



April 20, 2025

Early Easter Service

Gathering Music at the River's Edge

Lori Mildon, flute

Words of Welcome

...as we gather in a circle

Pastor Clare

Opening Song

"Morning Has Broken"

**Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the world**

**Sweet the rains new fall, sunlit from Heaven
Like the first dewfall on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass**

**Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning
Born of the one light, Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise every morning
God's recreation of the new day**

Repeat vs. 1

Offering Up Regret and Welcoming Grace

God of the sunrise, just as Jesus' friends were not able to honor their promises as his death drew near, we also fall short of your loving intentions for us. Selfishness, jealousy, and compassion fatigue are part of our experience.

God of love, we need your forgiveness.

We see the broken before the whole, the half empty cup, the unfinished task, justice deferred.

God of love, we need your spirit of justice.

We trust in what we can see. Our vision is blurred by our prejudices and we do not know what we do not know.

God of love, we need your guidance.

You came among us in Jesus, sharing in our joy and pain, loving us to the end, and overcoming hatred.

God of love, we need your faithfulness. Amen

Ritual Reminder of Belovedness & Resurrection

Pastor Clare circulates to offer the touch of water from the St. Croix River

Song

"I've Got Peace Like a River"

I've got peace like a river
I've got peace like a river
I've got peace like a river in my soul
I've got peace like a river
I've got peace like a river
I've got peace like a river in my soul

I've got love like an ocean...
I've got joy like a fountain...

The First Easter Morning | John 20:1-18

The Magdalene's Blessing: For Easter Day | By Jan Richardson

You hardly imagined standing here,
everything you ever loved suddenly returned to you,
looking you in the eye and calling your name.

And now you do not know
how to abide this hole in the center of your chest,
where a door slams shut and swings open at the same time,
turning on the hinge of your aching and hopeful heart.

I tell you, this is not a banishment from the garden.

This is an invitation, a choice, a threshold, a gate.

This is your life calling to you
from a place you could never have dreamed,
but now that you have glimpsed its edge,
you cannot imagine choosing any other way.

So let the tears come
as anointing, as consecration,
and then let them go.

Let this blessing gather itself around you.
Let it give you what you will need for this journey.

You will not remember the words—
they do not matter.

All you need to remember
is how it sounded when you stood
in the place of death
and heard the living call your name.

Pastoral Reflection & Invitation to Wonder

Sending One Another Forth

Alleluia! Jesus is risen!

God is alive.

Love is alive.

God's Spirit breathes new life among us.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Jesus is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Hope and joy are alive.

We are alive.

God of resurrection, we celebrate you.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Closing Song

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

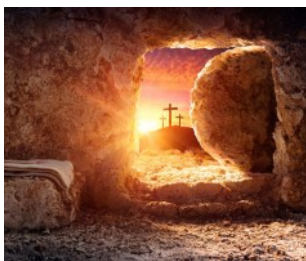
Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-u-ja.

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

Halleluja! Halleluja!

Blessing & Passing the Peace

We share signs of peace as we depart – smiles, eye contact, handshakes



Join us for more Easter celebrations!

9:00 am | breakfast & a visit from the Easter Bunny


9:30 am | indoor Easter egg hunt

10:00 am | joyful worship with choir, organ, piano,
trumpet & flute



St. Croix United Church

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