



April 27, 2025  
Creation Justice  
&  
New Member  
Sunday

### **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**

### **Ringling the Bell**

### **Prelude & Candle Lighting “All Things Bright and Beautiful”**

*Alexander*

*please observe silence as we settle into sacred time and space*

### **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.

**\*Gathering Prayer** (*unison*)

Almighty God, we join the trees of the forest, flowers of the field and the soil from which we have been made – in giving praise on Earth as in heaven. We pause today to reflect on a renewable way of being – a faithful way of living that reflects your call to care and protect, to give and to glorify. Revitalize our spirits with your sustaining love, reminding us that we are called not to dominance but participation, not to extraction but renewing action. Fill us anew with the energy to love as you have called us to love – so that we might be part of your healing work in this wounded world. Amen.

**\*Opening Hymn (NCH #28)**      “For the Beauty of the Earth”  
**all verses**

**Acknowledging Our Need for God’s Grace**

**Centering Ourselves**      *...in stillness and breath*

**Prayer of Confession and Longing** (*unison*)

Creating God, we thirst for power and not for righteousness.  
We are quick to show our dominance but hide our dependence.  
We take what we want without thinking of what we should give back.  
We see your creation as resources not members of our community.  
We remove mountaintops and clear-cut forests.  
We drill for oil in land that should be protected.  
We drain the earth to fuel our lifestyles.  
Loving God, renew us. Transform our hearts and minds so that we might transform the world that we live in. Amen.

**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** (*seated*)

*...sharing smiles and gestures of peace with those online and seated near us*

## **A Time With Children and Youth & the Rite of Membership**

### **Sung Invitation**

*...as young people come forward*

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

### **Singing "Happy Birthday"**

**Mary Piasecki (4/25), Shaun Stokes (4/28), Sharon Binger (5/2),  
Frank Cole (5/2)**

### **Invitation to the Rite of Membership**

### **Sharing by our Candidates for Membership**

Bob Heurung, Wendy Heurung, Gary Piasecki, Mary Piasecki

### **Questions of the Candidates**

Do you seek to continue your journey of faith, following the way of God's Love as revealed and embodied by Jesus the Christ, knowing you have the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the love and support of this community?

Do you promise to live in covenant with the members of St. Croix United Church – worshipping together and supporting our ministries with your presence, talent, and financial support?

Do you promise to open your heart and mind in love among these siblings in Christian faith, knowing that together we can nurture this community?

### **Presentation of Membership Certificates & Gifts**

#### **\*Laying On of Hands**

*All are invited forward to lay hands on our new members as a sign of support.  
Place a hand on a shoulder as we connect in a web of faith community.*

#### **\*Covenanting Together**

Nat Graf, Leadership Council Moderator

**Enfolded in the Love of God, we gladly embrace our newest members in this Christian community. Today, we recommit ourselves to mutual care and partnership in ministry. May we trust the Holy Spirit to empower and encourage our efforts to embody Love in the world.**

## 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 Kim

***Youth Group*** | Youth (gr. 5-12) go with Sue to their 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. 114)

John 20: 19-31

**Contemporary Reading** | by Nan C. Merrill

A companion text to Psalm 148

One: Here ends the readings.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Morning Message

## Responding To God's Love

**Prayer Hymn (NCH #564)** "We Are Not Our Own"

**all verses**

## 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**

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.

## **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**

**“Touch the Earth Lightly”**

*Murray*

## **\*Offertory Response**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God all creatures here below – Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Praise God, the source of all our gifts!**

**Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!**

**Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## **\*Prayer of Dedication** (*unison*)

**God of all, you call us to care for creation, to amplify the voices of the  
oppressed, to reverse our course and align with your dream for the world. We  
offer ourselves and these gifts toward transforming the Earth – our common  
home as members of your abundant and diverse creation. Amen.**

## Going Forth to Share God's Love

**\*Closing Hymn (SPP #120) "Dream God's Dream"**  
**verses 1-2**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Parting Music**                      *... as we greet one another*

### **Today Following Worship:**

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

**11:00 am** | **Faith Conversations.** Join us for a 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.

### **PRAYER CORNER**

\*For Wendy Staberg's friend, **Shelly**, recently diagnosed with breast cancer (stage 4) and spinal cancer (stage 2), comfort in the coming days.

