



January 25, 2026

“Unifying Love”

Welcome!

We encourage wearing name tags.

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

Gathering Music

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude & Candle Lighting “Savior Like a Shepherd, Lead Us”

Bradbury

...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** *(responsive)*

Creator God, each of us comes separately to this time of worship.
We are here to unite our spirits as one in the way of Jesus.

Merge us in hope as your children. Bless our differences.
May the unique gifts and perceptions of each one strengthen our unity.

Draw us into your Spirit.
In the name of the living Christ, we pray. Amen.

***Opening Song (SPP #118)** “Imago Dei”

Centering Ourselves *...in stillness and breath*

Prayer of Confession and Longing *(unison)*

Living Christ, your ministry through Jesus was full of struggle as well as joy. Yet Jesus was faithful in following your call. Breathe your Spirit into our lives as we pursue the way of discipleship. May we find true courage and peace as we accept the cost of following you into every part of our lives—at home, at school, at work, and in the public square. Forgive us our reluctance 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

Sung Invitation *...as young people come forward*

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

Singing “Happy Birthday”

Mary Horak Binger (1/28), Aidan Gromoll (1/30), Kathy Whiterabbit (1/31)

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

Reading from the Gospels | *NRSV, p. 3*

Matthew 4:12-23

Reading from the Epistles | *NRSV, p. 166*

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Contemporary Reading | *by Justin Farley*

“The Great Unifier - A Poem About Love”

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

Morning Message

“Unifying Love”

Prayer Hymn (NCH #173) “You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore”

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**

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.

Prayer of Jesus

Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,
Holy and blessed is your true name.
We pray for your reign of peace to come,
We pray that your good will be done,
Let heaven and Earth become one.
Give us this day the bread we need,
Give it to those who have none.
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,
From each one to each one.
Lead us to holy innocence
Beyond the evil of our days —
Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:
Forever your name is All in One. Amen.

Invitation to Offering

We give by cash, check or electronically (scanning the QR code)
Blue electronic giving cards found in pew pockets.



Offertory

“We Are All One”

Rasely

*Song of Thanks

Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-u-ja.
Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-u-ja.
Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-u-ja.
Halleluja! Halleluja!

*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.

*Closing Hymn (NCH #581) “Lead Us from Death to Life”

***Benediction**

***Sending Song**

...forming a circle (not holding hands)

Keyboard, handbells,
and/or Orff instruments

Go now in peace, go now in peace, may the love of

God sur-round you ev-ery-where, ev-ery-where you may go.

Fine

***Parting Music**

...as we greet one another

Today Following Worship:

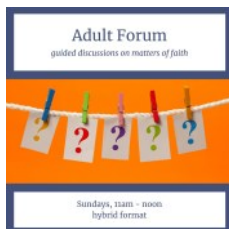
10:30 am | All are welcome downstairs for refreshments and good company!

11 am | Adult Forum

Adult Forum | Sundays, 11 am

Embracing Our Questions: Black History Month

For Black History Month, we are offering a conversational discussion on selected sections of the PBS Video: *The Black Church: This is Our Story. This is Our Song.*





Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 1st
Following Worship

Cleaning Out the Kitchen!



We've been cleaning up - and cleaning out - the kitchen as we begin hosting a monthly FREE Community Supper.

Several items have been set on a table in the Fellowship Room. If you see anything that is yours, please take it home **TODAY**.

Anything not taken by this afternoon will be donated.

Conversations from the Heart

Wednesday, Jan. 28th | 10 am & 6:30 pm @ Church



The Welcome & Care Team invites you to an opportunity to get to know fellow St. Croix United Church friends with a time of conversation and chance to foster deeper personal connections within our church community. All are welcome!

Faith & Spirit Book Club *expanding our perspectives...*

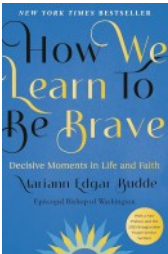
January 29th | 5:30 pm @ Church

How We Learn to Be Brave by Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde (ch. 5 -7)

In-person and on Zoom. All are welcome - invite friends!

Please let Pastor Clare know if you plan to participate.

Books are available at Valley Bookseller for 15% off



PRAYER CORNER

*For Pastor Clare's mom, **Norda**, as she begins healing after a fall, having fractured her femur next to a hip prosthesis.

