22)**

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...

Children's Activity | Children (age 3 - gr. 4) go downstairs with Claire and Wendy
Youth Group | Youth (gr. 5-12) go with Jane and Sue 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 the Psalms | NRSV (part 1, p. 495)

Psalm 16

A Reading from the Gospels | NRSV (part 2, p. 50)

Mark 13:1-8

Here ends the readings.

May God speak to us through these sacred words.

As reparations for use of “This Little Light of Mine” and other Black spirituals, we support Walk West (St. Paul): 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.

Morning Message

“Birth Pangs”

Responding To God’s Love

Prayer Song (SPP #128)

“Change My Heart, O God”
verses 1 (my heart) & *3 (our minds)

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.

Witnessing Steward

Kathleen Dennison

“Imagine Together” (Fall Stewardship Campaign, Nov. 3—24)



“The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and shouting.”

—Isaiah 35:1-2

- How has participation in our congregation changed your life?
- How can you imagine us positively impacting lives in 2025?

Invitation to the Offering

We give by cash, check or electronically (scanning the QR code)

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



Offertory

“Strong, Gentle Children”

Damon

***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*)

Gracious One, we offer common gifts through our daily living. With gestures of strength, words of daring, prayers of kindness – we shape the tone and texture of how your vision is realized. Remind us that we are each a part of your whole. We dedicate our financial gifts and our very lives to your way of love. Amen.

Going Forth to Share God’s Love

***Closing Song (SPP #120)** “Dream God’s Dream”
verses 1-2

***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**

“God Will Guide Us”

Ylvisaker

Today Following Worship:

10:30am | All are welcome downstairs for refreshments and good company!

11am | Adult Faith Conversations, “*Making Sense of the Bible*”

PRAYER CORNER

*For Dave Staberg's brother, **Roger**, healing from recent foot surgery.

*For **Linda Tossey**, comfort and peace as she receives hospice care at home. Visiting her is possible though limited as she is often asleep. Reach out to Naomi Kirstein with questions.

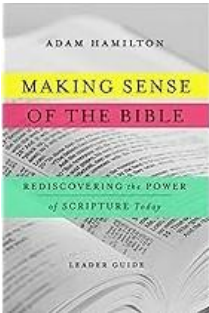
*With Rebecca Dennis and those grieving the death of her uncle, **Chuck Christensen**, who passed away recently.

*For Aidan Gromoll, praise for her work striving for the well-being of orphans in Ukraine and her safe arrival home to Minnesota earlier this week.

*Praise and thanks for the wonders of the vibrant tapestry of **this faith community** – and all the ways we can be and give together.

*Deep thanks for **St. Charles Catholic Church** as they support our Food Sharing Ministry with their annual food drive. Over 60 bags of food have been given so far!

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*. This DVD series examines church and cultural divisions by 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.

Gentle Tai Chi

Mondays 7pm and Wednesdays 10am

@ St. Croix United Church



For notifications of cancellations or vacations, please contact MaryAnn to be added to the email list: Mary Ann Litfin | malitfin@gmail.com | 612-382-9920



Pastor Clare will be away for continuing education, Nov. 11– 18

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)

Harvest Fest is coming...!

Nov. 23 | 10-3 pm

THANK YOU

to all who have volunteered
to help with Harvest Fest.

Check out the sign-up sheets
posted in the Fellowship Hall.

One of the best ways everyone
can participate is to bring a friend,
enjoy a soup and bread lunch,
and do some shopping.



JOIN IN THE FUN AND FELLOWSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY



Porch Pot Party!

Nov. 18 | 12 pm— 4 pm

Please help build porch pots and holiday swags to sell at Harvest Fest. All supplies are provided, just bring snippers and gloves. Dress warm! we will meet outside the church.

Any questions? Please contact Mary Binger
(mehbinger@gmail.com, 651-357-8601).



Week at a Glance:

Pastor Clare away for Continuing Education | Nov. 11 – 18

Gentle Tai Chi | Nov. 18, 7 pm | @ Church

Gentle Tai Chi | Nov. 20, 10 am | @ Church

Harvest Fest Team | Nov. 20, 11 am | @ Church


Choir Rehearsal | Nov. 20, 6:30 pm | @ Church

Garden Gathering | Nov. 21, 9:30 am | @ Church

Harvest Fest | Nov. 23, 10 am—3 pm | @ Church

Thank you to today's partners: Rev. Paula Northwood (Guest Preacher), Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Lori Mildon (flute), Carol Dusbabek & Cindy Baker (greeters), Cheri Schwartz (liturgist), St. Croix United Choir, Sharri Kinkead (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Claire Spilseth & Wendy Staberg (age 3 – gr 4), Jane Hanson & Sue Favilla (youth group), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Sharri Kinkead & Kathy Iverson (altar decor)



