



May 11, 2025

“How Do
We Raise Each
Other Up?”

Mother's Day

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

Ring the Bell

Prelude & Candle Lighting

“You Raise Me Up”

Graham/Lovland

...acknowledging the light of Christ among us

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.

***Call to Worship** (*responsive*)

Springtime changes are bursting forth around us –
The Earth awakens with a display of wondrous color.

The cycle of living and dying continues –
As it has for ages past, and will for ages to come.

Lent has passed and our Easter celebration is over –
But Easter's message of awakening to new possibilities continues.

Glory to God! **Alleluia!**

***Opening Song (SPP #123)** “Draw the Circle Wide”

Acknowledging Our Need for God's Grace

Centering Ourselves *...in stillness and breath*

Prayer of Confession and Longing (*unison*)

God of all, you heap your love upon us. Like a parent or grandparent, you embrace us with tenderness and remind us that we are beloved. Forgive us when we fail to share your generous love with others. Nurture our trust, that we might live securely and abundantly in your love. Guide us to share love freely with others, confident that your grace will never run out. 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*)

...smiles and gestures of peace — to those online and seated near us

A Time With Children and Youth

Sung Invitation

...as young people come forward

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

Singing "Happy Birthday"

... any birthdays in the coming week?

Wondering Together

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 Cindy B. and Kathy
Youth Group | Youth (gr. 5-12) go with Cindy S. to the Youth Room downstairs
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 Acts of the Apostles | NRSV, p. 128

Acts 9:36-43

Reading from the Epistles | NRSV, p. 201

Colossians 3:12-17

Reading from a contemporary voice | by Mary Oliver

"Wild Geese"

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

Morning Message

"How Do We Raise Each Other Up?"

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.

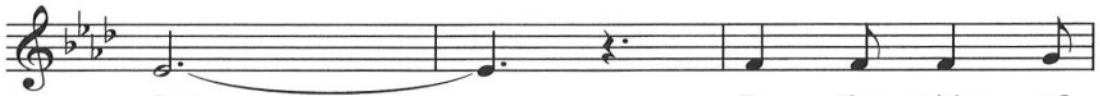
Responding To God's Love

Prayer Song

"I Choose Love" following the choir's lead, joining in anytime



1. In the midst of pain, I choose
2. In the midst of war, I choose
3. When my world falls down, I will
4. In the midst of pain, I choose



love. _____
peace. _____
rise. _____
love. _____

In the midst of
In the midst of
When my world falls
In the midst of



pain, I choose love. _____
war, I choose peace. _____
down, I will rise. _____
pain, I choose love. _____



In the midst of pain, sor - row
In the midst of war, hate and
When my world falls down, ex - pla -
In the midst of pain, sor - row

From: *Roll Down, Justice!* (CGBK72).

Text: Lindy Thompson.

Music: *I Choose Love*, by Mark A. Miller.

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fall - ing down like rain, I a - wait the sun a -
 an - ger keep - ing score, I will seek the good once
 na - tions can't be found, I will climb to ho - ly
 fall - ing down like rain, I a - wait the sun a -



gain, _____ I choose love. _____ I choose
 more, _____ I choose peace. _____ I choose
 ground, _____ I will rise. _____ I will
 gain, _____ I choose love. _____ I choose



love. _____
 peace. _____
 rise. _____
 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**

Mother's Day Litany ...God, in your love **Hear our prayer**

Words of Challenge and Encouragement

Naomi Kirstein

Invitation to the Offering

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



***Offertory Response**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

God of nurturing, empowering love – we dedicate our lives and all that we have to your work of love, of peace, of joy, of life. Receive our gifts and lead us in wisdom and courage. Amen.

Going Forth to Share God's Love

***Closing Hymn (NCH #393)** "Blessed Be the Tie That Binds"

***Benediction**

***Parting Music**

...as we greet one another

Today Following Worship:

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

PRAYER CORNER

***For Wendy Staberg's friend, Shelly, as she begins chemotherapy.**

***For Rebecca Dennis' friend, Shelly, strength and healing after a horseback riding accident left her paralyzed.**

***For the people of Palestine and Gaza.**



Inquirers Gathering May 18th | 10:45 am

Following worship at Lakeside Park beach House

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

We seek delegates to represent our congregation at these two annual events:



MN Conference UCC Annual Meeting

June 13-14 (Fri-Sat) at College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, MN

NACCC Annual Meeting

June 21-24 (Sat-Tues) in St. Louis, MO

The congregation will cover the costs for all delegates.

More information can be found in our Midweek online newsletter.

Please reach out to Pastor Clare with any questions or interest

Gertens Flower Pick-Up May 15th | 10 - 12 pm

Flowers ordered through the Gertens Flower Fundraiser will be ready for pick-up on Thursday! To arrange a different time, please contact Mary at 651-357-8601.



