



March 23, 2025

“What Does  
Faithful  
Experimentation  
Require?”

Third Sunday in Lent

### **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**

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross with Above All” *arr Tornquist*

*...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*)

May we journey in the wilderness with our God.

**May we touch and immerse ourselves in the ordinary—until we realize it is sacred.**

In the midst of weariness and pain, may we know the liberating love of Jesus, our exemplar.

**May the Spirit guide us in this hour of worship – to open ourselves more fully to God’s presence. Amen.**

**\*Opening Song (SPP #16)**

“Come to the Water”

**verses 1-4**

**Acknowledging Our Need for God’s Grace**

**Centering Ourselves**

*...in stillness and breath*

**Prayer of Confession and Longing** (*unison*)

**All-loving Creator, Revealer and Sustainer – tilling difficult soil and planting new seeds can make us feel uncomfortable, vulnerable, or afraid. When we labor, it can be hard to break new ground and easy to lose sight of the harvest. We confess our need for your grace. We acknowledge that we can be difficult, hardened soil – resisting your life-giving seeds. Stretch our hearts and imaginations to receive the seeds of your mercy and possibility for new life. Hear now our private thoughts as we continue in silent prayer. 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, gestures (refraining from touch)*

**Special Music** (*learning a new song—see insert*)

SPP = Sing! Prayer and Praise

\* = Sitting or standing

NCH = New Century Hymnal

## 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"**

**Megan Adams (3/23)**

**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 Cindy and Wendy

***Youth Group*** | Youth (gr. 5-12) go with Telae to their 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!*

## Proclaiming God's Love

**Reading from the Gospels** | NRSV (New Testament, p. 76)

Luke 13:6-9, 18-21

**Contemporary Reading** | from Rev. Quinn. G. Caldwell in "Into the Deep" "Soil"

Here ends the readings.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Morning Message**

**"What Does Faithful Experimentation Require?"**

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 Hymn (NCH #433)**    “In the Bulb There Is a Flower”  
**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 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**

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

*Bowring*

### **\*Offertory Response**

**Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-u-ja.**

**Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-u-ja.**

**Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-u-ja.**

**Halleluja! Halleluja!**

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

Gracious God, you plant within us seeds of hope, nurture within us saplings of faith, and harvest fruits of your creation. May we embody our thanks with radical generosity, offering our lives to you in acts of compassion for one another. May we walk gently upon the Earth, ever mindful of your gifts of breath, of love, of life itself. Amen.

**Going Forth to Share God's Love**

**\*Closing Hymn (NCH #540) "We Plant a Grain of Mustard Seed"**  
**verses 1-3 & 6**

**\*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:**

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

10:45 am | Inquirers Gathering

**Inquirers Gathering | Today, 10:45 am**

*upstairs in the corner meeting room*

Curious about our church? Join us after refreshments for a time of learning who we are and what we're about. All are welcome!



## March is MN Food Share Month

Thank you to all who participated in donating money and/or snack items to our snack pack project! Our children and youth packed over 100 bags for us to put in our pantries over Spring break. We met our goal!



### March 23 & 30 - Meal Kit Ingredients Needed!

For the last two weeks in March, the Local Outreach Team will be focusing on Meal Kits. Meals from the Heart has donated many meal kit bags to us to be able to provide in our pantries. We would like to spruce up the bags by providing ingredients to make a meal! *(More details and ideas in the Midweek e-newsletter.)*



### Reiki & Healing Sessions | **March 25, 2-5 pm**

To make an appointment with Lori or Mary Ann, call Lori at 612-770-0327

### Gentle Tai Chi is Back!

**Mondays at 7 pm, beginning March 24th.**

@ St. Croix United Church

For notifications & cancellations, please contact Mary Ann Litfin to be added to the email list ([malitfin@gmail.com](mailto:malitfin@gmail.com))



### Gerten's Spring Plant Sale is ON!

**Our church receives 30% of all plant sales & 15% of all gift card sales!**

**AND you'll have beautiful plants for your summer garden!**



**THE LAST DAY to order is April 6th.**

Plants/Flowers will be delivered on May 15th.

All ordering online. Instructions and the brochure are in the Midweek News. For assistance, contact Megan ([office@stcroixunitedchurch.org](mailto:office@stcroixunitedchurch.org) or 651-439-5667).

