

April 20, 2025

Easter Sunday!

Welcome!

We encourage wearing name tags. Coffee and tea are welcome in worship. 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 "Christ Is Risen! Alleluia"

F.C. Maker

...acknowledging the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Singing Bowl & Opening Words from a Neighbor

*Call to Worship (responsive)

Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Jesus is risen indeed. Alleluia!

God is alive. Hope and joy are alive.

Love is alive. We are alive.

God's Spirit breathes new life among us. The church is alive.

God of life, we worship you. God of creation, we praise you.

God of revelation, we learn from you. God of resurrection, we celebrate you.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

*Processional Hymn (NCH #233) "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" all verses

Choral Anthem

"Sing Out With Joy!"

by Mark Patterson

Acknowledging Our Need for God's Grace

Centering Ourselves

...in stillness and breath

Prayer of Confession and Longing (responsive)

God of all Mystery, your power to transform life through death and resurrection is more than we can comprehend. Our response echoes through the ages as we proclaim:

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

God of endings and ceaseless new beginnings, we come with our longings for what life can be. We come to abandon our pretenses and offer up our hopes and dreams – that you may breathe new life into them.

Open our eyes to recognize your risen presence in our midst – that where there is despair and devastation, you reveal precious, transformed life. Amen.

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.

Musical Interlude ...to accompany our quiet prayers

Assurance of Grace (responsive)

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

*Passing the Peace

...online and onsite: smiles, eye contact, handshakes

A Time With Children and Youth

Sung Invitation

...as young people come forward

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine... ...let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Singing "Happy Birthday"

Rebecca Dennis (4/20), **David** Kirstein (4/22)

Wondering Together

Blessing One Another

...with arms wide open

Children: 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... ...let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Children's Activity | Children (age 3 - gr. 4) go downstairs with Carol, Claire & assistants
Youth Group | Youth (gr. 5-12) can stay in worship or assist with children downstairs
Nursery | Infant & toddler care is provided in the downstairs nursery
We welcome the sounds and movements of children who stay in worship!

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.

Proclaiming God's Love

Reading from the gospels | NRSV (New Testament, p. 114) **Reading from a contemporary voice** | Jan Richardson John 20: 1-18

"The Magdalene's Blessing: For Easter Day"

One: Here ends the readings. All: Thanks be to God.

Morning Message

Responding To God's Love

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.

Prayer Hymn (NCH #433) "In the Bulb There is a Flower" all verses

Invitation to the Offering

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



Offertory Solo

"Lion and the Lamb"

by Crystal Lewis

*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)

God of all, the gift of resurrection reminds us that all we possess comes to us by your grace. May our offerings extend gratitude outward in ever widening circles. May our gifts further your justice and love in the world. May we live in new life and share that life with others. Amen.

Going Forth to Share God's Love

*Closing Hymn (NCH #4)

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You" verses 1-2, 4

*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

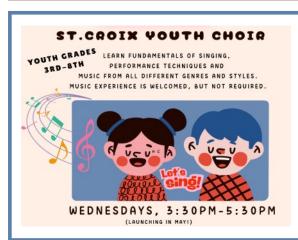
"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

Beethoven

PRAYER CORNER

We hold these joys and concerns in our prayers:

- *For **Amy**, grandmother to Zoey, Eddy, and Finley Hintze-Graf, as she faces a breast cancer diagnosis.
- *For **those struggling** to find adequate housing and transportation amid life's curveballs may they find the support they need to get back on their feet.
- *For Megan Adams' friend, **Farrah**, and family, still displaced 16 months after a house fire. Their newly repaired basement has now flooded due to a sump pump malfunction. May the way forward be gentler.



All youth are welcome to join

—no need to attend St. Croix United Church.

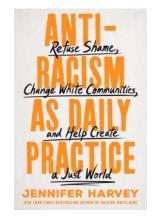
Contact Telae, our Music & Youth Director to sign-up or with questions. (musicandyouth@stcroixunitedchurch.org)

A New Book Discussion is Coming...

Sundays, April 27 & May 4 | 11 am **Thursdays, May 15 & 29** | 6:30 pm

Join us for a post-Easter discussion of Jennifer Harvey's book, Anti-Racism as a Daily Practice. It is full of real-life stories that guide us in making antiracism an ongoing commitment for the well-being of our democracy.

