



April 5, 2026

Early Easter
Service

8 am

Gathering Music at the River's Edge

Lori Mildon, flute

Words of Welcome

...as we gather in a circle

Pastor Clare

Opening Song

“Morning Has Broken”

**Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the world**

**Sweet the rains new fall, sunlit from Heaven
Like the first dewfall on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass**

**Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning
Born of the one light, Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise every morning
God's recreation of the new day**

Repeat vs. 1

Readings

Mary Horak Binger & Betsy Runke

The First Easter Morning | NRSV, Luke 23:48-24:12

*The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed,
and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid.*

Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments.

On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

*But on the first day of the week, at early dawn,
they went to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared...*

Minor Key | by Mary Luti

*Sometimes the world can trust that Easter is true only when
our alleluias are slightly bewildered,
Still blinking in the lights, as if they really were emerging from a grave.
Sometimes, maybe this year for you, Easter is less a declaration of triumph
than an act of sheer hope, barely.*

Pastoral Reflection & Invitation to Wonder

Prayer of Confession and Welcoming Grace (*responsive*)

God of the sunrise, just as Jesus' friends were not able to honor their promises as his death drew near, we also fall short of your loving intentions for us.

We experience selfishness, jealousy, and compassion fatigue.

God of love, we need your forgiveness.

We see the broken before the whole, the half empty cup, the unfinished task, justice deferred.

God of love, we need your spirit of justice.

We trust in what we can see. Our vision is blurred by our prejudices and we do not know what we do not know.

God of love, we need your guidance.

You came among us in Jesus, sharing in our joy and pain, loving us to the end, and overcoming hatred.

God of love, we need your faithfulness. Amen

Ritual Reminder of Belovedness & Resurrection

Pastor Clare offers a touch of water from the St. Croix River

Song

“I’ve Got Peace Like a River”

I've got peace like a river

I've got peace like a river

I've got peace like a river in my soul

(repeat)

I've got joy like a fountain...

I've got love like an ocean...

Sending One Another Forth *(responsive)*

Alleluia! Jesus is risen!

God is alive.

Love is alive.

God’s Spirit breathes new life among us.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Jesus is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Hope and joy are alive.

We are alive.

God of resurrection, we celebrate you.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Closing Song

Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-u-ja.

Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-u-ja.

Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-u-ja.

Halleluja! Halleluja!

Blessing

Passing the Peace

... sharing gestures of peace as we depart



Join us for more Easter celebrations!

9:00 am | breakfast

9:30 am | indoor Easter egg hunt

10:00 am | joyful worship with choir, organ,
piano, trumpet & flute



Join us on Sunday mornings:

Worship | 9:30 am (*onsite & live on YouTube*)


Children's Activity | 9:45-10:30 am

Fellowship | 10:30 am

Adult Forum | 11 am



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