*With Pat and Nat, for their friend, **Nancy**, as she struggles with recurring multiple myeloma.

*For **John Mueller** (a friend of the church and writer of one of our "songs of thanks"), who has been diagnosed with lung cancer - gratitude that tests revealed the cancer is contained!

*Prayers for increased awareness in recognizing those who need love, and in how we give love.

*With Nat, prayers for her employees and **all those struggling and in fear** due to recent events.

*With Pastor Clare, gratitude for all the **clergy and organizational leaders** who are investing their time and energy in teaching and joining others in resistance.

*Gratitude for the 200 people who came to the church last week to train as constitutional observers; for our church community for hosting; and for all who are willing to step out of their comfort zone with open hearts and courage.

*Prayers for those who seem uninformed or naive about what is going on in our world and community; and patience for us as we navigate these relationships.

*For a special person suffering with addiction. Prayers they can find their way.

*Gratitude for the joy of the youngest among us!

*With Sam Gromoll, prayers for **Grandma Linda** as she recovers from illness.

Wednesday Community Suppers



We had 18 community members at our first monthly FREE Wednesday Community Supper! Want to help with the next one (Feb. 18th) or be on the planning team?

Planning meetings are underway: Fridays at 10 am.

Questions? Want to consider helping in some way?

Contact Sue Favilla (wicompound@gmail.com, 612-381-4996)



Week at a Glance:

Gentle Tai Chi | Jan. 26, 7 pm | @ Church

Gentle Tai Chi | Jan. 28, 10 am | @ Church

Conversations from the Heart | Jan. 28, 10 am | @ Church

Connecting with the Word | Jan. 28, 11 am | @ Church

Conversations from the Heart | Jan. 28, 6:30 pm | @ Church

Faith & Spirit Book Club | Jan. 29, 5:30 pm | @ Church


Wednesday Community Meal Planning Team | Jan. 30, 10 am | @ Church

Annual Meeting of the Congregation | Feb. 1, 11 am | @ Church & Zoom

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux (choir director), Lori Mildon (flute), Cheri & Bob Schwartz (usher), Maya Klisch-Solano (acolyte), Kathy Iverson (liturgist), St. Croix United Choir (cantors), Wendy & Dave Staberg (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Carol Dusbabek & Wendy Heurung (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

CREDITS & PERMISSIONS | **Prayer of Gathering** adapted by permission of the publishers from *Touch Holiness*, ed. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. Copyright © 1990 by The Pilgrim Press. **Prayer of Confession & Longing** reprinted from *Flames of the Spirit: Resources for Worship* by Ruth C. Duck. Copyright © 1985 Pilgrim Press. **Prayer of Dedication** adapted from *Before the Amen: Creative Resources for Worship*, Maren C. Tirabassi & Maria I. Tirabassi, eds. Copyright © 2007 The Pilgrim Press. All rights reserved. **Scripture Reading** from *The NRSV*. **Contemporary Reading** © 2025 Justin Farley — Original work. Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-703858. All rights reserved.

Imago Dei

(Image of God)

♩=85 Cm Gmsus Cm Gmsus Cm Gmsus Cm Gmsus Cm

I-mag-o De - i,

Cm⁷ Fm⁷/Ab Gmsus Gm⁷ Cm

I-mag-o De - i, born in the im-age of_ God are we... I-mag-o De - i,

Cm⁷ Fm⁷ Gm⁷sus Cm Last time, Fine

I-mag - o De - i, called to com-pass-ion; born__ to be free.

Fm⁷ Gm⁷

1. How shall we live as im - ag - es of God?
2. How shall we love the neigh - bor filled with greed?
3. Then shall we see the im - ag - es of Christ.

Fm⁷/Ab Cm⁷sus Gm⁷sus

How best re - flect the won - der of our Mak - er?
How best re - spond to those con - sumed by hat - red?
Then shall we know that God is in our neigh - bor.

Cm Fm⁷ Gm⁷

Hum - bly we will walk, with mer - cy re - spond_ and know the
Look be - yond the fear that keeps them from know - ing the A -
Hum - bly we will walk, with mer - cy re - spond_ and know the

Fm⁷/Ab Gm⁷ Cm Gmsus

Es - sence of Love__ is al - ways with us...
- bun - dance of Love__ that's al - ways with us...
Es - sence of Love__ is al - ways with us...

