



March 2, 2025

“How Will We Grow
in the In-Between?”

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

Ringing the Bell

Prelude & Candle Lighting “Nearer My God to Thee”

Adams/Mason

...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.

***Prayer of Gathering** *(responsive)*

God of all, we claim the promise of Christ (your love in human form) —
That where two or three are gathered in that holy name, Christ is present.

With Christ among us, we know the power of your love for us.
With Christ among us, we see your glory in each other.

With Christ among us, we believe we can do all things —
Through love's strength at work in us.

Free us now to be a people renewed by transforming love —
Through the one who came that we might live more abundantly. Amen!

***Opening Song (SPP #113)** “Better Is One Day”
both verses

Acknowledging Our Need for God's Grace

Centering Ourselves *...in stillness and breath*

Prayer of Confession and Longing *(unison)*

Creator God, we cast our cares toward you and share our burdens with each other. Help us to dismantle our disguises. Our hearts and souls lay bare before you. Manifest your presence among us. Let your voice be heard in the silence of our spirits and the roaring in our ears. Let your acceptance and forgiveness waft over us like a warm breeze as you envelop and cradle us. Let your love fill us with joy. May others sense your presence in our hearts and see you in our actions. 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, eye contact, peace signs (refraining from touch)

Special Music “Beauty for Ashes” *by Crystal Lewis, sung by Telae*

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"

Mary Ann Litfin (3/2), Wendy Staberg (3/2), Claire Stokes (3/5)

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...

Proclaiming God's Love

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

We welcome the sounds and movements of children who stay in worship!

Reading from the gospels | NRSV (New Testament, p. 69)

Luke 9:28-36

Reading from a contemporary voice | from John O'Donohue

"For the Interim Time"

Here ends the readings.

Thanks be to God.

Morning Message

"How Will We Grow in the In-Between?"

As reparations for use of 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.

Responding To God's Love

Prayer Song (SPP #81) “More Than We Can Ask”
cantor sings refrain, then we sing from the beginning

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 kindom 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 kindom, and the power, and the glory, 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

“Singing Love”

Gibson

***Offertory Response**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below – Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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 (NCH #330) “Let Us Break Bread Together” all verses**

**Let us break bread together on our knees (drink wine, praise God)
Let us break bread together on our knees (drink wine, praise God)
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
My God, have mercy on me.**

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The bread of life and cup of blessing for everyone! **Thanks be to God!**
**God of all, we give thanks for the vulnerability you encourage as we share
broken bread and poured-out cup. We give thanks for the community you
build as we serve one another. For the courage and strength that you promise
us, thank you. Send us forth from this place to love and do justice through the
gentle power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Going Forth to Share God's Love

***Closing Hymn (NCH #182)** “We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding”
all verses

***Benediction**

***Sending Song (NCH #249)** *...forming a circle (not holding hands)*

“Peace I Leave with You, My Friends”
Peace I leave with you, my friends,
shalom, my peace, in all you do.
Peace I leave with you, my friends.
I give to you so you can give to others, too.
To share God's love is why I came,
To show God's kindness without end.
Go, now, my friends, and do the same,
Until we come again.
Peace I leave with you, my friends,
shalom, my peace, in all you do.
Peace I leave with you, my friends.
I give to you so you can give to others, too.

***Postlude**

Today Following Worship:

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

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



Ash Wednesday | **March 5**

5:45 pm Supper in Community | 6:30 pm Worship
11 am—5 pm | Drop-in Ashes with Pastor Clare

*Seeking the love of God in the company of one another
through candlelight, music, prayer, spoken word,
Holy Communion, and imposition of ashes.*

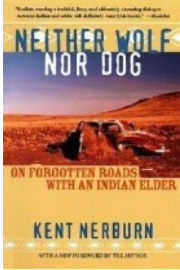
Wednesday Evenings in Lent | **March 12 - April 9**

5:30 pm | worship: hearing stories of resilience

6:00 pm | soup supper

6:30 pm | book discussion

Lenten Book Discussion - "**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. The book follows writer Nerburn as he spends time with Dan, a Lakota elder eager to share his wisdom before he passes. Along the way, Nerburn realizes that this journey is far from straightforward, leading to unexpected discoveries and deeper understanding.

PRAYER CORNER

*With Therese Thorson, prayers for the family of 18 year old **Adonise Garcia** who passed suddenly after a very brief battle with an unknown virus. We give thanks that her organ donations will help over 70 recipients.

*With Jill Greenhalgh we offer prayers for **all who have been laid off or lost jobs** suddenly - may they have the courage and strength to discern and take next steps forward.

*For loved ones of **Sam Nordquist**, a young transgender man brutally murdered recently in New York. And for all our transgender and non-binary kin and neighbors, that they be well supported.

*For Sharon Neuenfeldt's nephew, **Mike**, healing energy as he faces into surgery related to colon cancer.

