



October 19, 2025

“Power:  
Yours, Mine, Ours ”

### **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**    “Amarte Solo a Ti Señor”    *Latin American Tune*

*...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*)

We are here because we have heard the call of Jesus in our lives.  
**Here to challenge and support one another to rise up and follow.**

We are here because we want to be God's people.  
**To learn more about what it means to be people of God.**

We come – seeking to be moved, changed, and made whole by the Spirit of the living God.  
**Let us open our hearts to the movement of the Spirit, inspiring us to be disciples of Jesus. Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn (NCH #181)**      “You Are Salt for the Earth, O People”  
**verses 1, 3 & 4**

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

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

**Living God, your ministry through Jesus was full of struggle as well as joy. Yet Jesus faithfully followed your call. Breathe your Spirit into our lives as we pursue the way of discipleship – loving others and ourselves. Grant us courage and peace as we follow Jesus at home, at school, at work, and in the public square. Forgive us our resistance and empower us by your Spirit. 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*

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**Sung Invitation**

*...as young people come forward*

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

## Singing “Happy Birthday”

Finley Hintze-Graf (10/21 – 6 yrs), Walter Richey (10/21),  
Chris Bordeaux (10/21)

## 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 Carol  
Youth Group (grades 5-12) | Youth are invited to stay in worship (1 Sunday/month)  
Infants & Toddlers | Families are welcome to use the downstairs nursery  
We welcome the sounds and movements of children who stay in worship!*

### Reading from the Gospels | *The Inclusive Bible*

Luke 18:1-8

### Contemporary Readings | *by Andy Crouch*

“It’s Time to Talk About Power”

*by Walter Brueggeman*

“Prayers for a Privileged People”

*by Anne Lamott*

“Somehow: Thoughts on Love”

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

### Morning Message

**“Power: Yours, Mine, Ours”**

### Prayer Hymn

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

**sung twice**

**Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.**

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.

## 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 printed in our 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.**

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### Invitation to the Offering

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

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



### Offertory

“Schaff’s Mit Mir”

*J.S. Bach*

### \*Song of Thanks

**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.**

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

Gracious God, we ask your blessing on these gifts and on our lives. At every venturing and every homecoming, may we embody your love with generosity of spirit. Amen.

**\*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!

**11:00 am** | Special Congregational Meeting



**Special Congregational Meeting**

**TODAY, 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.

## PRAYER CORNER

\*For **Marianne Warnes**, swift healing and a full recovery after breaking her shoulder last Wednesday.

\*With Bob Dickie, we pray for **Erin**, as she journeys back to Colorado for the winter.

\*With Jill Greenhalgh and Rolf Dittmann, gratitude for his brother, **Ray**, making better choices towards health and wholeness at age 76.

\*With Mary Ann Litfin, gratitude for our **Evensong Service**, supporting stillness, prayer, and intention. May strength be found in a community that prays together.

\*For 99-year old, **Muriel**, as her final moments draw near. May her transition be smooth and peaceful.

\*With Randy **Gutzmann**, thankful for a community where it's ok to shed tears.

\*With Bob Schwartz, grateful for 3-year old **Astrid's** continued healing and thriving in the wake of a kidney transplant (and for this community's prayers for her).

\*With Jane Hanson, prayers for her friend, **Lane**, mourning the passing of his sister, Kirsty.

### Pastor Clare will be away for Fall Clergy Retreat

**October 22-23**

In the event of a question or pressing need, please contact:  
Megan Adams, Office Coordinator  
([office@stcroixunitedchurch.org](mailto:office@stcroixunitedchurch.org), 651-439-5667)

**Urgent Pastoral Concerns:**

**Rev. Dan Warnes (cell: 402-200-9680)**



### Gentle Tai Chi

*Connection... Balance... Renewal*

**Every Monday | 7:00 - 7:45 pm**  
**Every Wednesday | 10 - 10:45 am**

For notifications of cancellations or vacations,  
please contact MaryAnn to be added to the email list:  
Mary Ann Litfin | [malitfin@gmail.com](mailto:malitfin@gmail.com) | 612-382-9920



Healing Sessions

## Energy Healing Sessions | **Tuesdays & Wednesdays**

Mary Ann Litfin is opening up new times for Energy Healing.

