

June 1, 2025
“Many Ways of
Release”

Welcome!

We encourage wearing name tags.

The Love of God Gathers Us

Gathering Music

Singing Bowl

Prelude & Candle Lighting “Come, My People”

Martin/Cliffe

...acknowledging the light of Christ among us

please observe silence as we settle into sacred time and space

Words of Welcome & Announcements

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*)

This is a day to celebrate life!

We open our ears to the sounds of God's world, our eyes to the beauty of creation.

We are greeted by green grass and blue sky, the movements of water and breeze, the music of birds.

We remember Jesus, who welcomed all people – recognizing the value of each one.

Jesus is alive! His spirit lives in us.

We are accepted and loved. Let us rejoice and worship our Creator God.

***Opening Song** (see p. 7) “Morning Has Broken”

Acknowledging Our Need for God's Grace

Centering Ourselves

...in stillness and breath

Prayer of Confession and Longing (*unison*)

Gracious God, you encourage us with your love, bringing new life out of death.

We confess that we need your life-giving power in our lives and relationships.

We have hurt others and been hurt by them. We are often angry or afraid.

We are not sure when to assert our needs and when to care for others' needs.

We continue to live in ways which do not lead to peace and justice.

Forgive us. Pour your Spirit of wisdom and healing upon us, that our living may glorify you.

We pray as followers of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

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”

Sue Favilla (6/3), Cindy Parsons (6/7)

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 with Claire and Kim

Youth Group | Youth (gr. 5-12) go with Jane

We welcome the sounds and movements of children who stay in worship!

Proclaiming God's Love

A Contemporary Reading | *Peter Friedrichs*

“Release”

A Reading from the New Testament | *NRSV*

Acts 16: 16-34

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

Morning Message

“Many Ways of Release”

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 (see p. 8)

“Deep Peace”

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.

Invitation to the Offering

We give by cash, check or electronically (scanning the QR code)



Offertory

“Deep Within Our Hearts”

Liberattore

***Offertory Response**

**Praise, God, for these gifts;
we lift them up for heaven's blessing.**

**Praise God, for these gifts;
we lift them up to serve you, Lord.**

Sharing in Holy Communion

*Holy Communion is open to members and friends of all ages
as we seek to follow Jesus in the way of radically inclusive love*

*The Invitation and Prayer

God be with you. And also with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to God.

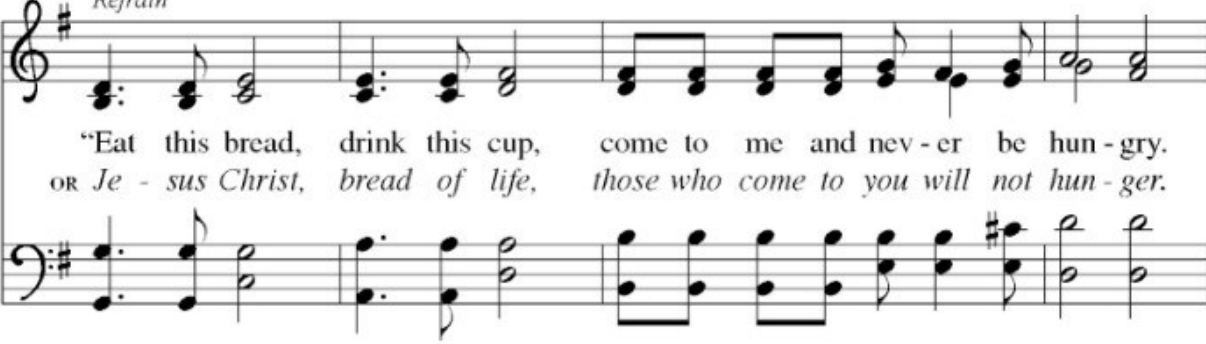
Let us give thanks to the God of all. **Loving God, you are Creator of energy and matter, the heavens and the Earth. We celebrate you – joining our voices with the wind and streams, animals and flowers, the living and the dead (pause), the stars, planets, and all members of creation – forever proclaiming your expansive love. Amen.**

Words of Remembrance and Blessing


Communion Song

“Eat This Bread”
sung twice

Refrain



“Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.
OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.



Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”
Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Take a piece of (gluten-free) bread and a cup of juice, receiving words of blessing
Place your empty cup in a basket as you return to your seat

Musical Interlude *... as we participate in the sacred meal*

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The bread of life and cup of blessing for everyone! **Thanks be to God!**

Loving God, we give thanks for the bond of this ritual that links us in solidarity with all who have called upon your name. May your wisdom grow within us. Send us out into the world as people of courage, compassion, and commitment. Amen!

