



April 5, 2026

Easter Sunday!

10 am

Welcome!

We encourage wearing name tags. Coffee and tea are welcome in worship.
Restrooms: main level (exit front left), lower level (at foot of entry stair/elevator)

Gathering Music

...as we settle into sacred time and space

Ringing the Bell

Prelude & Candle Lighting “Easter Medley”

Oliver/Maker

...acknowledging the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Singing Bowl & Opening Words from a Neighbor

SPP = *Sing! Prayer and Praise*

* = Sitting or standing

NCH = *New Century Hymnal*

***Call to Worship** *(responsive)*

Alleluia! Jesus is risen! **Jesus is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

God is alive. **Hope and joy are alive.**

Love is alive. **We are alive.**

God's Spirit breathes new life among us. **The church is alive.**

God of life, we worship you. **God of creation, we praise you.**

God of revelation, we learn from you. **God of resurrection, we celebrate you.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

***Processional Hymn (NCH #233)** "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

Centering Ourselves *...in stillness and breath*

Prayer of Opening, Confession and Longing *(responsive)*

God of all Mystery, your power to transform life through death and resurrection is more than we can comprehend. Our response echoes through the ages as we proclaim:

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

God of endings and ceaseless new beginnings, we come with our longings for what life can be. We come to abandon our pretenses and offer up our hopes and dreams – that you may breathe new life into them.

Open our eyes to recognize your risen presence in our midst – that where there is despair and devastation, you reveal precious, transformed life.

Amen.

Musical Interlude *...to accompany our quiet prayers*

Assurance of Grace *(responsive)*

The peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

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.

Passing the Peace

...smiles and gestures of peace - to those online and seated near us

Choral Anthem

“Wayfaring Stranger”

written by Christian Songster, arranged by Craig Courtney

Sung Invitation

...as young people come forward

This little light of mine...

Singing “Happy Birthday”

Rick Buberl (4/8), Kathy Iverson (4/11)

Wondering Together

Blessing One Another

...with arms wide open

Children: 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 | Children (age 3 - gr. 4) can go downstairs with Claire & assistants

Youth Group | Youth (gr. 5-12) can stay in worship or assist with children downstairs

Nursery | Families with infants & toddlers can use the downstairs nursery
(& hear the service)

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

Reading from the gospels | NRSV (New Testament, p. 89 & 114)

Luke 23:38-24:3, John 20:1b-18

Contemporary Reading | Jan Richardson

"Seen: A Blessing for Easter Day"

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

*As reparations for use of Black spirituals, we support Walk 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.*

Morning Message

Prayer Hymn (NCH #433) “In the Bulb There is a Flower”

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 added to our printed Prayer Corner*

...God, in your love **Hear our prayer**

Prayer of Jesus (*unison*)

O Great Spirit, our Parent from above, your name is sacred and holy.

Bring your good road to us, where the beauty of your ways

in the spirit-world above is reflected in the earth below.

Provide for us day by day — the elk, the buffalo, and the salmon.

The corn, the squash, and the wild rice.

All the things we need for each day.

Release us from the things we have done wrong,

in the same way we release others for the things done wrong to us.

Guide us away from the things that tempt us to stray from your good road.

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

"Look at the Lilies"

Ylvsaker

***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.

*Holy Communion is open to members and friends of all ages
as we seek to follow Jesus in the way of radically inclusive love*

***The Invitation and Prayer**

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to the God of all. **Loving God, you are Creator of energy and matter, the heavens and the Earth. We celebrate you – joining our voices with the wind and streams, animals and flowers, the living and the dead (pause), the stars, planets, and all members of creation – forever proclaiming your expansive love. Amen.**

Words of Remembrance and Blessing

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

*Take a piece of (gluten-free) bread and a cup of juice, receiving words of blessing
Place your empty cup in a basket as you return to your seat*

Musical Interlude *... as we participate in the sacred meal*

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The bread of life and cup of blessing for everyone! **Thanks be to God!**

God of all, we give thanks for your gift of renewed life through inclusion at this table. May we extend gratitude outward in ever widening circles – furthering your justice and love in the world. May all life be renewed through resurrection love. Amen.

***Closing Hymn (NCH #4)** "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You"

***Benediction**

***Sending Song (next page)**

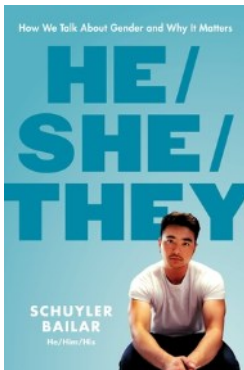
***Sending Song**

...forming a circle (not holding hands)

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

**Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me
Let there be peace on Earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as creator, family all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With ev’ry step I take, let this be my solemn vow;
To take each moment, and live each moment in peace eternally!
Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me.**

***Postlude**



Faith & Spirit Book Club
April 2nd & 16th | 5:30 pm

He/She/They: How We Talk About Gender and Why It Matters by Schuyler Bailar.

This will be discussed across two gatherings:
April 2nd and 16th.

Please let Pastor Clare know if you plan to attend.

Books available at a 15% discount at Valley Bookseller.
All are welcome – invite friends!

He/She/They uses storytelling and the art of conversation to give us the fundamental language and context of gender so that we can meet people where they are and pave the way to understanding, acceptance, and inclusion.



