



March 9, 2025

"How Can We
Confront the
False and Empty?"

First 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

Ringling the Bell

Prelude & Candle Lighting "Rain Down"

Cortez

...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*)

God calls us away from the tumult, to focus on things that are lasting.
In God's presence we see our lives more clearly.

God calls us out of loneliness and into a life of community.
As we worship, work, and care for each other – we stretch and grow.

And God will send us back into busyness, brokenness and isolation.
We will go, encouraged and strengthened – to be bearers of peace.

***Opening Hymn (Chalice Hymnal #575)** “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!**

Acknowledging Our Need for God's Grace

Centering Ourselves

...in stillness and breath

Prayer of Confession and Longing (*unison*)

O God, as we move into this Lenten journey to Jerusalem, the past and present are familiar and the future unknown. We often meet pressing human need with fear and inaction. We confess that we have fallen short and live in a state of brokenness and alienation. Help us discover our gifts of power and talent—that we might bring healing into a broken world. Forgive our sin, strengthen our resolve, and renew us in your ever-vibrant Spirit. Amen.

Musical Interlude ...to accompany our quiet prayers

Assurance of Grace

Choral Anthem “Deep River/Shall We Gather” arr. Lloyd Larson

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”

**Trevor Stokes (3/10), Marianne Warnes (3/11), Stan Hilliard (3/12),
Jim Purnick (3/13), Cindy Baker (3/14), Kim Klisch (3/14)**

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

Proclaiming God's Love

Reading from the Gospels | NRSV (New Testament, p. 61) Luke 4:1-13

Contemporary Reading | Rev. Rob Fredrickson “Our Spiritual Attention Spans”

Here ends the readings. Thanks be to God.

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. 3

Morning Message

“How Can We Confront the False and Empty?”

Responding To God’s Love

Prayer Hymn

“When We Are Tested”

Ruth Duck

Tune: “Be Thou My Vision”

**When we are tested and wrestle alone,
famished for bread when the world offers stone,
nourish us, God, by your word and your way,
food that sustains us by night and by day.**

**When in the desert we cry for relief,
pleading for paths marked by certain belief,
lift us to love you beyond sign and test,
trusting your presence, our only true rest.**

**When we are tempted to barter our souls,
trading the truth for power to control,
teach us to worship and praise only you,
seeking your will in the work that we do.**

**When we have struggled and searched through the night,
sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,
Savior, surround us with circles of care,
angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.**

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

“No One Understands Like Jesus”

Peterson

*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*)

O God, you know us through and through. You know the many choices we face each day. We choose between right and wrong. We choose what will be important to us in life. As you strengthened Jesus in the wilderness, so strengthen us through your Spirit’s presence. When we face temptation, may we lean into the way of your strong love. We dedicate our offerings to your work of love and justice. Amen.

Going Forth to Share God's Love

***Closing Song (SPP #66)** “Every Step of the Way”
sung twice

***Benediction**

***Passing the Peace**

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

...online and onsite: smiles, eye contact, gestures (refraining from touch)

***Postlude**

...as we pass the peace

Today Following Worship:

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

11:00am | Adaptive Leadership Training

Wednesday Evenings in Lent | March 12 - April 9

5:30 pm | worship: hearing stories of resilience

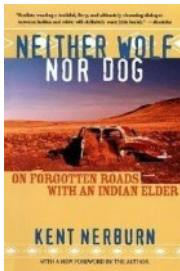
**In-person only due to sensitive story-sharing*

6:00 pm | soup supper

6:30 pm | book discussion

**pre-reading recommended but not required for participation*

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

- * For **loved ones** lingering at the end of life, we pray for comfort and release.
- *With **Barb and Stan Hilliard**, we give thanks that Stan is doing well after a brief hospitalization this past week!
- *With Bob Dickie, we give thanks for **thoughtful sermons** and actions they inspire.
- *With Bruce, we pray for our **aviation industry** – for those who have been involved in airplane crashes, for loss of life, for those grieving loss, for those who work in the industry, for those who are now experiencing fear and anxiety around flying.
- *With Mary Maren Bjork we give thanks for her new grandchild as daughter, **Miela**, adopts a 2 month old child through kinship adoption.
- *With Sharon Binger, we share joy in the engagement of her son, **Ian**.
- *For Sharon Neuenfeldt's nephew, **Mike**, healing energy as he heals from colon cancer surgery and continues to seek more answers.