*For Fritz West's niece **Carrie** (who worked with USAID) and all the others (including international neighbors) affected by widespread federal job losses in recent days. For well-being for those most affected by these tumultuous changes.

*With Cindy Parsons and Bob Dickie, prayers for their daughter **Erin** as her knee heals and other health scares have arisen; and gratitude for the caregivers that surround her throughout this experience far from home.

*For light in the midst of darkness and **Sam Gromoll's** healing and presence back in worship last Sunday.

*For **Pope Francis**, may healing energy and angels surround him as he weathers serious illness.

March is MN Food Share Month

The Local Outreach Team is collecting for our Food Share Pantries. We are filling the pantries at least twice/week and it costs us around \$100/week to fill them.



Please donate money to the Food Share Pantry Account (scan the QR code or designate a check/cash to “Food Share Pantries”). Any amount is greatly appreciated ~ our goal is to reach \$500 this week!

Week at a Glance:

Strategic Task Force | March 4, 11:15 am | @ Church

Ash Wednesday Dinner | March 5, 5:45 pm | @ Church

Ash Wednesday Worship | March 5, 6:30 pm | @ Church & Livestream

Garden Gathering | March 6, 9:30 am | @ Church


Welcome and Care Team | March 6, 12 pm | @ Church

Social Justice Team | March 6, 5:30 pm | @ Church @ Zoom

Thank you to today’s partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Lori Mildon (flute), Bob & Cheri Schwartz (ushers), Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux (liturgist), St. Croix United Choir, Cindy Baker & Kim Klisch (age 3 - gr 4), Cindy Siegel (youth group), Sue Favilla & Jane Hanson (communion preparers), Mary Maren Bjork, Bob Dickie, Cindy Parsons (communion servers), Kathy & Bob Iverson (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie, Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Sue Favilla (altar decor)



St. Croix United Church

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Better Is One Day

113

$\text{♩} = 80$

$\text{E}(\text{omit}3)$ Asus^2

1. How love-ly is your dwell-ing place, O God al- might-
 thing I ask and I would seek: to see your beau-

Bsus $\text{E}(\text{omit}3)$ Bsus

- y. For my soul longs and e - ven faints for you.
 - ty, to find you in the place your glo - ry dwells.

$\text{E}(\text{omit}3)$ Asus^2

For here my heart is sat - is - fied with-in your pres-
 One thing I ask and I would seek: to see your beau-

Bsus $\text{E}(\text{omit}3)$ Bsus

- ence. I sing be-neath the shad-ow of your wings...
 - ty, to find you in the place your glo - ry dwells.

Asus^2 Bsus^2

Bet-ter is one day in your courts, bet-ter is one day in your house, bet-ter is

Asus^2 $\text{A/C}\sharp$ Bsus $\text{E/G}\sharp$

Last time, Coda C 1.

one day in your courts than thou-sands else - where. Bet-ter is

Bsus $\text{B}(\text{omit}3)$ D.S. Bsus

2.

else-where, than thou-sands else-where. 2. One else-where.

Words and Music: Matt Redman

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 (Words revised by the Praise Song Advisory Team, 2009.)

ENCOUNTER

81 More Than We Can Ask

$\text{♩} = 88$ C Am⁷

More than we can ask, more than we can ask,

Dm⁷ G

more than we can ask or i - mag - ine.

Vamp during prayer:

Following last prayer to Coda Ⓢ

Am F Am G Am F Am

Following each prayer:

One: Am G **Many:** Am G D.C.

Hear, oh hear_ our pray'r. Hear, oh hear_ our pray'r.

Ⓢ Coda

C Am⁷

More than we can ask, more than we can ask,

Dm⁷ G

more than we can ask or i - mag - ine.

One: Am G **Many:** Am G C

A - - men. A - - men.

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182 We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

Matt. 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1988

1 We have come at Christ's own bid - ding to this high and
 2 Light breaks through our clouds and shad - ows, splen - dor bathes the
 3 Strength-ened by this glimpse of glo - ry, fear - ful lest our

ho - ly place, Where we wait with hope and long - ing for some
 flesh-joined Word, Mo - ses and E - li - jah mar - vel as the
 faith de - cline, We, like Pe - ter, find it tempt-ing to re -

to - ken of God's grace. Here we pray for new as -
 heav - enly voice is heard. Eyes and hearts be - hold with
 main and build a shrine. But true wor - ship gives us

sur - ance that our faith is not in vain, Search - ing
 won - der how the Law and Proph - ets meet: Christ with
 cour - age to pro - claim what we pro - fess, That our

like those first dis - ci - ples for a sign both clear and plain.
 gar - ments drenched in bright - ness, stands trans - fig - ured and com - plete.
 dai - ly lives may prove us peo - ple of the God we bless.