Copies are available at Washington County Libraries and at Valley Bookseller (tell them you're with the St. Croix United Church book group and get 15% off).



Contact Mary Maren Bjork (marenmary@yahoo.com) with questions.



You are Invited to Our Next Inquirers Gathering!

May 18 | 10:45 am (after outdoor worship @ Lakeside Park)

Newer and long-time friends introduce themselves and learn about: The life and work of St. Croix United Church

What membership (a pledge of mutual support) means to us Please let Pastor Clare know if you would like to attend on **May 18th**.

(1st Annual)

Earth Day Circle at the St. Croix River

April 22, 5:30-6:00pm

Lakeside Park - near the Beach House

(95 Central Ave, Bayport. Click the QR code for directions.)



Recognizing both the harm we do to the Earth and our capacity to connect and heal

Words, music, and movement from many sources

Led by voices of all ages

Linger after the circle for:

- Individual blessings of animals all species welcome!
- Try out Gentle Tai Chi
- Trash cleanup along the river
- A gift of pollinator-friendly seeds to take with you

Co-sponsors: St. Croix United Church and Bethlehem Lutheran Church stcroixunitedchurch.org | bethlehemstar.org



Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), SCUC Choir, Lori Mildon (flute), Dennis Peters (trumpet), Bob Dickie & Gary Piasecki (ushers), Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux & Sharri Kinkead (liturgists), Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux & Chris Bordeaux (breakfast hosts), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Lisa Culbertson (Childcare Provider), Carol Dusbabek, Claire Spilseth & assistants (preK-Gr5), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Andi Favilla, Sue Favilla & Kim Klisch (Easter Egg Hunt), Mary Horak Binger & Sue Favilla (Chancel decor)



St. Croix United Church

Rev. Pastor Clare Gromoll | Pastor
pastor@stcroixunitedchurch.org, (651) 600-6409
Megan Adams | Office Coordinator
office@stcroixunitedchurch.org, (651) 439-5667
Telae | Music & Youth Director

musicandyouth@stcroixunitedchurch.org, (612) 203-0859

CREDITS & PERMISSIONS | Call to Worship reprinted from Flames of the Spirit: Resources for Worship by Ruth C. Duck. Copyright © 1985 Pilgrim Press. Prayer of Opening, Confession & Longing author unknown. Scripture Reading NRSV. Reading from a Contemporary Voice from Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons by Jan Richardson. Prayer of Dedication Adapted by permission of the publisher from Touch Holiness, ed. Ruth C. Duck & Maren C. Tirabassi. Copyright © 1990 The Pilgrim Press. Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-703858. All rights reserved.



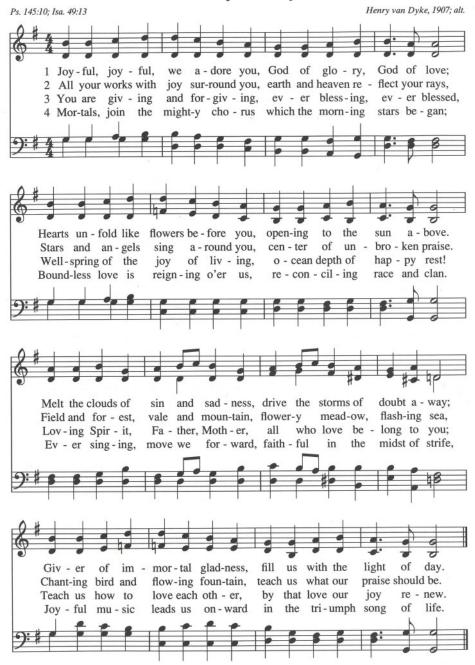
The unknown editor of Lyra Davidica wanted music with more movement and spirit than found in the grave, slow-paced psalm tunes, with one note to a syllable. Easter Hymn was among the first of a new popular style.

Tune: EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7. with alleluias Arr. from Lyra Davidica, London, 1708

In the Bulb There Is a Flower



Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You



Henry van Dyke was a noted church leader, U.S. ambassador, Navy chaplain, and prolific writer. Many people associate this hymn with Beethoven's ninth symphony, but few are aware of the original poem by the German classicist F. Schiller (1759–1805) that inspired Beethoven.

Tune: HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7.D. Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824 Adapt. and harm. Edward Hodges, 1846