### One Great Hour of Sharing | **March 1 - 31**

OGHS, a UCC Special Offering, carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis by supporting ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

*Please use specially marked envelopes and/or memo: "OGHS"*

# Lenten Season at St. Croix United Church

## Wednesday Evenings in Lent

Mar. 12 - Apr. 9

5:30 pm | Worship: Hearing Stories of Resilience

*\*In-person only due to sensitive story-sharing*

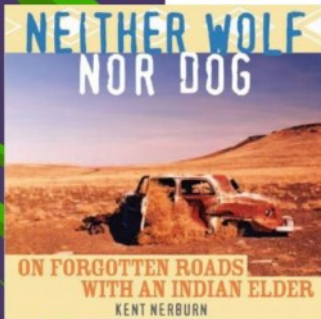
6 pm | Soup Supper

6:30 - 7:30 pm | Book Discussions

Holy Week details at [www.stcroixunitedchurch.org](http://www.stcroixunitedchurch.org)

## St. Croix United Book Club

Reading books that matter from  
diverse genres and authors



*Neither Wolf Nor Dog*

by Kent Nerburn

*(Onsite and Zoomed)*

309 N Third St | Bayport

**Books available at Valley Bookseller**  
(Mention St. Croix United Church's  
Book Club and receive 15% off.)

## PRAYER CORNER

- \*For **Kimberly Jackson** and all who grieve the recent death of her mother, Joan.
- \*For Sharon Neuenfeldt's nephew, **Mike**. Surgery has been delayed until after treatment can shrink the tumor. We give thanks that cancer is currently contained.
- \*For Bob and Cheri Schwartz's granddaughter, **Bea**, who is doing well. They are grateful for the generous prayers of our congregation.
- \*In the midst of **divisiveness in our world**, we hope for people to come together.
- \* For Sharri Kinkead's friend's 11-year old autistic son, **Robert**, who has been experiencing bullying.
- \*For all who grieve the recent death of Sarah Thorson's cousin, **Jack**.
- \*For Jane Hanson's daughter, **Chelsea**, swift healing after an injury at work.

## Week at a Glance:

**Welcome & Care Team** | **March 25, 12 pm** | @ Church

**Reiki & Healing Sessions** | **March 25, 2 pm** | @ Church

**Lenten Worship** (Chris Bordeaux, story sharer) | **March 26, 5:30 pm** | @ Church


**Lenten Soup Dinner** | **March 26, 6 pm** | @ Church

**Lenten Book Discussion** | **March 26, 6:30 pm** | @ Church

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Lori Mildon (flute), Carol Dusbabek & Sue Favilla (ushers), Sharri Kinkead (liturgist), St. Croix United Choir, Cindy Baker & Wendy Staberg (age 3 - gr 4), Cindy Siegel (youth group), Lori Mildon (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie, Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Sue Favilla (altar decor)



## St. Croix United Church

[www.stcroixunitedchurch.org](http://www.stcroixunitedchurch.org)  @SCUCBayport

**Rev. Pastor Clare Gromoll** | **Pastor**  
pastor@stcroixunitedchurch.org, (651) 600-6409

**Megan Adams** | **Office Coordinator**  
office@stcroixunitedchurch.org, (651) 439-5667

**Telae** | **Youth & Outreach Director, Interim Choir Director**  
youthandoutreach@stcroixunitedchurch.org, (612) 203-0859



# 16

## Come to the Water

$\text{♩} = 88$

1. All who are thirst-y\_\_ for jus - tice,      all who are thirst-y\_\_ for  
 2. All who are thirst-y\_\_ for mer - cy,      all who are thirst-y\_\_ for  
 3. All who are thirst-y\_\_ for heal - ing,      all who are thirst-y\_\_ for  
 4. All who are thirst-y\_\_ for beau - ty,      all who are thirst-y\_\_ for

peace.                      All who are thirst - y\_\_ for peace,      for jus - tice,  
 love.                      All who are thirst - y\_\_ for love,      for mer - cy,  
 touch.                      All who are thirst - y\_\_ for touch,      for heal - ing,  
 truth.                      All who are thirst - y\_\_ for truth,      for beau - ty

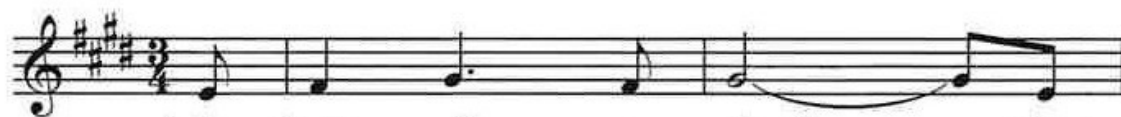
come,                      come to\_\_ the wa - ter\_\_ of life. \_\_\_\_\_  
 come,                      come to\_\_ the wa - ter\_\_ of life. \_\_\_\_\_  
 come,                      come to\_\_ the wa - ter\_\_ of life. \_\_\_\_\_  
 come,                      come to\_\_ the wa - ter\_\_ of life. \_\_\_\_\_

5. All who are thirst-y\_\_ for free - dom,      all who are thirst-y\_\_ for hope.  
 6. All who are thirst-y\_\_ for laugh - ter,      all who are thirst-y\_\_ for joy.

