



January 12, 2025

“Get in the Tub!”

Baptism of Christ
Sunday

Preacher:
Rev. Dan Warnes

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 “Fairest Lord Jesus”

arr J.M. Stevens

We acknowledge the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Opening Words from a Neighbor

SPP = *Sing! Prayer and Praise*

* = Sitting or standing

NCH = *New Century Hymnal*

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

Water! **Life making. Body filling. World changing!**
Spirit! **Life making. Soul filling. World changing!**
Child of God! **Life making. Spirit filling. World changing!**
Created by Love. **Created to love. Water. Spirit. Children of God.**
Together in this place. **Remembering who we are.**
Worshipping God. **Shining Light!**

***Opening Song (SPP #84)** “All My Days”
all verses

Acknowledging Our Need for God’s Grace

Centering Ourselves *...as the singing bowl invites us into stillness*

Prayer of Confession and Longing (*unison*)

Loving God, we confess that we often hurt others and ourselves. We turn our backs to avoid confronting uncomfortable realities. We inflict hurt in reaction to our own hurt. Yet even as we confess how we miss your target of love, we feel your presence continuing to fill our lives and this community. Baptize us with the fire of your truth. Wash over us with your Spirit. Make us strong and tender – that we may live more fully as you would have us live. In the name of Jesus, your Christ, we pray. Amen.

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

Assurance of Grace

A Time With Children and Youth

Sung Invitation *...as young people come forward*

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine...

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.

Singing “Happy Birthday”

Does anyone have a birthday 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 depart or return to families

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine...

Children's Activity | Children (age 3 - gr. 4) go downstairs with Carol & 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!

Proclaiming God's Love

A Reading from Hebrew Scriptures | NRSV (Old Testament, p. 672) Isaiah 43:1-7

A Reading from the Gospels | NRSV (New Testament, p. 60) Luke 3:15-17,21-22

Here ends the readings.

May God speak to us through these sacred words.

Morning Message

“Get in the Tub!”

Responding To God's Love

Prayer Hymn (NCH #354)

“God, When I Came into This Life”

all verses

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.

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

“Meditation”

Strnad

*Offertory Response

**Praise, God, for these gifts;
we lift them up for heaven’s blessing.
Praise God, for these gifts;
we lift them up to serve you, Lord.**

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

God of all, through baptism and through the life of this congregation, we dedicate ourselves to sharing in the work of your love. We bring our energy, skills, and possessions. May they amplify your tender voice of love; overpowering voices of fear and violence. Use us and all that we have to your glory. Amen.

Going Forth to Share God's Love

***Closing Hymn** (NCH #448) "Take My Life, God, Let It Be"
all verses

***Benediction**

***Passing the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

...to those online and onsite: smiles, peace signs, handshakes

***Postlude**

...as we pass the peace

Today Following Worship:

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

11:00am | Adult Faith Conversations

Adult Faith Conversations | TODAY

How to make sense of Epiphany and the Wise Ones in Matthew? They came. They worshipped. Their disobedience to the Empire and their choice to follow the instructions of a dream to take another route home, resulted in punishment and death for the ones in the story with the least amount of power. The children 2 and under. What is the truth of this narrative? Is it true today? Should we keep this in the story?

PRAYER CORNER

*For **Sarah Thorson**, having heart valve replacement on Jan. 14. Prayers for the doctors to have skill and for successful healing for Sarah.

*For Jackie Savage's friend **Chris**, currently hospitalized with an infection and progressing cancer.

*For Sharon Neuenfeldt's brother, **Allen**, for a repairing surgery this week and as he begins chemo.

*With Rebecca Dennis, we give thanks that her **niece** has reconnected with family after a period of estrangement.

*For **Aidan Gromoll**, safe travels on Jan. 14 to provide medical care to refugees along the English Channel for several months (in Calais and Dunkirk, France).



Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 2nd | Following Worship

Sunday, Feb. 2nd
11 am (after brunch)

*Elections (Leadership Council) *2025 budget

*Several other items (stay tuned)

Annual reports due Jan. 19th.

Per our bylaws: Electronic and hard copies of our Annual report and 2025 budget will be available beginning Jan. 26th.

Reiki Healing Session with Lori Mildon

Tuesday, Jan. 21 | 3 - 6 pm | @ Church

To make an appointment, call Lori at 612-770-0327.





“ ...the Glory of God
shone around them...
Luke 2:9 ”

Be the Light

Gratitude for Generous Gifts to... The Christmas Fund

1 of 4 annual special offerings sponsored by the national setting of our UCC

Gifts from our members and friends amounted to \$600!

A reminder that our 2 free pantries offer food 365 days a year.

Please be sure to bring items in cardboard or plastic packaging as the temperatures drop.

No cans or glass!

