



March 5, 2025

Ash
Wednesday

Preparing for the Journey of Lent

Gathering Music

... as we settle into sacred time and space

Ring the Bell

Prelude & Candle Lighting “Change My Heart O God”

Espinosa

...acknowledging the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome & Singing Bowl

Call to Awareness (*responsive*)

Jesus said, “Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it shall not have life.”

In Lent, we come to know that the only way to life, healing, and wholeness comes paradoxically through letting go.

We cannot encounter light unless we are willing to enter darkness.

Fullness of life often means the death of lesser things.

Come, let us enter this sacred season of Lent, willingly or reluctantly.

Let us embrace the life Jesus offers – trusting in God’s everlasting power to give life, to heal, and to make whole.

SPP = *Sing! Prayer and Praise*

* = Sitting or standing

NCH = *New Century Hymnal*

Opening Song

“Evening Stillness” Cantor sings, then we sing 2 times

M. Johnson

The musical score is for a piano accompaniment of a song. It is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The score is divided into two systems. The first system is labeled 'Piano' and contains four measures of music. Above the staff, the chords are D, A, G, D, and A. The lyrics are: 'In the even-ing all is still. Qui - et hearts are op - en - ing'. The second system is labeled 'Pno.' and contains five measures of music. Above the staff, the chords are Bm, D, G, A, and D. The lyrics are: 'Op - en to the still - ness that is God.'. The music consists of a simple melody in the right hand and a harmonic accompaniment in the left hand.

Acknowledging Our Need for God’s Grace

Prayer of Confession and Longing (*unison*)

Creating God, we come to you in this season of turning and returning. We long to seek you with our whole hearts, trusting you as both our source and our destiny. We turn to you in the midst of our lives. You receive our broken hearts, our troubled minds, our conflicted spirits. Affirmed by your embrace, may our lives honor you – through Jesus Christ, our path homeward to you. Amen.

...extended silence welcomes our quiet prayers

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.

Sung Response “Kyrie” (*Kyrie eleison* = Lord, have mercy)
cantor sings once | then all sing twice more

The image shows a musical score for a Kyrie response. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son." The first system shows the first two phrases. The second system shows the third phrase, "Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.", with a long note on "son." that spans across the two systems, indicating a sustained sound.

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)

Reflecting on the Lenten Journey

Reading from the Gospels | *The Inclusive Bible*

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-20

Reading from a contemporary voice | *Jan Richardson*

“Blessing the Dust”

A Pastoral Reflection

Special Music

“Beauty for Ashes”

*by Crystal Lewis
sung by Telae*

Invitation to the Offering

*We give by cash, check or electronically (scanning the QR code)
Blue electronic giving cards represent gifts made electronically.*



Offertory

“Purer in Heart, O God”

Fillmore

Sharing the Bread of Life and Cup of Salvation

*Holy Communion is open to members and friends of all ages
as we seek to follow Jesus in the way of radically inclusive love*

Words of Invitation

Communion Prayer (*unison*)

God of the winding path, you are within and around us always. Touch us in some new way through this meal tonight. Reassure us – through the kindness in a neighbor’s eye, the strength of bread, and the savor of the cup – that you move with us along the journey. Amen.

Words of Remembrance and Blessing

Sharing the Bread of Life and Cup of Blessing

*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

...sung as we share in Communion

**“Eat This Bread”
sung repeatedly**

**Eat this bread, drink this cup,
Come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
Trust in me and you will not thirst.**

***Closing Prayer (unison)**

Holy Spirit, we remember that it was you who called Jesus. And it is you who calls and sustains us along the journey. The bread and cup nourish us for the winding and rough road ahead. The mark of ashes reminds us of your presence with us – in every moment and space along our human journey. Amen.

***Closing Song**

“Take, O Take Me As I Am” Iona Community, Scotland
cantor sings once | then all sing twice more

The musical score is for the song "Take, O Take Me As I Am" by the Iona Community. It is written for piano accompaniment and includes lyrics. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into two systems. The first system contains measures 1 through 4, and the second system contains measures 5 through 8. Above the piano part, the chords D, G, em, A, D, G, and A are indicated. The lyrics are: "Take, O take me as I am, sum - mon out what I shall be; set your seal up - on my heart and live in me." The piano part features a steady accompaniment of chords in the left hand and a melodic line in the right hand.

***Benediction**

***Receiving the Imposition of Ashes**

*As you depart, Pastor Clare offers the mark of ashes on your forehead
(or on your hand if you hold it out)*

Postlude

“Deep Peace”

Thomas

...as we depart quietly

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

St. Croix United Book Club

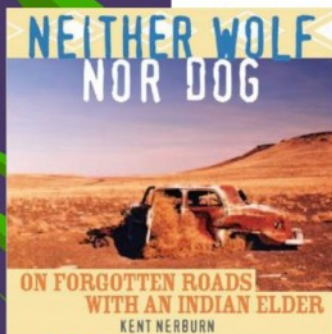
Reading books that matter from
diverse genres and authors

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.)

Pastor Clare will be on a vacation March 10-17
Megan (Office Coordinator) will also be on vacation March 7-17

We hope it will be restorative time for them.

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—Thurs, 9 am—12 pm
supported by Marianne Warnes

You are Invited to Our Next Inquirers Gathering | March 23, 10:45 am




For newer and long-time friends alike... learn about:
The life and work of St. Croix United Church,
our denominational affiliations,
how to deepen your participation in our congregation

Please let Pastor Clare know if you would like to attend on March 23rd
(pastor@stcroixunitedchurch.org or 651-600-6409).

Thanks to... Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Carol Dusbabek (usher and communion server), Kathleen Dennison (liturgist), Sue Favilla & Jane Hanson (communion preparers), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie, Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer, outdoor sign), Sue Favilla & Marianne Warnes (soup supper)



St. Croix United Church

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CREDITS | **Call to Awareness** adapted from *Flames of the Spirit: Resources for Worship* by Ruth C. Duck. Copyright © 1985 Pilgrim Press. **Prayer of Confession & Longing** adapted by permission from the publisher of *Touch Holiness*, ed. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. Copyright © 1990 The Pilgrim Press. **Kyrie** reprinted from *The New Century Hymnal*. **Reading from a contemporary voice** from Jan Richardson in *Circle of Grace*. **Communion Prayer, Closing Prayer** adapted from Rev. Norma Rae Hunt. **Communion Hymn** reprinted from the *Chalice Hymnal*.