



March 15, 2026

“Telling Our Own  
Story”

4th Sunday in Lent

### **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**      “In the Garden”

*Miles*

*...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)*

The way is long.  
The way is difficult.

**Let us go together.  
Let us help each other.**

The way is joyful.

**Let us share it.**

The way opens before us.

**Let us open ourselves to the journey.**

Let us follow Jesus on the way. **Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn (NCH #459)**      “Come, O Fount of Every Blessing”

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**Centering Ourselves**

*...in stillness and breath*

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

**O Holy One, we are pilgrims following winding roads. You challenge us with the call to love the other – both friend and opponent. When the way to love is uncertain or daunting, we’ll take heart as you move with us. In this time of reflection, come to us and refresh our spirits. In Jesus’ name we pray, 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*

**Solo**

“You Raise Me Up”

*Rolf Lovland & Brendan Graham*

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**Sung Invitation**

*...as young people come forward*

**This little light of mine...**

## Singing “Happy Birthday”

Jonah Gromoll (3/18 - 9 yrs)

## 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...**

*Children’s Activity (age 3 - grade 4) | Children can go downstairs with Claire  
We welcome the sounds and movements of children who stay in worship!*

**Reading from the Gospels** | NRSV, p. 102

John 9:1-34

**Contemporary Reading** | Phiwa Langeni, UCC Lent Devotional: Outgrow

“Unrecognizable”

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

### Morning Message

“Telling Our Own Story”

### Prayer Hymn (insert)

“Healer of Our Ev’ry Ill”

### 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

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.

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## Invitation to Offering

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



## Offertory

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

*Maker*

## \*Song of Thanks

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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

God, we come to you in plenty and in want. Teach us to receive without embarrassment when we have needs, and help us to give without reservation when we have abundance. Bless and multiply these Sunday gifts, and unwrap our hearts to you every day. Amen.

## \*Closing Hymn (NCH #476)

“My Life Flows on in Endless Song”  
*verses 1, 3-4*

## \*Benediction

**\*Sending Song**

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

Irish Blessing  
**sung twice**

**May the road rise to meet you  
May the wind be at your back  
May the sun shine warm upon your face  
The rain fall soft upon your fields  
And until we meet again  
Till we meet again  
May God hold you in the palm of God's hand**

**\*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**

**March 15th:** Sharing about Palm Sunday at the Capitol

**March 22nd:** The spiritual stories of Women's History Month

**March 29 and April 5:** No Adult Forum

**April 12:** Learning a theology of love, hope, and liberation from  
Palestinian Christians

**Adult Forum**

*guided discussions on matters of faith*



Sundays, 11am - noon  
hybrid format

**FREE**  
**Wednesday  
Community  
Supper**

*...share food,  
make connections,  
build community*



**Wednesday Community Suppers**

Invite friends! Pick up flyers and spread the word!

Want to help or support these meals?

Contact Sue Favilla ([wicompond@gmail.com](mailto:wicompond@gmail.com), 612-381-4996)

# Holy Week



## March 29th, Palm Sunday

- 9:30 am **Worship** - *with Jesus, confronting empire*
- 2 - 4 pm **Gathering of Christians at the State Capitol** - *called to love the neighbor, heal the sick, feed the hungry, and welcome the stranger in this critical moment in our nation's history*



## April 3rd, Good Friday: a service of lament & healing

- 6:30 pm **Worship** - *amid oppression and violence, we offer music, story, silence, and an impulse to heal*



## April 5th, Easter Sunday

- 8:00 am | **Early Easter Service at Lakeside Park**
- 9:00 am | **Easter Breakfast & Indoor Easter Egg Hunt**
- 10:00 am | **Worship** - *a joyful celebration of renewed life*

**PRAYER CORNER**— *returning March 22nd*



## Inquirers Gathering

**March 29th | 10:45 am**

Newer friends are welcome to gather with a church member and Pastor Clare to learn about St. Croix United Church —past, present, and future.

## One Great Hour of Sharing | **March 1—31**

Our United Church of Christ promotes 4 quarterly special offerings as a part of Our Church's Wider Mission. One Great Hour of Sharing carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis; by supporting domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

*Please use specially marked envelopes and/or memo: "OGHS"*



## Lenten Vespers: Stories of Struggle & Growth

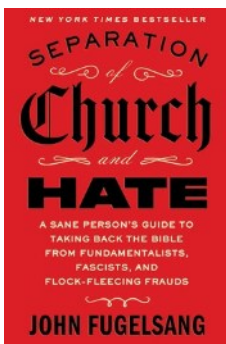
**Feb. 25 – Mar. 25 | 6:30pm**

During Lent, we make time to reflect on our journey in faith – seeking to follow Jesus in the ways of love and justice amidst life's challenges. We recognize that through every struggle (be it painful, rigorous, or both), we can grow and rise.