We really appreciate your support and we wish you peace and joy now and in the upcoming year.



Crutches4Africa (We're hosting a barrel for a few weeks)

Millions of people in Africa desperately need mobility devices, but cannot afford them. Donate your used crutches, walkers, canes, walking boots, prosthetic legs, wheelchairs, knee scooters, leg/knee braces, arm slings, baby joggers (not strollers), or bicycle trailers.

Place them in or near the barrel in the Narthex. Stillwater Noon Rotary Club will collect and ship items to where they are needed in Africa.





Week at a Glance:

Choir Rehearsal | Jan. 15, 6:30 pm | @ Church

Telae's Office Hours | Jan. 17, 1-4 pm | @ Church

Pastor Clare will be away, Jan. 12—15th

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)

Thank you to today's partners: Rev. Dan Warnes (Preacher), Telae (Youth and Outreach Director), Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Lori Mildon (flute & fellowship), (ushers), Cheri Schwartz (liturgist), St. Croix United Choir, Carol Dusbabek & Roger Klisch (age 3 - gr 4), Cindy Siegel (youth group), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie, Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Andi Favilla, Mary Binger, Naomi Kirstein (altar decor)




St. Croix United Church

Rev. Clare Gromoll, Pastor

pastor@stcroixunitedchurch.org

309 Third St. N, Bayport MN 55003-1028

(651) 439-5667 / office@stcroixunitedchurch.org

www.stcroixunitedchurch.org  @SCUCBayport

All My Days

84

$\text{♩} = 78$ N.C. A⁷sus

1. You

D D/F# G A⁷sus G/B D D/F# D G

know my_ words, be - fore they're said. You know my need and
 I should fly_ be - yond the_ dawn, the shad - ows will_ not
 ev - ery_ thought, each word we say, - the whole of_ time, the
 mend my_ heart and free my_ voice. From sin re - leased, I

E/G# Esus A F#7/A# Bm F#m7 G Am D⁷ Gadd9

I am fed. You give me_ life... You know my_ ways, my
 o - ver - come. If I lie_ down in deep - est_ night, still
 pre - sent day, - are held with - in_ your might - y_ hand too
 will re - joice. O search me_ now, my spir - it_ cries, and

D/A G/B Em/C#F#aug Bm D⁷/A D/G D/F# Em⁷

strength, my path_ for all my_ days, my strength, my_ path, for
 you are_ there, my truth, my_ light, still you are_ there, my
 won - der - ful_ to com - pre - hend, too won - der - ful_ to
 let my_ song of praise a - rise, - and let my_ song of

Asus N.C. A⁷sus Asus N.C. Dadd9

1. 2. 3. 4.

all my days. _____ 2. If praise a - rise. _____
 truth, my light. _____ 3. Our
 com - pre - hend. _____ 4. O

Words: Laurie Zelman

Music: Mark A. Miller

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God, When I Came into This Life

354

Fred Kaan, 1979

Isa. 43:1

1 God, when I came in - to this life, you
 2 You give me free - dom to be - lieve; to -
 3 With - in the cir - cle of the faith, as
 4 In all the ten - sions of my life, be -
 5 So help me in my un - be - lief and

called me by my name; To - day I come, com -
 day I make my choice, And to the wor - ship
 mem - ber of your cast, I take my place with
 tween my faith and doubt, Let your great Spir - it
 let my life be true: Feet firm - ly plant - ed

mit my - self, re - spond - ing to your claim.
 of the church I add my learn - ing voice.
 all the saints of fu - ture, pres - ent, past.
 give me hope, sus - tain me, lead me out.
 on the earth, my sights set high on you.

The musical setting for this text by contemporary poet Fred Kaan is an Appalachian folk tune of possible British origin. Annabel Morris Buchanan, an organist, music teacher, and scholar of American hymnody, collected and arranged this and other tunes in Folk Hymns of America, 1938.

Tune: LAND OF REST C.M.

The Christian Harp, 1832

Harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan, 1938

Take My Life, God, Let It Be

448

Frances R. Havergal, 1874; alt.

Rom. 12:1

1 Take my life, God, let it be con - se - crat - ed faith - ful - ly.
2 Take my spir - it, let it move at the im - pulse of your love.
3 Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.
4 Take my love and help it grow; let my lov - ing ov - er - flow.

Take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease-less praise.
Take my in - tel - lect and use all its pow - ers as you choose.
Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwell - ing place.
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's com - mu - ni - ty.

Frances R. Havergal wrote her hymn following a visit to Areley House in Worcestershire, England. Among the ten persons at the house were "some unconverted . . . some converted but not rejoicing." Before she left, "everyone had got a blessing."

Tune: VIENNA 7.7.7.7.
Justin H. Knecht, 1797
Alternate tune: HENDON