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 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!

March 9th & 16th: Help us make snack packs! With Spring Break around the corner (3/21-3/30), we'd love to fill the pantries with snack packs for the families, students, and kids who may be spending more time at home and might need extra food during this time. The youth will be decorating bags during Sunday School for the snack items to go in.

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

Our United Church of Christ promotes 4 quarterly special offerings as part of Our Church's Wider Mission. One Great Hour of Sharing carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis; by supporting domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

Please use specially marked envelopes and/or memo: “OGHS.”

Pastor Clare and Megan will be on vacations March 10-17

In the event of a question or urgent need, please contact one of the following:
Nat Graf, Leadership Council Moderator (651-470-0408, ngraf11@gmail.com)

Urgent pastoral concerns: Rev. Dan Warnes (402-200-9680)

The office will be open **Tues, March 11th — Thurs, March 13th | 9 am—12 pm**
supported by Marianne Warnes

Week at a Glance:

Buildings and Grounds Team | March 11, 12 pm | @ Church

Finance Committee | March 12, 4:30 pm | @ Church & Zoom

Lenten Worship (Naomi Kirstein, story sharer) | March 12, 5:30 pm | @ Church

Lenten Soup Dinner | March 12, 6 pm | @ Church

Lenten Book Discussion | March 12, 6:30 pm | @ Church


Local Outreach Team | rescheduling (check with Kaira)

Leadership Council | March 13, 6:30 pm | @ Church & Zoom

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Lori Mildon (flute), Jane Hanson (usher), Kathy Iverson (liturgist), St. Croix United Choir, Carol Dusbabek & Roger Klisch (age 3 - gr 4), Sue Favilla (youth group), Cindy Baker (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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575 Come and Find the Quiet Center

Unison F B \flat C7

1. Come and find the qui - et cen - ter in the crowd - ed life we
 2. Si - lence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the
 3. In the Spir - it let us trav - el, o - pen to each oth - er's

F F B \flat

lead, find the room for hope to en - ter, find the
 pace, God it is who speaks and names us, knows our
 pain, let our loves and fears un - rav - el, cel - e -

C7 F Am7

frame where we are freed: clear the cha - os and the
 be - ing, touch - es base, mak - ing space with - in our
 brate the space we gain: there's a place for deep - est

Dm Am7 Dm Am7 B \flat (C7)

clut - ter, clear our eyes, that we can see all the
 think - ing, lift - ing shades to show the sun, rais - ing
 dream - ing, there's a time for heart to care, in the

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray, 1989
 MUSIC: Traditional American melody; arr. Jack Schrader

BEACH SPRING
 87.87D

Words and arr. © 1992 Hope Publishing Co.

$\bullet = 70-74$

PRAYER AND GUIDANCE

The image shows a musical score for a song titled "PRAYER AND GUIDANCE". It consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. It contains a vocal melody line with lyrics underneath. The bottom staff is in bass clef and contains a bass line with chords. Above the top staff, four chords are indicated: F, Bb, C7, and F. The lyrics are: "things that real - ly mat - ter, be at peace, and sim - ply be. cour - age when we're shrink - ing, find - ing scope for faith be - gun. Spir - it's live - ly schem - ing there is al - ways room to spare!"

F B \flat C7 F

things that real - ly mat - ter, be at peace, and sim - ply be.
cour - age when we're shrink - ing, find - ing scope for faith be - gun.
Spir - it's live - ly schem - ing there is al - ways room to spare!

Every Step of the Way

66

$\text{♩} = 128$
F C/E Dm C B \flat Dm/A C/G Gsus G

Help me do the jus - tice to be

done to - day. Help me love kind -

- ness in all I do and say.

Help me walk hum-bly with you, O God I pray

ev - 'ry step of the way,

ev - 'ry step of the way.

Based on Micah 6:8.

Words and Music: Christopher Grundy

Music arrangement: Christopher Grundy and Gregory Milton

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