



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*

### **Ring 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**

SPP = *Sing! Prayer and Praise*

\* = Sitting or standing

NCH = *New Century Hymnal*

**\*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)*

John 20: 1-18

**Reading from a contemporary voice** | *Jan Richardson*

"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](http://stcroixunitedchurch.org) | [bethlehemstar.org](http://bethlehemstar.org)**




# HAPPY EASTER!

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

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## Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Matt. 28:5-8; 1 Cor. 15:20-22; 54-57

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!


Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

*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

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.

## 4

## Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Ps. 145:10; Isa. 49:13

Henry van Dyke, 1907; alt.

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore you, God of glo - ry, God of love;  
 2 All your works with joy sur-round you, earth and heaven re - flect your rays,  
 3 You are giv - ing and for-giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blessed,  
 4 Mor-tals, join the might-y cho - rus which the morn-ing stars be - gan;

Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore you, open-ing to the sun a - bove.  
 Stars and an - gels sing a - round you, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
 Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!  
 Bound-less love is reign-ing o'er us, re - con - cil - ing race and clan.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the storms of doubt a - way;  
 Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash-ing sea,  
 Lov-ing Spir - it, Fa - ther, Moth - er, all who love be - long to you;  
 Ev - er sing - ing, move we for - ward, faith - ful in the midst of strife,

Giv - er of im - mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.  
 Chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, teach us what our praise should be.  
 Teach us how to love each oth - er, by that love our joy re - new.  
 Joy - ful mu - sic leads us on - ward in the tri - umph song of life.

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