**Tuesdays | 10 am and 11 am**

**Wednesdays | 8:45 am** (*before Tai Chi*)

To reserve a time, please contact Mary Ann:

Mary Ann Litfin | malitfin@gmail.com | 612-382-9920



## Conversations from the Heart

**Wednesday, Oct. 22nd | 10 am & 6:30 pm**

The Welcome and Care Team invites you to an opportunity to get to know fellow St. Croix United Church friends on the 4th Wednesday of each month, 10 am and 6:30 pm.

Join us for a time of conversation and chance to foster deeper personal connections within our church community.

All are welcome!

Connecting with the Word  
a weekly study of biblical and contemporary texts



Wednesdays, 11:15 am - noon  
hybrid format

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

Oct. 22nd theme - Faith that is Boldly Receptive

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.



## 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.

## Week at a Glance:

Gentle Tai Chi | **Oct. 20, 7 pm** | @ Church

Healing Sessions w/Mary Ann | **Oct. 21, 9:30 am** | @ Church

Soup & Shop Team | **Oct. 21, 1:30 pm** | @ Church

Pastor Clare at Fall Clergy Retreat | **Oct. 22 - 23**

Conversations from the Heart | **Oct. 22, 10 am** | @ Church

Gentle Tai Chi | **Oct. 22, 10 am** | @ Church

Connecting to the Word | **Oct. 22, 11:15 am** | @ Church & Zoom

Youth Choir | **Oct. 22, 3:30 pm** | @ Church

Wednesday Supper Club | **Oct. 22, 5:30 pm** | @ Church

Conversations from the Heart | **Oct. 22, 6:30 pm** | Church

Choir Rehearsal | **Oct. 26, 8:30 am** | @ Church

Worship | **Oct. 26, 9:30 am** | @ Church & Livestream

Children & Youth Activity | **Oct. 26, 9:45 am** | @ Church


Fellowship | **Oct. 26, 10:30 am** | @ Church

Adult Forum | **Oct. 26, 11 am** | @ Church & Zoom

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Gary Piasecki & Jane Hanson (ushers), Cheri Schwartz (liturgist), St. Croix United Choir, Claire Spilseth (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Carol Dusbabek & Wendy Staberg (children's activity)



## St. Croix United Church

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

### Pastor Clare Gromoll

[pastor@stcroixunitedchurch.org](mailto:pastor@stcroixunitedchurch.org), (651) 600-6409

### Megan Adams | Office Coordinator

[office@stcroixunitedchurch.org](mailto:office@stcroixunitedchurch.org), (651) 439-5667

### Telae | Music & Youth Director

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

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## You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

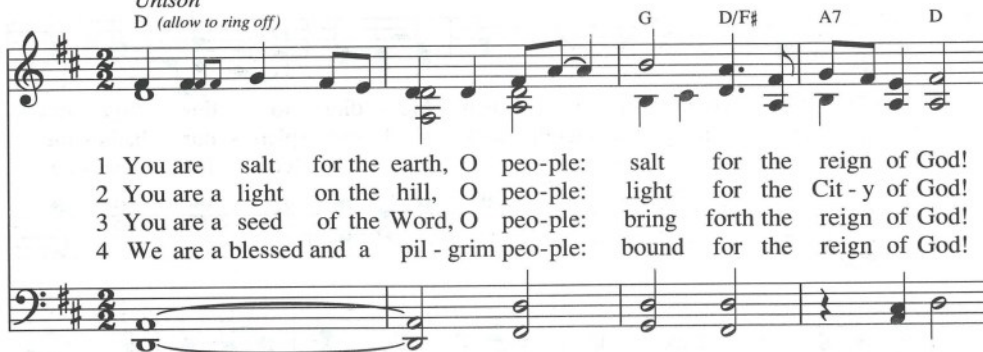
181

Paraphr. by Marty Haugen, 1986; alt.

