



December 1, 2024

“Do We Plant
Seeds of Hope?”

First Sunday in Advent

Welcome!

We encourage wearing name tags.

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 “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Prichard

We acknowledge the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Opening Words from a Neighbor

Opening Hymn (NCH #121) “All Earth is Waiting / Toda la Tierra”
verses 1 & 2 (in English)

Advent Candle Liturgy *(responsive)*

In this season of Advent...

We light the candle of HOPE for Earth and air and seas, for people and creatures and plants alive with God's Spirit. Let us pray:

Emmanuel, we celebrate your Advent in Jesus. And we light an Advent of new hope for all the seasons of your children. Amen.

Sung Response

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

traditional carol, words by Maren Tirabassi

**O Come, O come Emmanuel
make true the stories prophets tell –
so all those chained by fear find release,
and, war forgotten, bring a world of peace.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
is come to birth where all God's children dwell.**

Acknowledging Our Need for God's Grace

Centering Ourselves

...as the singing bowl invites us into stillness

Prayer of Confession and Longing *(responsive)*

O God, we wait for you – yearning for you to come and set things right.
We are concerned and on edge about relationships, our nation, your world.

We often miss or resist your gentle guidance.
We seldom pause to consider that you are waiting for us:

Waiting for some genuine act of openness...
Waiting for us to repent and turn around...

Waiting for us to listen and respond to the truth of your compassion.
Furnish us with humble hearts and willing spirits –

To receive you as you come — through all the experiences of our lives.
We are waiting for your revealed love, O Holy One. 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...

Singing "Happy Birthday"

Carroll Fuhr (12/6)

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...

No Children's Activity or Youth Group Today | Young ones are invited to stay in worship
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!

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.

Proclaiming God's Love

A Reading from the Psalms | *NRSV (Old Testament, p. 502)*

Psalm 25:1-10

A Reading from Hebrew Scriptures | *NRSV (Old Test., p.738)*

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Here ends the readings.

May God speak to us through these sacred words.

Morning Message

"Do We Plant Seeds of Hope?"

Responding To God's Love

Prayer Song (SPP #20)

"Waiting for You"

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 electronic giving cards represent gifts made electronically.



Offertory

“Emmanuel”

McGee

*Offertory Response (NCH #128) “In the Bleak Midwinter”

**What can I offer, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise one, I would do my part;
but what can I offer: all my heart.**

Sharing in Holy Communion

*Holy Communion is open to members and friends of all ages
as we seek to follow Jesus in the way of radically inclusive love*

*The Invitation and Prayer

God be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to God.**
Let us give thanks to the God of all.

**Loving God, you are Creator of energy and matter, the heavens and the Earth.
We celebrate you – joining our voices with the wind and streams,
animals and flowers, the living and the dead (pause), the stars, planets, and all
members of creation – forever proclaiming your expansive love. Amen.**

Words of Remembrance and Blessing

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

*Take a piece of (gluten-free) bread and a cup of juice, receiving words of blessing
Place your empty cup in a basket on a front pew, returning by a side aisle*

Communion Hymn (Chalice Hymnal #330)

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

all verses

Let us break bread* together on our knees;

let us break bread together on our knees.

When I all on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,

My God, have mercy on me.

2. Let us share the cup together on our knees...

3. Let us praise God together on our knees...

***Prayer of Thanksgiving** (*unison*)

The bread of life and cup of blessing for everyone!

Thanks be to God!

God of all times and spaces, people long ago awaited a Savior to bring good news in the midst of great difficulty. Signs led them to Bethlehem – “place where bread is baked.” We give thanks as we are nourished and strengthened by the bread and cup today. May we model the way of Christ among all who need good news. Amen!

Going Forth to Share God’s Love

***Closing Hymn (NCH #347)** “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

all verses

***Benediction**

We carry the light of Christ with us in all times and spaces

We are invited to listen to the postlude or depart as we are ready

Postlude

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

Jill Jackson-Miller and Sy Miller

Today Following Worship:

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

11am | Adult Faith Conversations, “*Jesus Redux*”

PRAYER CORNER

*For the life of **Linda Tossey** and for her peaceful passing, we give thanks. May God's strong love enfold all who miss her. (*Memorial Service will be Saturday, Dec. 14th at 2 pm. A link to her obituary can be found in the Midweek newsletter.*)

Adult Faith Conversations—Advent

Sundays at 11 am



We will be exploring the stories of Jesus' birth and the emotional power of Christmas. The Gospel stories are both personal and political, pointing to another way of seeing and living. We will be guided by the writing of two theologians who were part of the Jesus Redux series.

Inquirers Gathering **Thursday, Dec. 4 | 6:30 pm**

Newer and long-time friends will learn about:

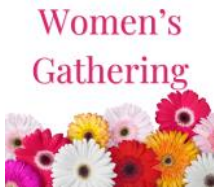
- * The life and work of St. Croix United Church
- * How to deepen your participation with us
- * Our denominational affiliations
- * What membership means to us



Please let Pastor Clare know if you plan to attend, 651-600-6409.