Book Discussion May 15 & 29 | 6:30 pm

Couldn't join us on April 27 or May 4? Haven't accessed the book?

Not to worry! All are welcome in these vital discussions.

St. Croix Youth Night May 17th | 5:30 pm

We are all encouraged to invite youth (grades 6-12) to an evening of fun, food, and getting to know other St. Croix Youth!

Contact Telae for more info at musicandyouth@stcroixunitedchurch.org

First Outdoor Worship Service of the Season!

May 18th | 9:30 am @ Lakeside Park Beach House
(95 Central Ave, Bayport)

Join us in worshipping down by the river next Sunday!
Some seating is provided. Feel free to bring chairs or blankets as we adjust to our new outdoor space!



Week at a Glance:

Gentle Tai Chi | **May 12, 7 pm** | @ Church

Healing Sessions w/ Mary Ann | **May 13, 10 am** | @ Church

Gentle Tai Chi | **May 14, 10 am** | @ Church

Finance Team | **May 14, 4 pm** | @ Church & Zoom

Leadership Council | **May 14, 6:30 pm** | @ Church & Zoom

Choir Rehearsal | **May 14, 6:30 pm** | @ Church

Garden Gathering | **May 15, 9:30 am** | @ Church

Gertens Flower Pick-Up | **May 15, 10 - 12 pm** | @ Church

Book Group - "Anti-Racism as a Daily Practice" | **May 15, 6:30 pm** | @ Church

Strategic Planning Task Force | **May 16, 10 am** | @ Bayport Public Library

Youth Night | **May 17, 5:30 pm** | @ Church




Let's Be Good Neighbors... On Sunday mornings, please leave at least two parking spots open at Mabel's Ice Cream and Coffee Shop for their morning coffee customers! Thank you!

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Lori Mildon (flute & fellowship), Gary Piasecki (usher), Sam Gromoll (acolyte), Mary Piasecki (liturgist), Jonah Gromoll (liturgist & musical interlude), St. Croix United Choir, Cindy Baker & Kathy Iverson (age 3 - gr 4), Cindy Siegel (youth group), Claire Spilseth (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Sue Favilla (altar décor)



St. Croix United Church

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Draw the Circle Wide

$\text{♩} = 132$

Draw the cir-cle_ wide. Draw it wid-er still. Let this be our_

song, no one stands a-lone, stand-ing side by side, draw the cir-cle_

To verses Last time, Fine

wide._____ wide._____

1. God the still - point of the cir - cle, 'round whom all cre -
 2. Let our hearts touch far hor - i - zons, so en - com - pass
 3. Let the dreams we_ dream be larg - er, than we've ev - er

- a - tion turns; noth - ing lost, but
 great and small; let our lov - ing
 dreamed be - fore; let the dream of

held for - ev - er in God's gra - cious arms._____
 know no bor - ders, faith - ful to God's call._____
 Christ be in us, o - pen ev - 'ry door._____

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Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

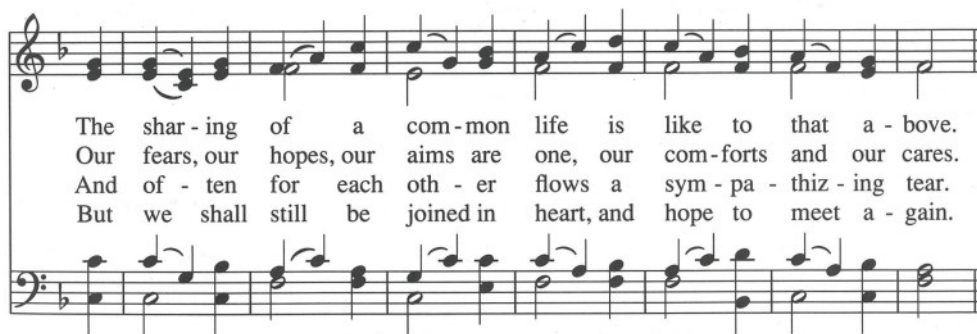
393

John Fawcett, 1782; alt.

Gal. 3:28; 6:2; Col. 3:13-15



1 Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
 2 Be - fore our God we come and pour our ar - dent prayers;
 3 We share each oth - er's woes, each oth - er's bur - dens bear,
 4 When we are called to part it gives us in - ward pain,



The shar - ing of a com - mon life is like to that a - bove.
 Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
 And of - ten for each oth - er flows a sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
 But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.

An English Baptist minister, John Fawcett published a number of poetic works. His entire ministry was spent at a church near Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire, where he wrote most of his hymns to follow his sermons.

Tune: DENNIS S.M.
 Melody by Johann G. Nägeli (c. 1768-1836)
 Adapt. Lowell Mason, 1845