



May 25, 2025

“Finding Our Way  
to Belonging”

Memorial Day  
Weekend

### **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 “Remember”**

*Stevens*

*...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.

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

Loving God, you call your people to gather at the river of life. You promise to live among us forever. We know that for thousands of years we have gathered in temples and synagogues, riverbanks and homes, churches and open fields. In this place and time, enliven us with your presence, we pray. Amen.

**\*Opening Song** (SPP #113)      “Better Is One Day”

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

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

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

Gracious God, we have wandered far from your love at times. We have neglected your word in the torrent of words that we hear and read every day. Our hearts are troubled amid the conflicts and violence of our world. Sometimes we find it easier to withdraw from everything. We resist change, lest it require more of us.

We know you are reaching out to heal us, surrounding us with your love. Let us feel it deep within, and help us to reflect that love to all we meet.

**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*

**Choral Anthem**      “Calm me, Lord”      *by Margaret Rizza*

## 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”

**Jill Greenhalgh (5/27), Edith Stokes (5/28 – 5 yrs), Bob Iverson (5/29)**

### 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...**

***Time with Telae*** | Children & youth can join Telae downstairs for a story, singing, and a craft  
***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

**Contemporary Reading** | by Rosemerry Whatola Trommer

**Reading from the Gospels** | NRSV, p. 109

**Reading from the New Testament** | NRSV, New Testament, p. 136

**“Belonging”**

John 14:19–27

Acts 16:9–15

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

### Morning Message

### “Finding Our Way to Belonging”

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 Hymn (NCH #594)**

**“How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies”**

### **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)*

**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**

**“O Savior Sweet”**

*J.S. Bach*

### **\*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**

O God, we trust you to help us become more open...

open-minded in hearing your Word and wisdom,

open-hearted in healing a broken world,

open-handed in heeding your call for charity and enacted love.

With grateful hearts, we dedicate a portion of our substance and the whole of ourselves. Amen.

### **Going Forth to Share God's Love**

### **\*Benediction**

### **\*Sending Song (NCH #249)**

*...forming a circle (not holding hands)*

*Refrain:* Peace I leave with you, my friends,

shalom, my peace, in all you do.

Peace I leave with you, my friends.

I give to you so you can give to others, too.

*Verse:* To share God's love is why I came,

To show God's kindness without end.

Go, now, my friends, and do the same,

Until we come again.

*Refrain*

### **\*Parting Music**

*...as we greet one another*

### **Today Following Worship:**

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



### **Inquirers Gathering June 1st | 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!

## PRAYER CORNER

\*For all who grieve the death of Mary Maren Bjork's cousin, **Cary**, who had pancreatic cancer.

\*For Bob Dickie's neighbor and friend, **Judy**, who recently moved into hospice care; and for her husband, John, who walks alongside her.

\*With the Whiterabbits, we pray for their former church in Denver after the tragic sudden death of member, **Scott**. May love surround his wife and their adult children.

\*We give thanks for the **breaking of silence regarding mental illness** – for opportunities taken within families and wider circles of community.

\*We give thanks for **musical talent within our church** – for Telae, Sharon, the choir, and all who offer music.

\*For Sharon Neuenfeldt's husband, **Bob**, using oxygen after a medical emergency.

\*For Sharon Neuenfeldt's friend Linda's son, **Roger**, who is on the transplant list.

\*With Bruce, thanks for **Telae** in his life, for her son graduating, and for many gifts she offers in love.

\*For **kids who rely on school services**, now beginning the transition into summer.

\*For the space of **Lakeside Park and the Beach House** and the honor of worshipping in connection to the water of the St. Croix River.

## Memorial Day Parade Refreshment Stand **TOMORROW** | 7:30 am - 10 am



We will once again provide treats & coffee on our church lawn during the Memorial Day parade.

Ways you can help: Provide bars/cookies/donuts/muffins that morning (homemade & store-bought both welcome!), or help serve the treats!

Contact **Cindy Siegel** ([cindysiegel98@gmail.com](mailto:cindysiegel98@gmail.com), 651-343-3270) if you can help!

**We will also have a FREE BOOK table!**

Please bring any books you'd like to donate by 8 am tomorrow morning!

## Healing Touch Sessions

**Tuesday, May 27th | 10 am & 11 am**

Please contact MaryAnn Litfin to schedule a time  
[malitfin@gmail.com](mailto:malitfin@gmail.com) | 612-382-9920





## East Metro LGBTQ Community Conversation

**May 28th, 6-8 pm**

Join LGBTQ neighbors and allies in Washington County for a community conversation as we gather at St. Croix United Church.

*Registration is encouraged at:*

<https://actionnetwork.org/events/east-metro-lgbtq-community-conversation-bayport>

## Book Discussion **May 29th | 6:30 pm**

Couldn't join us on previous dates? Haven't accessed the book? Not to worry! All are welcome in this vital discussions.



## An Evening of Storytelling & Stand-Up with Bill Chadwick **May 31st | 6:30 pm**

Admission is FREE (a freewill offering will be collected). Please bring an item for the St. Croix United Food Share Pantries! Grab a ticket before you go today!