Women's Gathering at Sharri Kinkead's

Saturday, Dec. 7 | 11 am



Join us as we start our holiday celebrations with a visit to the charming country home of Sharri Kinkead. Soup, bread, and lively conversation are on the menu!

Reservations are appreciated—morninggloryfarm@baldwin-telecom.net

Mark your calendars—Blood Drive

Friday, December 20th | 9 am - 3 pm

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter “Bayport” to schedule an appointment.





Week at a Glance:

Gentle Tai Chi | **Dec. 2, 7 pm** | @ Church

Welcome and Care Team | **Dec. 4, 10 am** | @ Church

Gentle Tai Chi | **Dec. 4, 10 am** | @ Church

Leadership Council | **Dec. 4, 6:30 pm** | @ Church & Zoom

Choir Rehearsal | **Dec. 4, 6:30 pm** | @ Church

Garden Gathering | **Dec. 5, 9:30 am** | @ Church

Inquirers Gathering | **Dec. 5, 6:30 am** | @ Church

Women's Gathering | **Dec. 7, 11:30 am** | @ Sharri Kinkead's home

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Lori Mildon (flute), Mary Binger (greeter & communion server), Maya Klisch-Solano (youth greeter), Sharon Binger (liturgist), St. Croix United Choir, Cheri Schwartz (fellowship), Jane Hanson & Sue Favilla (communion preparers), Mary Maren Bjork (communion server), Paul Spilseth, Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Andi Favilla, Kathy Iverson & Sharri Kinkead (altar decor)




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Toda la Tierra

(All Earth Is Waiting)

Isa. 40:3-5; Luke 3:4-6; Matt. 1:23

Alberto Taulé, 1972; alt.
Transl. Gertrude C. Suppe, 1987; alt.

Unison

D D/F# Em A7 D F#m

1 To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor y el sur - co a - bier - to, la
2 Di - ce el pro - fe - ta al pue - blo de Is - ra - el: "De ma - dre vir - gen ya

1 All earth is wait - ing to see the Prom - ised One, and o - pen fur - rows, the
2 Thus says the proph - et to those of Is - ra - el, "A vir - gin moth - er will

G A Bm F#m G D

o - bra del Crea - dor; es el mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad,
vie - ne Em - ma - nuel," se - rá "Dios con no - so - tros," se - mi - lla se - rá,
sow - ing of our God. All the world, bound and strug - gling, seeks true lib - er - ty;
bear Em - man - u - el": One whose name is "God with us," our Sav - ior shall be,

Bm F#m Em A7 Em A7 D

re - cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. (4 dar - nos li - ber - tad.)
con él la es - pe - ran - za al mun - do vol - ve - rá. (4 brings us lib - er - ty.)
it cries out for jus - tice and search - es for the truth. (4 brings us lib - er - ty.)
through whom hope will blos - som once more with - in our hearts.

Alberto Taulé, composer and author of this new Advent hymn, has served as a parish priest and music editor for the Roman Catholic Church in Spain. This hymn was his first to be published in the United States.

Tune: TAULE 11.11.12.12.
Alberto Taulé, 1972
Harm. Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1988

Waiting for You

20

$\text{♩} = 110$

We are wait - ing for you, know-ing that you_

al-ways a - bide,___ we are wak - ing_ to your pres-ence

and our hearts are___ o - pen wide,

o - pen_ wide... o - pen_ wide.

Chords: D, A/D, Gadd9, D, A/D, Gadd9, D, A/D, Gadd9, A7sus, D, A/D, Gadd9, A7sus, D.

Words and Music: Christopher Grundy

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In the Bleak Midwinter

Christina G. Rossetti, 1872; alt.

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Our God tran - scends all heav - en, earth, and its do - main;
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,
 4 What can I of - fer, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when Christ comes to reign;
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim thronged the mid - night air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb.

Snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 In the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed the
 But his moth - er on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
 If I were a wise one, I would do my part; but

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 sov - ereign God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 wor - shipped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
 what can I of - fer: all my heart.

Christina Rossetti has portrayed the Christmas story, not in warm Bethlehem, but in the winter of her native England. Rossetti was an accomplished writer of poetry and prose, noted for her deep spirituality.

Tune: CRANHAM Irr.
 Gustav Holst, 1906

347

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Luke 10:1-9

Fred Kaan, 1975; alt.

C F G Dm G C G

1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em-ploy, reach-ing out with a shout of joy:
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at his ta - ble he set the tone,
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear-ing fruit in a world of doubt,

C F G Dm7 C G C

bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
 teach-ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
 gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im-man - u - el) ev - ery-where!

Refrain (first time *p*, second time *f*)

C C7 F Dm G C F C

Je-sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a-bound!

This hymn came into being when composer Doreen Potter asked poet Fred Kaan to write a text for her adaptation of a Jamaican folk melody. It was first used at the World Council of Churches Assembly in Nairobi (1975), and in Vancouver (1983).

Tune: LNSTEAD L.M. with refrain
 Jamaican folk song

Adapt. Doreen Potter, 1975