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O Day of God, Draw Near

611

R. B. Y. Scott, 1937; alt.

Ps. 105:7; 2 Pet. 3:8-15

1 O Day of God, draw near in beau - ty and in power,
2 Bring to our trou - bled minds, un - cer - tain and a - fraid,
3 Bring jus - tice to our land, that all may dwell se - cure,
4 Bring to our world of strife your sov - ereign word of peace,
5 O Day of God, draw near as at cre - a - tion's birth;

Come with your time-less judg - ment now to match our pres - ent hour.
The qui - et of a stead-fast faith, calm of a call o - beyed.
And fine - ly build for days to come foun - da - tions that en - dure.
That war may haunt the earth no more and des - o - la - tion cease.
Let there be light a - gain, and let your reign be - gin on earth.

R. B. Y. Scott was a theologian, Old Testament scholar, and social reformer who taught at McGill University, Montreal, and at Princeton University. A minister in the United Church of Canada, he wrote this text in 1937 for the Fellowship for a Christian Social Order.

Tune: ST. MICHAEL S.M.
Trente quatre Pseaumes, Geneva, 1551
Adapt. William Crotch, 1836

RESPOND

128

Change My Heart, O God

$\text{♩} = 100$
C

G/B F/A Dm Gsus C F/G

C B/G F/A Dm G7 Am Em7/G

1. Change my heart, O God, — make it ev - er true. —
 *2. *Cleanse my soul, O God, — wash it with your grace. —*
 *3. *Stir my mind, O God, — move it to be - lieve. —*
 *1. *Change our hearts, O God, — make them ev - er true. —*
 *2. *Cleanse our souls, O God, — wash them with your grace. —*
 *3. *Stir our minds, O God, — move them to be - lieve. —*

Fmaj7 Cmaj7/E Dm G7 C G7/B

- Change my heart, O God, — may I be like you. —
 Cleanse my soul, O God, — ten - der your em - brace. —
 Stir my mind, O God, — help me to per - ceive. —
 Cleanse our hearts, O God, — may we be like you. —
 Cleanse our souls, O God, — ten - der your em - brace. —
 Stir our minds, O God, — help us to per - ceive. —

Chorus

Esus E Am Dm G Am Gadd9

- You are the Pot - ter, I am the clay. —
 You are the Pot - ter, we are the clay. —

F E Am Dm G/D D G Gsus G

- Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.
 Mold us and make us, this is what we pray.

C G/B F/A Dm Am

- Change my heart, O God, — make it ev - er true. —
 Change our hearts, O God, — make them ev - er true. —

F Dm⁷ Gsus C G



Change my heart, O God,___ may I be like you.____
Change our hearts, O God.____ may we be like you.____

Esus E 3 Am Dm A



You are the Pot - ter, I am the clay.____
You are the Pot - ter, we are the clay.____

Esus E 3 Am Gsus/D D G



Mold me and make___ me, this is what I pray.
Mold us and make___ us, this is what we pray.

C G/B F/A Dm G⁷ Am Em/G



Change my heart, O God,___ make it ev-er true.____
Change our hearts, O God,___ make them ev-er true.____

F Cmaj⁷/E Dm G C



Change my heart, O God,___ may I be like you.____
Change our hearts, O God,___ may we be like you.____

*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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RESPOND

120

Dream God's Dream

♩. = 69

D C G D C G D Em7

Dream God's dream! Ho-ly

D/F# G Bm7

Spir - it help us dream of a world where there is

F#m7 G Em7 A A/G

jus - tice and where ev - 'ry one is free to

D/F# G Bm7 A

build and grow and love, and to sim - ply have e -

G D/F# Em7 Asus A7 D

Last time to Coda:

-nough. The world will change, when we dream God's dream.

C G D C G D C G

1. I'm dream-ing of a world where the col - or of one's

2. I'm dream-ing of the call God is of - fer-ing to

3. I'm dream-ing of the way that I want my life to

D C Em7 D

skin will mean less than what's with - in the per - son's heart.

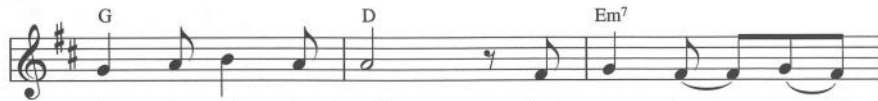
me, how to use my en - er - gy and my best gifts;

go. I've got hope and I've got goals I'd like to meet.

RESPOND



A world where wa - ter's clean and where
to do the work of Christ to say
I'm reach - ing for the stars, but I



air is safe to breathe. And ev - 'ry__ chi - ld
God, please use my life to spread Your__ heal - ing
won't for - get the scars of Christ who__ died to



born has e - nough to eat. dream.
love and to live Your truth.
show that the dream's for all.