Community Collective
April 9th | 7 pm

Neighbors exploring inequities & working together
toward social justice in the St. Croix Valley
New participants are always welcome!

FREE

**Wednesday
Community
Supper
Bayport**



**Every Wednesday
5:30 - 6:30 pm**

Hosted at St. Croix United Church
309 N. Third St, Bayport

All ages are welcome!

*Sponsored by United Way of Washington County - East

*Catered by Son's Deli, Bayport




St. Croix United Church
309 N. Third St. | Bayport, MN
651-439-5667
www.stcroixunitedchurch.org



Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux (choir director), SCUC Choir, Lori Mildon (flute), Dennis Peters (trumpet), (greeters), Gary Piasecki (usher), Jonah Gromoll (youth usher), Sam Gromoll & Maya Klisch-Solano (acolytes), Betsy Runke (liturgist), Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux & Chris Bordeaux (breakfast hosts), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Carol Dusbabek, Claire Spilseth & assistants (preK-Gr5), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Kim Klisch (Easter Egg Hunt)



St. Croix United Church

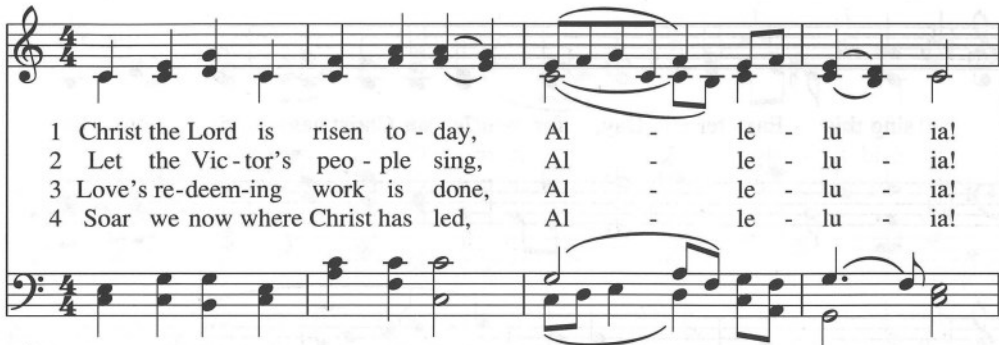
www.stcroixunitedchurch.org  @SCUCBayport

Pastor Clare Gromoll

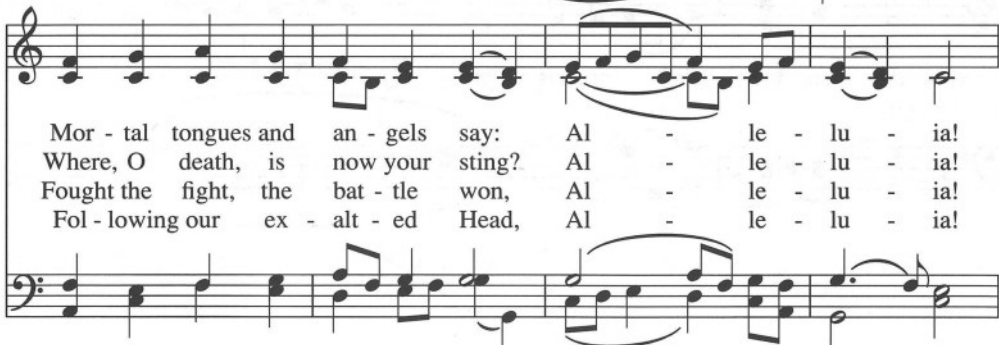
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*Matt. 28:5-8; 1 Cor. 15:20-22; 54-57**Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.*


1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!



Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!



Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!



Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
 God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

The unknown editor of Lyra Davidica wanted music with more movement and spirit than found in the grave, slow-paced psalm tunes, with one note to a syllable. Easter Hymn was among the first of a new popular style.

Tune: EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7. with alleluias
Arr. from Lyra Davidica, London, 1708

Natalie Sleeth, 1985

Unison

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn for ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

4

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Ps. 145:10; Isa. 49:13

Henry van Dyke, 1907; alt.

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore you, God of glo - ry, God of love;
 2 All your works with joy sur - round you, earth and heaven re - flect your rays,
 3 You are giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blessed,
 4 Mor - tals, join the might - y cho - rus which the morn - ing stars be - gan;

Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore you, open - ing to the sun a - bove.
 Stars and an - gels sing a - round you, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!
 Bound - less love is reign - ing o'er us, re - con - cil - ing race and clan.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the storms of doubt a - way;
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flower - y mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
 Lov - ing Spir - it, Fa - ther, Moth - er, all who love be - long to you;
 Ev - er sing - ing, move we for - ward, faith - ful in the midst of strife,

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, teach us what our praise should be.
 Teach us how to love each oth - er, by that love our joy re - new.
 Joy - ful mu - sic leads us on - ward in the tri - umph song of life.

Henry van Dyke was a noted church leader, U.S. ambassador, Navy chaplain, and prolific writer. Many people associate this hymn with Beethoven's ninth symphony, but few are aware of the original poem by the German classicist F. Schiller (1759–1805) that inspired Beethoven.

Tune: HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7.D.
 Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824
 Adapt. and harm. Edward Hodges, 1846