## Red Cross Blood Drive **Thursday, June 5th | 9 am - 3 pm**



Please call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org)

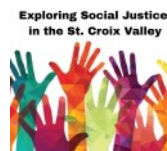
Volunteers are appreciated to make this event a welcoming success!

Set-up, Clean-up, Greeters, Bakers

If you are able to help, please contact Bob Dickie or Megan!

## Exploring Social Justice in the St. Croix Valley **Thursday, June 5th | 7 pm**

Join us at St. Croix United Church for a conversation centered around social justice in our community. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with like-minded people and learn how you can contribute to a more just society.



*Childcare (if requested) and light refreshments will be provided.*

*Please RSVP on [Eventbrite.com](https://Eventbrite.com) or with Megan Adams if you plan to attend.*

## Week at a Glance:

**Memorial Day Parade Refreshments** | **May 26, 7:30 am** | @ Church Front Lawn

**Gentle Tai Chi** | **May 26, 7 pm** | @ Church

**Healing Sessions with Mary Ann** | **May 27, 10 am** | @ Church

**Social Justice Task Force** | **May 27, 5:30 pm** | @ Church

**Gentle Tai Chi** | **May 28, 10 am** | @ Church

**Youth Choir Rehearsal** | **May 28, 3:30 pm** | @ Church

**East Metro LGBTQ Conversation (PRISM)** | **May 28, 6 pm** | @ Church

**Choir Rehearsal** | **May 28, 6:30 pm** | @ Church

**Social Justice Team** | **May 29, 5:30 pm** | @ Church

**Book Group - "Anti-Racism as a Daily Practice"** | **May 29, 6:30 pm** | @ Church

**An Evening with Bill Chadwick** | **May 31, 6:30 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), Gary Piasecki (usher), Jonah Gromoll (youth usher), Sam Gromoll (acolyte & musical interlude), Sharri Kinkead (liturgist), St. Croix United Choir, Claire Spilseth & Arly Fuhr (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Sue Favilla (altar decor)



### St. Croix United Church

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

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## Better Is One Day

113

$\text{♩} = 80$

$\text{E(omit3)}$   $\text{Asus}^2$

1. How love-ly is your dwell-ing place, O God al- might-  
 thing I ask and I would seek: to see your beau-

$\text{Bsus}$   $\text{E(omit3)}$   $\text{Bsus}$

- y. For my soul longs and e - ven faints for you.  
 - ty, to find you in the place your glo - ry dwells.

$\text{E(omit3)}$   $\text{Asus}^2$

For here my heart is sat - is - fied with-in your pres-  
 One thing I ask and I would seek: to see your beau-

$\text{Bsus}$   $\text{E(omit3)}$   $\text{Bsus}$

- ence. I sing be-neath the shad-ow of your wings...  
 - ty, to find you in the place your glo - ry dwells.

$\text{Asus}^2$   $\text{Bsus}^2$

Bet-ter is one day in your courts, bet-ter is one day in your house, bet-ter is

$\text{Asus}^2$   $\text{A/C\#}$   $\text{Bsus}$   $\text{E/G\#}$

Last time, Coda  $\text{1.}$

one day in your courts than thou-sands else - where. Bet-ter is

$\text{Bsus}$   $\text{B(omit3)}$   $\text{D.S.}$   $\text{Bsus}$

$\text{2.}$

else-where, than thou-sands else-where. 2. One else-where.

Words and Music: Matt Redman

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 (Words revised by the Praise Song Advisory Team, 2009.)

## How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies

St. 1, Katharine Lee Bates, 1893; alt.  
St. 2, 3, 4, Miriam Therese Winter, 1993

1 How beau-ti-ful, our spa-cious skies, our am-ber waves of grain;  
2 In-dig-e-nous and im-mi-grant, our daugh-ters and our sons:  
3 How beau-ti-ful, sin-cere la-ment, the wis-dom born of tears,  
4 How beau-ti-ful, two con-ti-nents, and is-lands in the sea

our pur-ple moun-tains as they rise a-bove the fruit-ful plain.  
O may we nev-er rest con-tent till all are tru-ly one.  
the cour-age called for to re-pent the blood-shed through the years.  
that dream of peace, non-vi-o-lence, all peo-ple liv-ing free.

A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God's gra-cious gifts a-bound,  
A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God grant that we may be  
A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God grant that we may be  
A-mer-i-cas! A-mer-i-cas! God grant that we may be

and more and more we're grate-ful for life's boun-ty all a-round.  
a sis-ter-hood and broth-er-hood from sea to shin-ing sea.  
a na-tion blessed with none op-pressed, true land of lib-er-ty.  
a hem-i-sphere where peo-ple here all live in har-mo-ny.

On her first trip west in the summer of 1893 the distinguished New England educator Katharine Lee Bates was inspired to write "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies." One hundred years later Miriam Therese Winter wrote new stanzas to clearly include all of the Americas.

Tune: MATERNA C.M.D.  
Samuel A. Ward, 1882