



December 8, 2024

“How Can We
Prepare Space
For Peace?”

Second 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 “Mary Had a Baby”

trad Spiritual

We acknowledge the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Opening Words from a Neighbor

Opening Hymn “Come and Find the Quiet Center”

**Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,
Find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see
All the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.**

**Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base,
Making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,
Raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.**

**In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,
Let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:
There's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,
In the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare!**

Advent Candle Liturgy

In this Advent season...

We light the candle of Peace... We say that Peace is stronger. Let us pray:
**Emmanuel, we celebrate your Advent in Jesus. And we light an Advent of new
hope and peace for all the seasons of your children. Amen.**

Sung Response “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

**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*

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.

Prayer of Confession and Longing (*unison*)

Compassionate God, greet us with your grace this day. We need the peace you offer. Help us to be quiet enough to hear your voice, still enough to feel your touch. Help us to prepare space where we receive as well as give, wait as well as act, listen as well as speak. Our whole world needs your peace. We come before you, longing to learn your ways. Come to us now, through Jesus the Christ. 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”

Does anyone have a birthday today or in the coming week?

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...

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.

Children's Activity | Children (age 3 - gr. 4) go downstairs with Carol and Kim
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 the Epistles | NRSV (New Testament, p. 198)

Philippians 4:2-9

A Reading from the Gospels | NRSV (New Testament, p.93)

Luke 3:1-6

Here ends the readings.

May God speak to us through these sacred words.

Morning Message "How Can We Prepare Space for Peace?"

Responding To God's Love

Prayer Song (SPP #201)

"Deep Peace"
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)

**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.

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

“Blessed Be the God of Israel”

Hopson

*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)*

God of hope and peace, you are eternally and faithfully present with us. As we wait and watch for a new arrival of the Christ light, you are already with us in many ways. You listen when we call out to you. You guide us to opportunities to care for one another. We gratefully dedicate these gifts and our lives to you. Amen.

Going Forth to Share God’s Love

*Closing Hymn (NCH #120) “There’s a Voice in the Wilderness” **all verses**

*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 Jackie Savage's nephew, **Isaac**, who underwent knee surgery on Tuesday.

*For Cindy Parson and Bob Dickie's daughter, **Erin**, embarking on a new job and adventure in Colorado.

*For **Trevor and Kelsey Stokes** as they welcomed **Rhea and Rollin** on Thanksgiving Day! For wellbeing for the babies, who were 7 weeks early and are in the NICU at Children's Hospital (St. Paul) until they are able to come home.

Harvest Fest Update and THANK YOU

We welcomed over 300 friends and visitors as we shared delicious food, beautiful crafts, and "Gifts to Go" in the spirit of friendship while supporting our church.

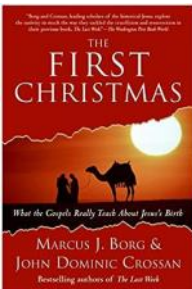


Thanks to everyone who participated by providing soup, baked goods, volunteer hours, and financial support.

The estimated profit from the event is \$10,023 - to support our church's ministry!

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.

Linda Tossey's Celebration of Life Service

Saturday, Dec. 14th | 2pm | St. Croix United Church
Reception will follow at *The Dock* in downtown Stillwater



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](https://www.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 simple way to
make a difference.



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. 9, 7 pm** | @ Church

Pastor Clare & Megan at Training | **Dec. 10, 11:30-1:30 pm (office closed)**

Gentle Tai Chi | **Dec. 11, 10 am** | @ Church

Choir Rehearsal | **Dec. 11, 6:30 pm** | @ Church

Finance Committee | **Dec. 12, 5 pm** | @ Church & Zoom

Linda Tossey Celebration of Life | **Dec. 14, 2 pm** | @ Church

Choir Rehearsal | **Dec. 15, 8:30 am** | @ Church

Sunday Worship | **Dec. 15, 9:30 am** | @ Church & Livestream

Children's Activity & Youth Group | **Dec. 15, 9:45 am** | @ Church

Adult Faith Conversations | **Dec. 15, 11 am** | @ Church & Zoom

Thank you to today's partners: Telae (Youth and Outreach Director), Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Lori Mildon (flute), Jackie Savage (greeter), Maya Klisch-Solano & Jonah Gromoll (youth greeter), Sam Gromoll (acolyte), Kathy Iverson (liturgist), St. Croix United Choir, Jill Greenhalgh & Rolf Dittmann (fellowship), Carol Dusbabek & Kim Klisch (age 3 - gr 4), Sue Favilla (youth group), Paul Spilseth, Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Andi Favilla & Sharri Kinkead (altar decor)




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Deep Peace

201

♩ = 44

G D Em Bm C G/B Cmaj7 D

1. Peace, peace, deep peace, my peace I give to you.____
 2. Love, love, strong love, my love I give to you.____
 3. Joy, joy, great joy, my joy I give to you.____

E Bm7 Cmaj7 Gmaj7 Cmaj7 D G

Peace, peace, deep peace, my peace I give to you.____
 Love, love, strong love, my love I give to you.____
 Joy, joy, great joy, my joy I give to you.____

Em Bm7 Cmaj7 G Am7

Not as the world gives, I give to you, not as the
 Not as the world gives, I give to you, not as the
 Not as the world gives, I give to you, not as the

B¹¹ B B⁷ Em D G D Em

world gives, I give to you. Peace, peace, deep
 world gives, I give to you. Love, love, strong
 world gives, I give to you. Joy, joy, great

Bm C Am7 Bm/D D⁷ G Am/G G

peace, my peace I give to you._____
 love, my love I give to you._____
 joy, my joy I give to you._____

There's a Voice in the Wilderness

*Isa. 40:3-11; Ps. 103:15-17**J. Lewis Milligan, 1925; alt.*

1 There's a voice in the wil-der-ness cry-ing, a
 2 O Zi-on, who of-fers good tid-ings, to the
 3 But the word of our God is for-ev-er, our De-

call from the ways un-trod: Pre-pare in the des-ert a
 height of the moun-tains dare! Lift your voice to the cit-ies of
 fend-er's will is strong; God stands in the midst of

high-way, a high-way for our God! The
 Ju-dah: "Be-hold your God!" de-clare. Like the
 na-tions, to ren-der right the wrong. Then

Before moving to Canada, J. Lewis Milligan was a successful British journalist and poet. This text was written in 1925 to celebrate the union of three churches into The United Church of Canada, a body he served as public relations director.

Tune: ASCENSION Irr.
 H. Hugh Bancroft, 1938

val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the loft - y hills brought
 flowers of the field we per - ish, our hu - man works de -
 God shall be as a shep - herd, the lambs gath - ered to God's

low: make straight all the crook - ed pla - ces
 cay, the power and pomp of na - tions
 breast; and pas - tures of peace shall greet them,

where Em - man - u - el may go!
 shall pass like a dream a - way.
 to give to the wea - ry rest.