Join us as we hear stories from friends:

**Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux (March 18)** – Navigating post traumatic stress disorder

**Mary Horak Binger (March 25)** – Communication in personal relationships



## Faith & Spirit Book Club | **Thursday, March 19th**

Expanding our perspectives...

*Separation of Church and Hate: A Sane Person's Guide to Taking Back the Bible from Fundamentalists, Fascists, and Flock-fleeing Frauds*

You're welcome to join the discussion, even if you missed the first gathering! In-person and on Zoom.

Please let Pastor Clare know if you plan to attend.

### Plan ahead for next month's book:

*He/She/They: How We Talk About Gender and Why It Matters* by Schuyler Bailar  
April 2nd and 16th | 5:30 pm

*Books are available at Valley Bookseller for 15% off  
—just mention St. Croix United Book Club!*



## Gertens Spring Flower and Plant Sale is OPEN

**Order your plants now through March 30th.**

*Our church receives 30% of all plant sales!*

Orders are completed online. Details are in the Midweek e-newsletter.



### Week at a Glance:

Gentle Tai Chi | **March 16, 7 pm** | @ Church

Megan out of the office | **March 18—April 2**

Gentle Tai Chi | **March 18, 10 am** | @ Church

Connecting with the Word | **March 18, 4:30 pm** | @ Church

Free Community Meal | **March 18, 5:30 pm** | @ Church

Lenten Vespers | **March 18, 6:30 pm** | @ Church


Fireside Friends | **March 19, 9:30 am** | @ Church

Faith & Spirit Book Club | **March 19, 5:30 pm** | @ Church & Zoom

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



### St. Croix United Church

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

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## Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Ps. 36:7-9

Robert Robinson, 1758; alt.

1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;  
 2 Here I pause in my so - journing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,  
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!

streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas - ing, call for songs of end-less praise.  
 come to trust, at ev-ery turn - ing, God will guide me safe-ly home.  
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.

Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.  
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,  
 Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:

Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail - ing love.  
 Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless - ed bod - y, pre - cious blood.  
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

Converted to Methodism at age twenty, Robert Robinson soon became a Calvinistic Methodist preacher and later gained great popularity. The melody, associated with this text since 1813, is an American folk tune.

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.  
 John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

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Healer of Our Ev'ry Ill

*Refrain* D Em7/D G/DA/DD G Bm7/A G A

Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,

F#m7 Bm Em7 F#7 G Em A/C# D *Fine*

give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.

*Stanzas* Bm F#m/A G

1. You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your  
 2. In the pain and joy be - hold - ing, how your grace is  
 3. Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,  
 4. You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your

F Em D/F# G Bm A *To refrain*

peace and glad - ness, Spir - it of all com - fort: fill our hearts.  
 still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion: God of love.  
 ev - 'ry broth - er, Spir - it of all kind - ness: be our guide.  
 way of heal - ing, Spir - it of com - pas - sion: fill each heart.

WORDS and MUSIC: Marty Haugen, 1987

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HEALER  
88.63 w. refrain

♩=96-104

# My Life Flows on in Endless Song

(How Can I Keep from Singing)

Ps. 46:1-7; 1 Cor. 3:21-23; 2 Cor. 5:17

Anon. in Bright Jewels for the Sunday School,  
ed. Robert Lowry, 1869; alt.  
St. 3, Doris Plenn, c. 1957

1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam - en -  
2 What though my joys and com - forts die? My Sav - ior still is  
3 When ty - rants trem - ble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells  
4 I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue a -

ta - tion, I hear the sweet, though far - off hymn that  
liv - ing. What though the shad - ows gath - er 'round? A  
ring - ing; When friends re - joice both far and near, how  
bove it; And day by day this path - way smooths, since

hails a new cre - a - tion. Through all the tu - mult  
new song Christ is giv - ing. No storm can shake my  
can I keep from sing - ing? In pris - on cell and  
first I learned to love it. The peace of Christ makes

and the strife, I hear the mu - sic ring - ing; It  
in - most calm, while to that Rock I'm cling - ing; Since  
dun - geon vile our thoughts to them are wing - ing; When  
fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring - ing; All

In various nineteenth-century hymnals this hymn was attributed to different poets, including Anna Warner. The earliest published source credits Robert Lowry as the composer, although Silas Vail later claimed the music. The third stanza was written by

Tune: ENDLESS SONG 8.7.8.7.D.  
Attrib. to Robert Lowry in Bright Jewels  
for the Sunday School, New York, 1869



finds an ech - o in my soul— how can I keep from sing-ing?  
Love com-mands both heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?  
friends by shame are un - de - filed, how can I keep from sing-ing?  
things are mine since I am Christ's—how can I keep from sing-ing?

