



October 12, 2025

“Faring Well Together”

Guest Preacher:
Rev. Dr. Beth Donaldson

Welcome!

We encourage wearing name tags.

Restrooms: main level (exit front left), lower level (at foot of entry stair/elevator)

Large-print bulletins: there are plenty!

Gathering Music

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude & Candle Lighting “Let My Words Be Few”

Redman

...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*)

Come, all who are weary from the bustle of each day –
Steadfast love awaits us.

Come, all who delight in the abundance of everyday treasure –
Steadfast love awaits us.

Come, all who are restless in the face of injustice –
Steadfast love awaits us.

Come, all who search for glimpses of quiet transcendence –
Steadfast love awaits us.

Come, all whose spirits are frayed by unforeseen difficulties –
Steadfast love awaits us.

Come with open hearts, ready to listen for the mystery –
God, who is steadfast love, awaits us. Amen.

***Opening Song (SPP #16)** “Come to the Water”

Centering Ourselves *...in stillness and breath*

Prayer of Confession and Longing (*responsive*)

God of all – your world weeps, yearning for a sign of mercy.
Your love works through our hands.

A friend is in anguish, besieged by unexpected pain.
Your love works through our ears.

A multitude are harmed and weary from prejudicial ways.
Your love works through our eyes.

A stranger faces death alone, wondering if anyone will remember.
Your love works through our tears.

A neighbor is lonely, longing for someone to come alongside.
Your love works through our bodies.

Forgive our resistance. Open us further to your Spirit’s movement –
Through all that we are and all that we do. 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

Choral Anthem

“It Is Well with My Soul”

written by Philip P. Bliss and choral arr. by Steven V. Taylor

Sung Invitation

...as young people come forward

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

Singing “Happy Birthday”

**Roger Klisch (10/12), Lori Mildon (10/15), Sharri Kinkead (10/15),
Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux (10/15), BJ Stokes (10/18), Kaira Bettin (10/18)**

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 (age 3 - grade 4) | Children can go downstairs with Cindy

Youth Group (grades 5-12) | Youth can go with Telae

Infants & Toddlers | Families are welcome to use the downstairs nursery

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

As reparations for use of Black spirituals, we support Walker 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.

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

Morning Message **“Faring Well Together”**

Prayer Hymn (NCH #591) **“This Is My Song”**

Prayers of the People

*We share aloud prayers for ourselves, others, and parts of the world
Please tell Megan (in the church office) if you prefer yours not be printed in our 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)

***Blue electronic giving cards** found in pew pockets.*



Offertory

“Here Are Our Hearts”

Drake/Jennings

***Song of Thanks**

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, we offer gifts through our daily living. With gestures of strength, words of daring, prayers of kindness – we shape the tone and texture of how your vision is realized. Remind us that we are each a part of your body. We dedicate our financial gifts and our whole lives to your way of love. Amen.

***Closing Hymn** (NCH #575) “O For a World”

***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 | Adult Forum: Embracing Our Questions

PRAYER CORNER

* With Mary Ann Litfin, prayers for **Jon Kingstad** who is recovering from an acute illness. May he be restored soon to his usual ability to cheerfully engage life with gusto.

*With Sharon Binger, prayers for the **family of Heather Hagen** as they mourn the loss of her mother, Mary Holtz. May they always feel her love right next to them.

*With Frank Cole, whom Pastor Clare recently visited, we pray for our church to continue to become one merged community.

Adult Forum: "Embracing Our Questions"

TODAY | 11 am - noon

guided discussions on matters of faith

Remember what Rabbi Abraham Heschel said -
'We are closer to God when we are asking questions
than when we think we have the answers.'

Bring your faith related questions as we share the DVD





Forum: Pastoral Compensation Proposal and Financial Q&A

Tuesday, Oct. 14th, 6:30 pm | @ Church & Zoom

Our Leadership Council strongly encourages everyone to attend. There will be plenty of time to ask questions as you prepare to vote on the recommendation. They will also share information about our current financial picture.

Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, Oct. 19th, 11 am | @ Church & Zoom

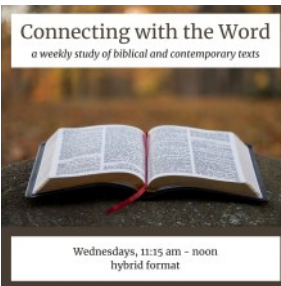
As per our recently adopted strategic plan, the Leadership Council will present (for consideration and vote by the congregation) a proposed plan for pastoral compensation for 2026 and beyond. Please plan to participate.



Neighbors in Need: Third Quarter Special Offering

This offering supports ministries of justice & compassion, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries.

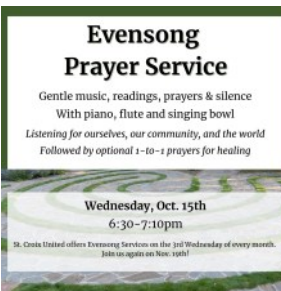
Special envelopes are available. Please mark all checks "Neighbors in Need." Collected through Oct. 31st.



Connecting with the Word | **Wednesdays, 11:15 am**

Oct. 15th theme - Acknowledging and Claiming Power:
Yours, Mine, Ours

Come explore the biblical and contemporary readings for the coming Sunday. We examine each passage, wonder about its meaning, and discover connections to our own faith journeys.



Evensong Service | **Wednesday, Oct. 15th, 6:30 pm**

Gentle music, readings, prayers & silence
With piano, flute and singing bowl

Listening for ourselves, our community, and the world
Followed by optional 1-to-1 prayers for healing



Guest Preacher TODAY: Rev. Dr. Beth Donaldson

Rev. Dr. Beth Donaldson's parents were UCC mission personnel in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), where she and her siblings were born. That early experience of intentional Christian community has shaped her vision of what the realm of God on earth might be.

She spent her youth in Newton, MA, where her Youth Group leader taught her to do the Salty-Dog-Rag and helped her find joy in an otherwise challenging context. She went to Bennington College in VT, where she majored in music and dance, and although many were skeptical of how these might be put to use, she has found ample opportunity to do so in pastoral ministry. She got her MDIV from Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA, where she also got an MA in Worship and the Arts, focusing on Hawaiian Spirituality and the Hula. She then got her DMIN in Preaching from Chicago Theological Seminary.

She has served churches in San Francisco, Honolulu, Kauai, and New Brighton, the latter for 18 ½ years. She is now semi-retired, constantly composing sermons in her head, and caring for her elderly parents in New Hampshire and Florida.

(from Pastor Clare) Beth was my pastor as I began my seminary journey in 2010. She also taught preaching to some of my classmates. I am delighted that she is with you as worship leader and preacher today!



Hunger Walk Update:

The Local Outreach Team would like to thank all who walked, donated, and helped this year. They are happy to report that **\$475 in cash donations** was raised, along with food donations; and they had 30 participants, and 20 walkers. Community members (not affiliated with any Bayport churches) come to support our pantries as well! Exciting news— the word is getting out (last year we raised \$160 and the same number of walkers)!

Please remember us when you are grocery shopping—the need continues!

Week at a Glance:

Gentle Tai Chi | **Oct. 13, 6:30 pm** | @ Church

Welcome and Care Team | **Oct. 14, 11 am** | @ Church

Soup & Shop Team | **Oct. 14, 1:30 pm** | @ Church

Finance Q & A Forum | **Oct. 14, 6:30 pm** | @ Church & Zoom

Gentle Tai Chi | **Oct. 15, 10 am** | @ Church

Connecting with the Word | **Oct 15, 11:15 am** | @ Church & Zoom

Stewardship Committee | **Oct. 15, 1:30 pm** | @ Church

Wednesday Supper Club | **Oct. 15, 5:30 pm** | @ Church

Social Justice in the Valley Team | **Oct. 15, 5:30 pm** | @ Church

Evensong Service | **Oct. 15, 6:30 pm** | @ Church & Livestream

Social Justice Team | **Oct. 15, 7:15 pm** | @ Church

Garden Gathering | **Oct. 16, 9:30 am** | @ Church

Nominating Committee | **Oct. 16, 10 am** | @ Church


Worship | **Oct. 19, 9:30 am** | @ Church & Livestream

Special Congregational Meeting | **Oct. 19, 11 am** | @ Church & Zoom

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Bob & Cheri Schwartz (ushers), Sharri Kinkead (liturgist), St. Croix United Choir, Claire Spilseth (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Cindy Baker (children's activity)