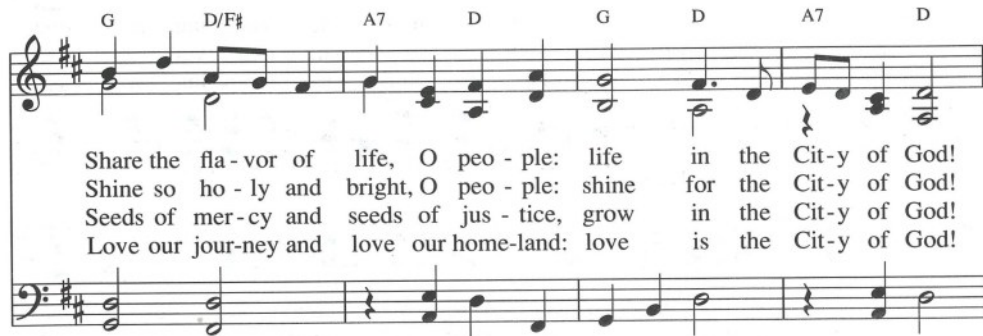
Matt. 5:13-15

Unison

D (allow to ring off)

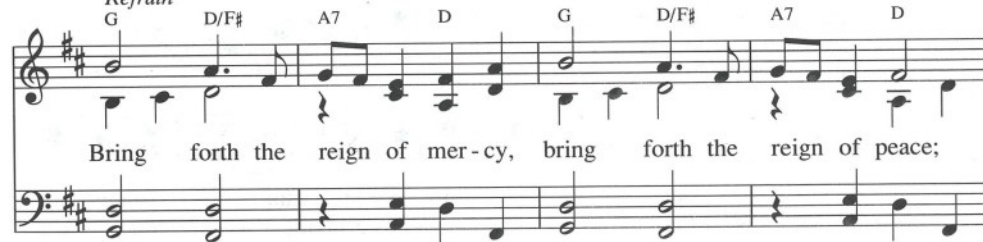


1 You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the reign of God!  
 2 You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: light for the Cit-y of God!  
 3 You are a seed of the Word, O peo-ple: bring forth the reign of God!  
 4 We are a blessed and a pil-grim peo-ple: bound for the reign of God!

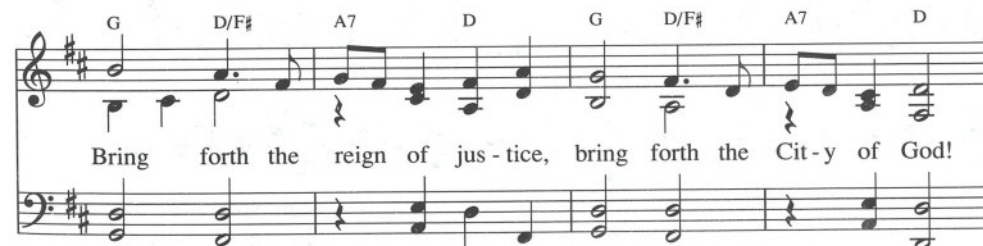


Share the fla- vor of life, O peo- ple: life in the Cit-y of God!  
 Shine so ho- ly and bright, O peo- ple: shine for the Cit-y of God!  
 Seeds of mer- cy and seeds of jus- tice, grow in the Cit-y of God!  
 Love our jour-ney and love our home-land: love is the Cit-y of God!

Refrain



Bring forth the reign of mer- cy, bring forth the reign of peace;



Bring forth the reign of jus- tice, bring forth the Cit-y of God!

During a residency at Holden Village, a retreat center in the state of Washington, Marty Haugen wrote this hymn to be used as a "processing song" for outdoor worship. The lectionary readings focusing on Jesus' teaching about the "reign of God" provided the basis for the text.

Tune: BRING FORTH Irr. with refrain  
 Marty Haugen, 1986

# 305 Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your spir-it

The first system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 3/2 time signature. It begins with a whole rest, followed by a series of chords and eighth notes. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, starting with a whole rest and followed by a series of chords and eighth notes.

WORDS and MUSIC: Ken Medema, 1973

CHILDREN PRAYING  
Irr.

© 1973 Hope Publishing Co.

$\text{♩} = 66-72$

in this place; Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing,

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment. It features similar chordal textures and rhythmic patterns as the first system, with the vocal line and bass line providing harmonic support.

send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace. grace!

1 (optional) Final

The third system concludes the piece. It includes a first ending marked "1 (optional)" and a final ending marked "Final". The music ends with a double bar line and repeat signs.