\*With Bob and Cheri Schwartz, we give thanks that granddaughter, **Bea**, has gained access to resources she needs to support her wellbeing.

\*With Bob Dickie and Cindy Parsons, we give thanks for Easter gatherings with family and friends - especially the presence of Cindy's mom, **Angie**, with us last Sunday.

\*For all expressions of **joy and beauty** on Easter, we give thanks!

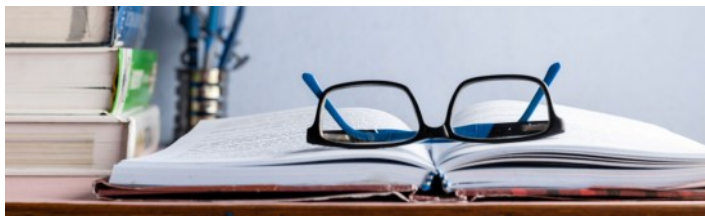
\*With **Randy**, we give thanks for unexpected companionship and welcoming community - as both continue to ease loneliness.

\*With **Barb and Stan Hilliard**, we give thanks for 65 years of marriage!



**Inquirers Gathering | May 18, 10:45 am**  
(after worship at Lakeside Park)

Curious about our church? Join us after refreshments for a time of learning who we are and what we're about. All are welcome!



**Pastor Clare will be away for continuing education, April 28 - May 5**

In the event of a question or need, please contact one of the following:

**Urgent Pastoral Concerns:** Rev. Dan Warnes (402-200-9680)

- or - Rev. Naomi Kirstein (515-249-1336)

**Other questions:** Megan Adams, Office Coordinator (651-439-5667,  
office@stcroixunitedchurch.org)

- or - Nat Graf, Leadership Council Moderator (651-470-0408,  
ngraf11@gmail.com)

**Megan will be out of the office Tuesday, April 29.**

Marianne Warnes will be covering 9 am - 12 pm.

**Gentle Tai Chi is Back!**

**Mondays at 7 pm & Wednesdays at 10 am**

@ St. Croix United Church

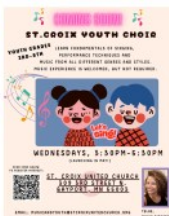
**Tuesday Healing Touch Sessions - beginning April 29th**

**Tuesdays at 10 am & 11 am** (except 4th Tuesdays)

*For notifications, cancellations, and scheduling  
please contact Mary Ann Litfin (malitfin@gmail.com)*



*Connection... Balance... Renewal*



**St. Croix Youth Choir**

*no need to attend St. Croix United to participate!*

**St. Croix Youth Night**

Invite youth grades 6-12 for an evening of fun, food,  
& getting to know other youth in the St. Croix Valley!



### **Week at a Glance:**

**Pastor Clare away for Continuing Education | April 28 - May 4**

**Gentle Tai Chi | April 28, 7 pm | @ Church**

**Special Office Hours | April 29, 9—12 pm**

**Healing Sessions w/ Mary Ann | April 29, 10 am | @ Church**

**Gentle Tai Chi | April 30, 10 am | @ Church**


**Choir Rehearsal | April 30, 6:30 pm | @ Church**

**Social Justice Event Planning Team | April 30, 6:30 pm | @ Church & Zoom**

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), SCUC Choir, Lori Mildon (flute & fellowship), Jane Hanson (usher), Sam Gromoll (acolyte), Mary Maren Bjork (liturgist), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Carol Dusbabek & Kim Klisch (preK-Gr5), Sue Favilla (youth group), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Sue Favilla (altar decor)



### **St. Croix United Church**

[www.stcroixunitedchurch.org](http://www.stcroixunitedchurch.org)  @SCUCBayport

**Rev. Pastor Clare Gromoll | Pastor**

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**Megan Adams | Office Coordinator**

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**Telae | Youth & Outreach Director, Interim Choir Director**

[youthandoutreach@stcroixunitedchurch.org](mailto:youthandoutreach@stcroixunitedchurch.org), (612) 203-0859

**CREDITS & PERMISSIONS** | **Gathering Prayer, Prayer of Confession & Longing** adapted from *The Power of God: From Extractive Theology to Transformative Faith*, Creation Justice Ministries (<https://www.creationjustice.org/>). **Prayer of Dedication** Written by Rev. Norma Rae Hunt (adapted with permission). **Scripture Reading** from *The NRSV*. **Contemporary Reading** reprinted or adapted by permission of the publisher from *Psalms for Praying* by Nan C. Merrill. Copyright © 2007 by Continuum International Publishing Group, [www.PsalmsForPraying.com](http://www.PsalmsForPraying.com). Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-703858. All rights reserved.