Going Forth to Share God's Love

***Benediction**

***Closing Hymn (see p. 9)** "God Be with You"
verses 1 & 3

***Parting Music**

...as we greet one another

Today Following Worship:

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

10:45 am | **Inquirers Gathering** Join us after refreshments for a time of learning who we are and what we're about. All are welcome!

Thank You to those who have nurtured our young people throughout the school year:

Children's Activity | Cindy Baker, Carol Dusbabek, Claire Spilseth (leads), Kathy Iverson, Kim Klisch, Roger Klisch, Wendy Staberg

Youth Group | Telae (lead), Sue Favilla, Jane Hanson, Cindy Siegel

"Time with Telae" begins June 8th | For young people of any age during the latter part of the worship service. On indoor Sundays, they'll be downstairs. On outdoor Sundays they'll play on the playground (with options of story, music and craft).



Morning Has Broken

C Am Dm G Dm G C

1. Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing, black-bird has
 2. Sweet the rain's new fall sun-lit from heav - en, like the first
 3. Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing born of the

Em Am Em F G C Am F C

spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing-ing! Praise for the
 dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet-ness of the wet
 one light E-den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev-ery

Am G C G Am Dm GW C

morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
 gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
 morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

WORDS: Eleanor Farjeon, 1931
 MUSIC: Gaelic melody; arr. Dale Grotenhuis, 1985

BUNESSAN
 55,54D

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 arr. © 1987 CRC Publications

Deep Peace

$\text{♩} = 44$

G D Em Bm C G/B Cmaj⁷ D

1. Peace, peace, deep peace, my peace I give to you.____
 2. Love, love, strong love, my love I give to you.____
 3. Joy, joy, great joy, my joy I give to you.____

E Bm⁷ Cmaj⁷ Gmaj⁷ Cmaj⁷ D G

Peace, peace, deep peace, my peace I give to you.____
 Love, love, strong love, my love I give to you.____
 Joy, joy, great joy, my joy I give to you.____

Em Bm⁷ Cmaj⁷ G Am⁷

Not as the world gives, I give to you, not as the
 Not as the world gives, I give to you, not as the
 Not as the world gives, I give to you, not as the

B¹¹ B B⁷ Em D G D Em

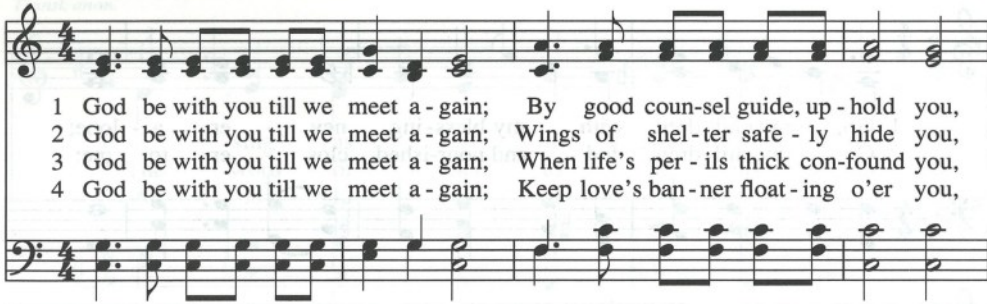
world gives, I give to you. Peace, peace, deep
 world gives, I give to you. Love, love, strong
 world gives, I give to you. Joy, joy, great

Bm C Am⁷ Bm/D D⁷ G Am/G G

peace, my peace I give to you.____
 love, my love I give to you.____
 joy, my joy I give to you.____

God Be with You

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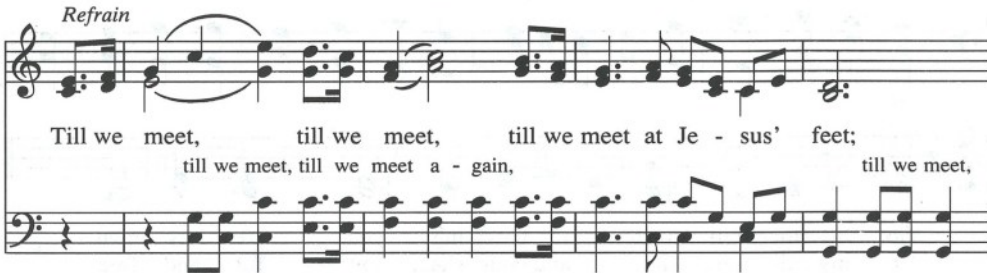
Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880; alt.


