



December 15, 2024

“How Will
We Share Joy?”

Third 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 “What Child is This?”

W.C. Dix

We acknowledge the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Opening Words from a Neighbor

Opening Hymn (NCH #107) "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"
verses 1-2

Advent Candle Liturgy (*responsive*)

In this Advent season...

We light the candle of Joy because we believe that joy, not anger or fear, is the root of all justice. Let us pray:

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

Advent Carol

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

**O Come, Love's-season, to our lonely days,
and guide us in our words and ways
to be the ones whose Advent begins
with healing earth and all that live within.
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 (*unison*)

God of all, we find ourselves in this season of watchful preparation. We hear hope and joy raised in song, praising the story of Jesus' birth. We feel embraced by your peace in the stillness of quiet moments. Be with us as we prepare to receive Christ into our hearts once again this Christmas. When we forget to have grace with ourselves and others, remind us of your forgiveness and acceptance for all people. Amen.

Musical Interlude *...to accompany our quiet prayers*

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.

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”

**Michael Favilla (12/17), Milan Horak (12/17), Peter Favilla (12/17),
Rory Staberg (12/18 - 7 yrs)**

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 Roger
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!

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 Epistles | *NRSV (New Testament, p. 196)*

Philippians 1:3-11

A Reading from the Gospels | *NRSV (New Testament, p.60)*

Luke 3:7-18

A Song from the Prophets | "The First Song of Isaiah"

Isaiah 12:2-6

Congregation joins when the refrain repeats

Refrain: Surely, it is God who saves me;

I will trust in God and not be afraid.

**For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,
and God will be my Savior.**

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing from the springs of salvation
and on that day you shall say,

"Give thanks to the Lord and call upon God's name." **[Refrain]**

Make God's deeds known among the peoples;
see that they remember that the Lord is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for God has done great things
and this is known in all the world. **[Refrain]**

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion; ring out your joy,
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel. **[Refrain]**

Here ends the readings. **May God speak to us through these sacred words.**

Morning Message

"How Will We Share Joy?"

Responding To God's Love

Prayer Song (SPP #61)

**"Call to Prayer"
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*)

**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.

Shared Ministry Inventory (*an annual spiritual practice*)

We encourage all members and friends to complete this inventory.

Please place completed inventories in a marked basket at either exit. Thank you!

Invitation to the Offering

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

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



Offertory

“A Christmas Medley”

***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.

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

Eternal God of time and space, we respond to you with joy. Your generous provision for our needs prompts us to be generous in return. We pray that we will share your joy through these gifts and in our lives. Amen.

Going Forth to Share God's Love

*Closing Hymn (NCH #107) “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”
verses 3-4

*Benediction

Postlude

...we linger to listen or depart as we are ready

Let's carry the light of Christ with us in all times and spaces!

Today Following Worship:

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

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

PRAYER CORNER

*For Wendy and Dave Staberg and their extended family as they grieve the recent death of Wendy's brother, **Dennis Cran**. May he rest in peace.

*Gratitude for the goodness of God's presence with us.

*Thanksgiving for the renovated cathedral in Paris.

*For the **people of Syria**, well-being and enduring peace.

*Gratitude for our beautiful worship space, music, and all who lead and participate in our services.

Adult Faith Conversations—Advent

Sundays at 11 am



We continue to explore 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.

Christmas Solstice & Christmas Eve Services

Christmas Solstice
A Contemplative Service

Dec. 20, 7 pm
*Acknowledging both
difficult & nurturing darkness,
we honor what is and what may be...
God with us in both.*

Early Christmas Eve | 3 pm

Late Christmas Eve | 10 pm

*carols, candlelight,
readings, special music*

**Volunteers are
needed!**

Liturgists

Greeters

Reception Hosts

Youth Greeters

Acolytes

Check out the
sign-up in the
Fellowship Hall
or email Megan
if you can help!

Red Cross 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.

Volunteers are appreciated to make this event a welcoming success!

