



February 16, 2025

“How Can We
Bless Our Living?”

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

...as we settle into sacred time and space

Ring the Bell

Prelude & Candle Lighting

“Winter”

Stevens

...acknowledging the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome & Announcements

Singing Bowl & Opening Words from a Neighbor

Tibetan singing bowls took form in the 6th and 5th centuries BCE.
In some Buddhist traditions, they accompany meditation and chanting.
They now contribute to spiritual practices and well-being in many spaces.

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

Let us praise God –

Who gives living water and through whom the faithful flourish.

Like trees planted by the water, O God, are those who trust in you.

Like trees with deep roots are those who place their faith in you.

Like green trees in winter are those who receive their life from you.

We praise you, God, for life that has no end. Amen.

***Opening Hymn (NCH #459) “Come, O Fount of Every Blessing”**

all verses

Acknowledging Our Need for God’s Grace

Centering Ourselves

...in stillness and breath

Prayer of Confession and Longing *(unison)*

O God - hope of the poor, friend of the persecuted, advocate of the suffering - we trust in you, for you have been our mighty source. Turn our tears to laughter and give us what we need to live. Then keep us faithful, that we may never be satisfied until all beings have what they need. We pray in the name and way of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Musical Interlude

... to accompany our quiet prayers

Assurance of Grace

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

***Passing the Peace**

...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”

Addison Albright (2/22 - 7 yrs), Sharon Neuenfeldt (2/22), David Staberg (2/22)

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 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 and Kathy

Youth Group | Youth (gr. 5-12) go with 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 Gospels | NRSV (New Testament, p. 64)

Luke 6:17-26

A Reading from a contemporary voice | Lyrics by Carrie Newcomer

“Holy As a Day Is Spent”

Here ends the readings. **Thanks be to God!**

Morning Message

"How Can We Bless Our Living?"

Responding To God's Love

Special Music

“Holy As a Day Is Spent”

sung by Carrie Newcomer

As reparations for use of Black spirituals, we support Walker 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*)

**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.**

Invitation to the Offering

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

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



Offertory

“Lord, Your Constant Care and Love”

T Paris

*Offertory Response

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

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

Holy One, your heart abounds with gifts. Receive this offering as a sign of our intention to live as channels of your mercy. May we be inspired by your Spirit, open to the joy of your presence, hospitable to one another, and generous toward your world. Amen.

Going Forth to Share God's Love

***Closing Song (SPP #163) "Your Love is Amazing"**
verses 1 & 2

***Benediction**

***Sending Song** *...forming a circle (not 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.

***Postlude**

Today Following Worship:

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

11:00am | **Adult Faith Conversations** Join us as we explore the meaning of Black History Month as we respond to our Christian calling.



Have you turned in a picture for the Church Photo Directory?
Don't have one? Lori Milton is ready and waiting to take pictures following worship **TODAY**.

PRAYER CORNER

*For Pat and Nat's neighbor's great-grandson, **Silas**, born prematurely. With joy we share that he and his mother are now home and doing well.

*For **teachers, counselors, and caregivers** who are called to protect their students from threats. And for those students who live in fear every day.

*For **our neighbors** who are living in cars and braving these cold temperatures, we pray for access to short-shelter, supporting resources, and long-term housing.

*For **Patti Mogren**, healing well after a recent hospitalization for breathing issues.

*For **those protesting injustice** - safety in the struggle and courage for others to join them.

*For **Barb and Stan Hilliard**, elder members who were present with us last Sunday - we give thanks!

Red Cross Blood Drive

Wednesday, Feb. 26th | 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

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



Our 2 Food Share Pantries are open 365 days a year.

Items that go fast:

Cream of wheat cereal/Oatmeal, Kid-friendly cereal

Peanut Butter in plastic jars

Individual tuna packets, Dinty More Stews (single serving)

Mac and Cheese—single servings, Snacks, Hot Cocoa

“Just-add-water” baking mixes (pancakes, muffins, etc)

Please be sure to bring items in cardboard or plastic packaging as the temperatures drop. No cans or glass!

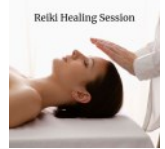
Help stock the pantries with a donation (scan the QR code or designate a check/cash for “Food Share Pantries.”)