All who are thirst - y\_\_ for hope,      for free - dom, come,  
 All who are thirst - y\_\_ for joy,      for laugh - ter, come,

come to\_\_ the wa - ter\_\_ of life. \_\_\_\_\_  
 come to\_\_ the wa - ter\_\_ of life. \_\_\_\_\_

# I Dream of a Church



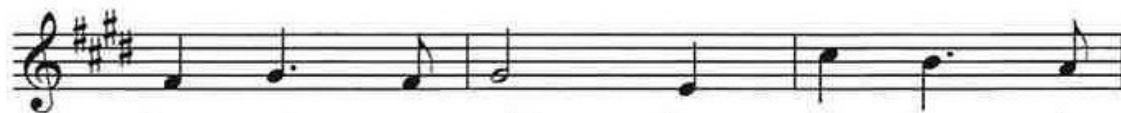
1. I dream of a church\_\_\_\_\_ where  
2. O God, fill our hearts\_\_\_\_\_ to



ev - 'ry-one is wel - come, I dream of a  
reach out in wel - come, make us to



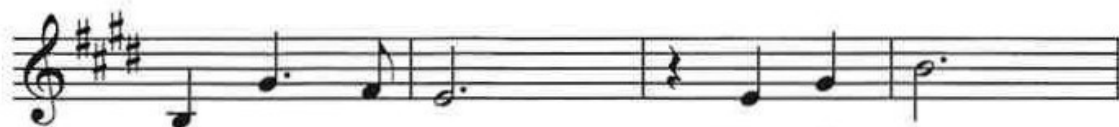
place\_\_\_\_\_ we all can call home. I  
see\_\_\_\_\_ your vi - sion once more. Let's



dream of a world where jus - tice is  
dream of a world where our hands are



flow - ing with hope and peace grow - ing, — where  
your hands, we of - fer our - selves, — O



God's will is done. Make it so,  
God, make it so.



make it so! \_\_\_\_\_ We



pray for that day, make it so. \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_ We dream of a world \_\_\_\_\_ where



Love reigns a - mong us \_\_\_\_\_ and your will is



done, O God, make it so! \_\_\_\_\_

Natalie Sleeth, 1985

*Unison*

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;  
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;  
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!  
 there's a dawn for ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.  
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,  
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,  
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.  
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.  
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

540

## We Plant a Grain of Mustard Seed

Matt. 13:31-32; Mark 4:30-32; Luke 13:18-19;  
John 13:34-35; 15:12-17

Mary Bryan Matney, 1990

1 We plant a grain of mus - tard seed, and in our faith we find  
2 Our ac - tions, more than words, de - fine how love's ex - am - ple feeds  
3 When stooped to lend a help - ing hand, we find a touch that heals,  
4 Make love our pur - pose, love our aim, for love en - dures all things,

the proof of God is love, in - deed, which blos - soms from its kind;  
a great - er love, for love di - vine bursts forth from small - est seeds;  
for love in - vest - ed will ex - pand to bear the fruit love yields;  
and choos - ing love our lives will claim the peace for - give - ness brings;

the proof of God is love, in - deed, which blos - soms from its kind.  
a great - er love, for love di - vine bursts forth from small - est seeds.  
for love in - vest - ed will ex - pand to bear the fruit love yields.  
and choos - ing love our lives will claim the peace for - give - ness brings.

5 So may our new be - gin - nings prove,  
like liv - ing bread and wine,  
that through our com - mon hu - man love  
we taste what is di - vine;  
that through our com - mon hu - man love  
we taste what is di - vine.

6 Our lives will be ful - filled and blessed  
if through the seeds we've sown  
and by the love that we pro - fess  
the love of Christ is known;  
and by the love that we pro - fess  
the love of Christ is known.

Mary Bryan Matney and Sally Ann Morris wrote this hymn in 1990 for the marriage of friends. In 1992, it won first prize in its category in a hymnwriting competition sponsored by the Charlotte, North Carolina, chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Tune: NEW BEGINNINGS 8.6.8.6.8.6.  
Sally Ann Morris, 1990