St. Croix United Church

www.stcroixunitedchurch.org  @SCUCBayport

Pastor Clare Gromoll

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

CREDITS & PERMISSIONS | **Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession & Longing, Prayer of Dedication** adapted from *Circles of Grace: Worship and Prayer in the Everyday* by Keri K. Wehlander © 1998 The United Church Publishing House. Reprinted by permission of The United Church Publishing House. **Scripture Reading** from *The Inclusive Bible*, Copyright © 2009, by Bloomsbury Academic. **Contemporary Reading** from Dr. Jane Goodall. Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-703858. All rights reserved.

Come to the Water



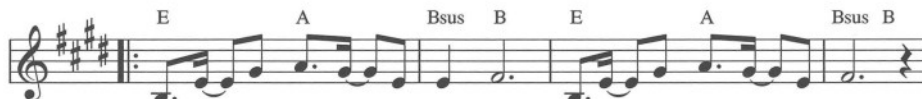
1. All who are thirst-y__ for jus - tice, all who are thirst-y__ for
 2. All who are thirst-y__ for mer - cy, all who are thirst-y__ for
 3. All who are thirst-y__ for heal - ing, all who are thirst-y__ for
 4. All who are thirst-y__ for beau - ty, all who are thirst-y__ for



peace. All who are thirst - y__ for peace, for jus - tice,
 love. All who are thirst - y__ for love, for mer - cy,
 touch. All who are thirst - y__ for touch, for heal - ing,
 truth. All who are thirst - y__ for truth, for beau - ty



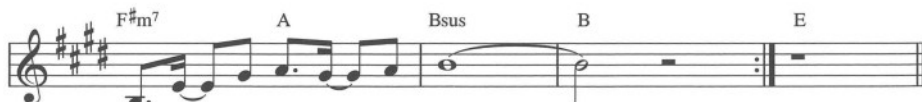
come, come to__ the wa - ter__ of life._____
 come, come to__ the wa - ter__ of life._____
 come, come to__ the wa - ter__ of life._____
 come, come to__ the wa - ter__ of life._____



5. All who are thirst-y__ for free-dom, all who are thirst-y__ for hope.
 6. All who are thirst-y__ for laugh-ter, all who are thirst-y__ for joy.



All who are thirst - y__ for hope, for free - dom, come,
 All who are thirst - y__ for joy, for laugh - ter, come,



come to__ the wa - ter__ of life._____
 come to__ the wa - ter__ of life._____

1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions, a song of
2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean, and sun - light

peace for lands a - far and mine. This is my home, the
beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine; But oth - er lands have

coun - try where my heart is; here are my hopes, my
sun - light, too, and clo - ver, and skies are ev - ery -

dreams, my ho - ly shrine; But oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are
where as blue as mine. O hear my song, O God of all the

beat - ing with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
na - tions, a song of peace for their land and for mine.

These stanzas, published during the period between the two world wars, express a hope for lasting peace among all nations,

Tune: FINLANDIA 10.10.10.10.10.10.
Jean Sibelius, 1899

O for a World

575

Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

Acts 4:32-35; 1 Cor. 1:26-31; 1 Pet. 3:8-12

1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re - spects each oth - er's ways,
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,
3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the fool - ish ones are wise.
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,

Where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
Where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
That o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Inspired by Charles Wesley's phrase "O for a thousand tongues" and the familiar tune Azmon, Miriam Therese Winter wrote this hymn envisioning a new world order for the Presbyterian Women's Triennial Conference in 1982. It was later recrafted and recorded by the Medical Mission Sisters.

Tune: AZMON C.M.
Carl G. Gläser, 1828
Adapt. Lowell Mason in Modern Psalmody, 1839