1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; By good coun-sel guide, up - hold you,
 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; Wings of shel-ter safe - ly hide you,
 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; When life's per - ils thick con-found you,
 4 God be with you till we meet a - gain; Keep love's ban-ner float - ing o'er you,



With a shep-herd's care en - fold you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 Dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 Put un - fail - ing arms a - round you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 Smite death's threat-ening wave be - fore you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.

Refrain



Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Je - sus' feet;
 till we meet, till we meet a - gain, till we meet,



till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 till we meet, till we meet a - gain,

Written during his last pastorate, at First Congregational Church in Washington, D.C., Jeremiah Rankin's hymn spread quickly throughout America and England by way of Moody and Sankey's revival meetings. Rankin later served as the seventh president of Howard University.

Tune: GOD BE WITH YOU 9.8.8.9, with refrain
 William G. Tomer, 1880

PRAYER CORNER

*With Jackie, we pray for her friend **Molly**, tragically killed in a murder-suicide. May she rest in deep peace, and may love surround all who grieve her sudden death.

*As **Sharon Binger** participates in a gathering of the International Congregational Fellowship in Greece, we pray for the wellbeing and strength of our ties with worldwide partners.

*For Sharri Kinhead's son, **Peter**, as he continues to seek employment.

*For **those of us struggling with addiction** – may we find connection and belonging.

*We give thanks for **love experienced in community**, especially in the "small things."

*With **Naomi Kirstein**, in the wake of the anniversary of the murder of George Floyd, we give thanks for reminders to practice joy in the midst of fighting for justice and freedom.

*With Bruce Smith, we ask for **safe travels** on holidays and through the summer months.

*With Sarah Thorson, we give thanks that her and Therese's daughter, **Becky**, has found a new home and new job after weeks of uncertainty.

GENTLE
TAI CHI



Connection... Balance... Renewal



Healing Sessions

Gentle Tai Chi

Mondays at 7pm | Wednesdays at 10 am

Tuesday Healing Touch Sessions

June 3rd, 10th, 17th | 10 am with Mary Ann Litfin
June 24th | 2 pm with Mary Ann Litfin and Lori Mildon

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

Mark your calendars for more Outdoor Worship

@ Lakeside Park Beach House (95 Central Ave, Bayport)

July 6 (w/ Bethlehem Lutheran, **10:30am**)

July 20 and 27

August 17 and 24, September 7





Bayport Community Action League

Ice Cream Social

Wednesday, June 4th | 6 pm

@ Lakeside Park

Join us for a sweet evening of fun, music
& community giving.

*Free ice cream donated from Mabel's while supplies last!
Live music from the Bayport Public Library House Band!*

This year they are collecting for our Food Share Pantries!
Please bring kid-friendly snacks and meals to help support
local school-aged kids this summer!

They have also partnered with the ABL Lions to collect
used eye glasses-bring yours to donate!

Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, June 5th | 9 am - 3 pm

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit 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



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 and light refreshments will be provided.

Please RSVP on Eventbrite.com or with Megan Adams if you plan to attend.



Week at a Glance:

Gentle Tai Chi | **June 2, 7 pm** | @ Church

Healing Sessions with Mary Ann | **June 3, 10 am** | @ Church

Gentle Tai Chi | **June 4, 10 am** | @ Church

Youth Choir Rehearsal | **June 4, 3:30 pm** | @ Church

BCAL Ice Cream Social | **June 4, 6 pm** | @ Lakeside Park

Blood Drive | **June 5, 9 am - 3 pm** | @ Church


Garden Gathering | **June 5, 9:30 am** | @ Lakeside Park (weather dependent)

Exploring Social Justice in the St. Croix Valley | **June 5, 7 pm** | @ Church

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Lori Mildon (flute), Jane Hanson & Sue Favilla (communion preparers), Carol Dusbabek (usher), Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux (liturgist & fellowship), St. Croix United Choir, Mary Horak Binger, Bob Dickie, Cindy Parsons (communion servers), Chris Bordeaux (fellowship), Claire Spilseth & Kim Klisch (age 3 - gr 4), Jane Hanson (youth group), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Sharri Kinkead (altar flowers)



St. Croix United Church

www.stcroixunitedchurch.org  @SCUCBayport

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

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