Set-up, Clean-up

Greeters

Bakers (who wouldn't love a homemade cookie after donating?!)

If you are able to help, please contact Megan or Bob Dickie!

Give blood.
It's the best thing you can do.
American Red Cross



BLOOD DRIVE
ST. CROIX UNITED CHURCH
309 N Third St
Bayport, MN 55003

2025 Pledge cards are still being accepted! Please drop completed pledge forms in the mail, the Sunday offering plate, or to Megan in the church office. Each pledge has an impact as we develop our spending plan (budget) for 2025!




Week at a Glance:

Gentle Tai Chi | **Dec. 16, 7 pm** | @ Church
Gentle Tai Chi | **Dec. 18, 10 am** | @ Church
Harvest Fest Team | **Dec. 18, 1 pm** | @ Church
Choir Rehearsal | **Dec. 18, 6:30 pm** | @ Church
Garden Gathering | **Dec. 19, 9:30 am** | @ Church
Blood Drive | **Dec. 20, 9am—3 pm** | @ Church
Christmas Solstice | **Dec. 20, 7 pm** | @ Church & Livestream
Choir Rehearsal | **Dec. 22, 8:30 am** | @ Church
Sunday Worship | **Dec. 22, 9:30 am** | @ Church & Livestream
Children's Activity & Youth Group | **Dec. 22, 9:45 am** | @ Church
Adult Faith Conversations | **Dec. 22, 11 am** | @ Church & Zoom

Thank you to today's partners: Telae (Youth and Outreach Director), Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Lori Mildon (flute), Kathy & Bob Iverson (greeter), Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux (liturgist), St. Croix United Choir, Chris Bordeaux (fellowship), Claire Spilseth & Roger Klisch (age 3 - gr 4), Sue Favilla (youth group), Paul Spilseth, Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Andi Favilla, Sharri Kinkead, & Kathleen Dennison (altar decor)



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Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

Isa. 12:6; 26:9; 35:6; Matt. 11:5

Marty Haugen, 1983; rev. 1993

1 A - wake! a - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In deep - est night Christ's com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though

an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, whose hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 cold the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall

Je - sus is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing.
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing,
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less;

Liturgical composer Marty Haugen wrote both words and music for this Advent hymn with the twofold aim of providing an easy congregational chorale and utilizing the images of the Isaiah passages.

Tune: REJOICE, REJOICE 9.8.9.8.8.7.8.9.
 Marty Haugen, 1983

D D/F# G D Em Am D

Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 Mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing
 One with - out voice breaks forth in song, a lame one leaps in
 Love be our song and love our prayer, and love, our end - less

Em D7 G C B7 Em

geth - er, to o - pen wide the heaven - ly door, and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of the an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak are raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry, may God fill ev - ery day we share, and

Am7 D7 G G/B C G/B C G

lives now in - side us for ev - er. . . .
 shat - ter all hate and in - jus - tice. . . .
 weap - ons are bro - ken a - sun - der. . . .
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry. . . .

61

Call to Prayer

♩=100

D G/D A/D G/D

D D/F# G D

1. Float - ing and flam - ing and fill - ing new life.
 2. Search - ing and sav - ing and sooth - ing in - deed.
 3. Call - ing and car - ing and chang - ing each heart.

F#m Bm E A

Hov - 'ring and heal - ing and help - ing with sighs.
 Teach - ing and turn - ing and tak - ing the lead;
 Lov - ing and lift - ing us to a new start;

Em A Bm/A A7 D/F# Em

Spir - it at work since the dawn - ing of time;
 Fa - ther - ing, Moth - er - ing, birth - ing new ways;
 Je - sus our Sav - ior, our teach - er, our Lord;

A Bm C#dim Bm G Em/G A D

meet us right here, touch us right now.
 meet us right here, touch us right now.
 meet us right here, touch us right now.

A Bm C#dim Bm G Em A D

Meet us right here, touch us right now.
 Meet us right here, touch us right now.
 Meet us right here, touch us right now.