## For the Beauty of the Earth

St. 1-3, Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1864; alt.

St. 4, Miriam Therese Winter, 1993

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the splen - dor of the skies,  
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
 3 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
 4 For the good that love in - spires, for a world where none ex - clude,

For the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,  
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,  
 Friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,  
 For a faith that nev - er tires, and for ev - ery heart re - newed,

*Refrain*

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

*Folliott S. Pierpoint, author of numerous hymns, penned these verses near his native city of Bath, England, on a late spring day when flowers were in full bloom and all the earth seemed to rejoice.*

Tune: DIX 7.7.7.7. with refrain

Conrad Kocher, 1838

Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861

# We Are Not Our Own

564

Brian Wren, 1987

Unison

1 We are not our own. Earth forms us, hu-man leaves on na-ture's grow-ing  
2 We are not a-lone. Earth names us: past and pres-ent, peo-ples near and  
3 Through a hu-man life God finds us; dy-ing, liv-ing, love is ful-ly  
4 There-fore let us make thanks-giv-ing, and with jus-tice, will-ing and a -

vine, Fruit of man-y gen-er-a-tions, seeds of life di-vine.  
far, fam-i-ly and friends and strang-ers show us who we are.  
known, and in bread and wine re-minds us: we are not our own.  
ware, give to earth, and all things liv-ing, lit-ur-gies of care.

5 And if love's en-coun-ters lead us  
on a way un-cer-tain and un-known,  
All the saints with prayer sur-round us:  
we are not a-lone.

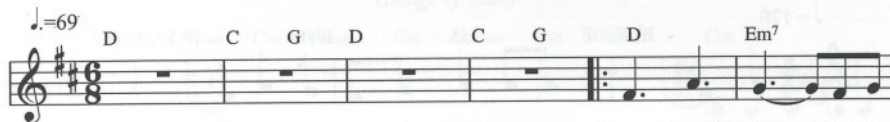
6 Let us be a house of wel-come,  
liv-ing stone up-hold-ing liv-ing stone,  
Glad-ly show-ing all our neigh-bors  
we are not our own!

*This hymn was commissioned for the tenth anniversary of the Liturgical Studies Program of Drew University, New Jersey, in 1987. Brian Wren's melody came to him early on in the writing process and was helpful in the creation of the final hymn text.*

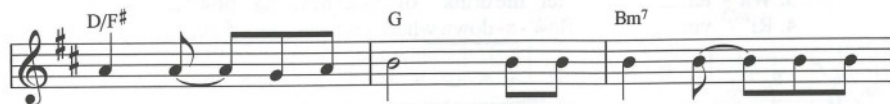
Tune: YARNTON 8.9.8.5.  
Brian Wren, 1987  
Arr. Fred Graham, 1987

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## Dream God's Dream



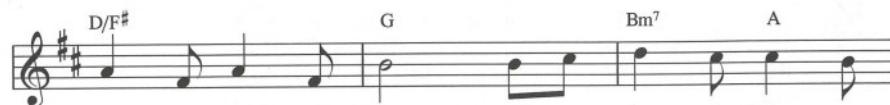
Dream God's dream! Ho-ly



Spir - it help us dream of a world where there is



jus - tice and where ev - 'ry one is free to



build and grow and love, and to sim - ply have e -



-nough. The world will change, when we dream God's dream.



1. I'm dream-ing\_ of a world where the col - or of one's
2. I'm dream-ing\_ of the call God is of - fer-ing to
3. I'm dream-ing\_ of the way that I want my life to



skin will mean less than what's with - in the per - son's heart.  
me, how to use my en - er - gy and my best gifts;  
go. I've got hope and I've got goals I'd like to meet.



A world where wa - ter's clean and where  
to do the work of Christ to say  
I'm reach - ing for the stars, but I



air is safe to breathe. And ev - 'ry\_\_\_ chi - ld  
God, please use my life to spread Your\_\_\_ heal - ing  
won't for - get the scars of Christ who\_\_\_ died to



born has e - nough to eat. dream.  
love and to live Your truth.  
show that the dream's for all.