Tú has venido a la orilla

(You Have Come down to the Lakeshore)

Matt. 4:18–22; Mark 1:16–20; Luke 5:1–11

Cesáreo Gabaráin, 1979; alt.

Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1989; alt.

D A7 D

1 Tú has ve - ni - do a la o - ri - lla, no has bus -
 2 Tú sa - bes bien lo que ten - go: en mi
 1 You have come down to the lake - shore seek - ing
 2 You know full well my pos - ses - sions. Nei - ther

G A7

ca - do ni a sa - bios, ni a ri - cos, tan só - lo
 bar - ca no hay o - ro ni es - pa - das; tan só - lo
 nei - ther the wise nor the wealth - y, But on - ly
 trea - sure nor weap - ons for con - quest, Just these my

D A7 D D7

Estrillo (Refrain)

quie - res que yo te si - ga. Je -
 re - des y mi tra - ba - jo.
 ask - ing for me to fol - low. O
 fish - nets and will for work - ing.

G D

sús, me has mi - ra - do a los o - jos;
 Je - sus, you have looked in - to my eyes;

One of the most popular hymns to emerge from the 1970s revival of religious songs in Spain, this text has been translated into nearly eighty languages. The Spanish composer-author was a parish priest known for his work among youth.

Tune: PESCADOR DE HOMBRES

8.10.10. with refrain

Cesáreo Gabaráin, 1979

Harm. Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1987

son - ri - en - do, has di - cho mi nom - bre;
kind - ly smil - ing, you've called out my name.

en la a - re - na he de - ja - do mi bar - ca;
On the sand I have a - ban - doned my small boat;

jun - to a ti bus - ca - ré o - tro mar.
now with you I will seek oth - er seas.

3. Tú ne - ce - si - tas mis ma - nos,
mi can - san - cio que a o - tros des - can - se,
a - mor que quie - ra se - guir a - man - do.
Estrillo
3. You need my hands, my ex - haus - tion,
work - ing love for the rest of the
wea - ry—
A love that's will - ing to go on lov - ing.
Refrain
4. Tú, Pes - ca - dor de o - tros ma - res,
an - sia e - ter - na de al - mas que es - pe - ran.
A - mi - go bue - no, que a - sí me lla - mas.
Estrillo
4. You who have fished oth - er wa - ters;
you, the long - ing of souls that are
yearn - ing:
As lov - ing Friend, you have come
to call me.
Refrain

2 John 1:3; Isa. 2:2-4

Refrain, Satish Kumar

Stanzas, Marty Haugen, 1985

Refrain

C C7 F G C G/B Am

Lead us from death to life, from false-hood to truth, from de -

Dm7 G C Dm7 C7/E C7 Dm7

pair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to

G C/E E7 Am Dm7 G

love, from war to peace; let peace fill our hearts, let

Em Am Dm7 C/E Dm/F C/G G7 C

peace fill our world, let peace fill our u - ni - verse.

to Stanzas

Dm7 G Em7 Am

1 Still all the an-gry cries, still all the an-gry guns, still now your
 2 So man-y lone-ly hearts, so man-y bro-ken lives, long-ing for
 3 Let jus-tice ev-er roll, let mer-cy fill the earth, let us be -

Dm7 G7 C Am Dm7

peo-ple die, earth's sons and daugh-ters. Let jus-tice roll, let
 love to break in - to their an - guish. Come, teach us love,
 gin to grow in - to your peo - ple. We can be love,

E7 Am F D7/F# C/G G7 C to Refrain

mer - cy pour down, come and teach us your way of com - pas-sion.
 come, teach us peace, come and teach us your way of com - pas-sion.
 we can bring peace, we can still be your way of com - pas-sion.

The text for the refrain of this hymn is known as the "World Peace Prayer." It is a paraphrase of a verse from the Upanishads, the most ancient scriptures of Hinduism. Since its introduction at a service in Westminster Abbey on Hiroshima Day, 1981, the prayer has been translated into numerous languages and circulated around the world. The musical setting and additional stanzas were composed by Marty Haugen, composer-in-residence at Mayflower United Church of Christ, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Tune: WORLD PEACE PRAYER
 12.11.9.10. with refrain
 Marty Haugen, 1985