Reiki Healing Session with Lori Mildon

Tuesday, Feb. 18 | 1—4 pm | @ Church

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



Wednesday Evenings in Lent | **March 12 - April 9**

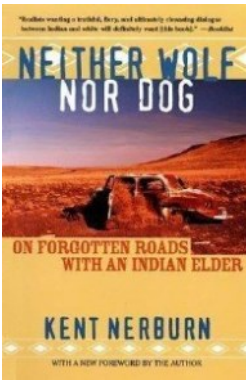
5:30 pm | worship: stories of resilience

6:00 pm | soup supper

6:30 pm | book discussion

Worship: Story Sharers Needed!

Come for music, prayer, and stories. **Would you be willing to share about a challenging experience you've lived through and where you found resources to support you in building resilience within and beyond that challenging time?** If you could be one of our story sharers, please contact Pastor Clare!



Lenten Book Discussions -

"Neither Wolf Nor Dog" by Kent Nerburn

This 1995 narrative invites us to start a conversation about healing through the acknowledgment of the unvarnished truth. A captivating blend of memoir and travelogue, the book follows writer Nerburn as he spends time with Dan, a Lakota elder eager to share his wisdom before he passes. Nerburn's journey takes him to an undisclosed reservation in South Dakota, where he gathers Dan's profound insights. Along the way, Nerburn realizes that this journey is far from straightforward, leading to unexpected discoveries and deeper understanding.

The title itself implies that true existence requires embracing our full identity. As a nation, how can we genuinely exist if we deny our past? This is the profound question at the heart of this powerful narrative.

Stillwater's Valley Bookseller has copies available for 15% off, if you mention "St. Croix United Church book group!"



Week at a Glance:

Strategic Planning Task Force | **Feb. 18, 11:30 am** | @ Church

Pastoral Relations Committee | **Feb. 19, 12:30 pm** | @ Church


Choir Rehearsal | **Feb. 19, 6:30 pm** | @ Church

Garden Gathering | **Feb. 20, 9 am** | @ Church

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Lori Mildon (flute & fellowship), Bob Dickie & Cindy Parsons (ushers), Mary Maren Bjork (liturgist), St. Croix United Choir, Carol Dusbabek & Kathy Iverson (age 3 - gr 4), Sue Favilla (youth group), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie, Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Andi Favilla, Mary Binger, Naomi Kirstein (altar decor)



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Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Ps. 36:7-9

Robert Robinson, 1758; alt.

1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
 2 Here I pause in my so - journ-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!

streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas - ing, call for songs of end-less praise.
 come to trust, at ev-ery turn - ing, God will guide me safe-ly home.
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.

Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,
 Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:

Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail - ing love.
 Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless - ed bod - y, pre - cious blood.
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

Converted to Methodism at age twenty, Robert Robinson soon became a Calvinistic Methodist preacher and later gained great popularity. The melody, associated with this text since 1813, is an American folk tune.

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.
 John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

Your Love Is Amazing

163

$\text{♩} = 100$
 Csus² G/B

1. Your love is__ a - maz - ing, stea - dy and__ un - chang -
 - ing, I can feel__ it ris -
 - ing, stea - dy and__ un - chang -

Csus² Dsus

- ing, your love is__ a moun - tain, firm be - neath my feet.
 - ing, all the joy__ that's grow - ing deep in - side__ of me.
 - ing, your love is__ a moun - tain, firm be - neath my feet.

Csus² G/B

— Your love is__ a mys - t'ry, how you gent - ly lift__
 — Ev - 'ry time I see__ you all your good - ness shines
 — Your love is__ a mys - t'ry, how you gent - ly lift__

Csus² Dsus

— me. When I am__ sur - round - ed your love car - ries me.
 — through. I can feel__ this God__ song ris - ing up__ in me.
 — me. When I am__ sur - round - ed your love car - ries me.

Csus² G Dsus Em⁷

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah,

Csus² G Dsus

your love makes me sing. Ha - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, ha - le - lu -

Em⁷ Csus² 1.2. 3. G

- jah, your love makes me sing. 2. Your love is__ sur - pris - Hal le - lu - jah.
 3. Your love is__ a - maz -

Words and Music: Brenton Brown and Brian Doerksen

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