



April 19, 2026

“See. Touch. Believe.”

Guest Preacher:
Rev. Naomi Kirstein

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 “I Lift My Eyes Up”

Doerksen

...acknowledging the light of Christ among us

please observe silence as we settle into sacred time and space

Words of Welcome & Announcements

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.

***Invocation** (*responsive*)

Rising One, come to us this day. Transform shadow into light.

Returning One, hear and embrace the sounds of our cries.

Rising One, wake us and move us to dance.

Returning One, sing in us songs of peace.

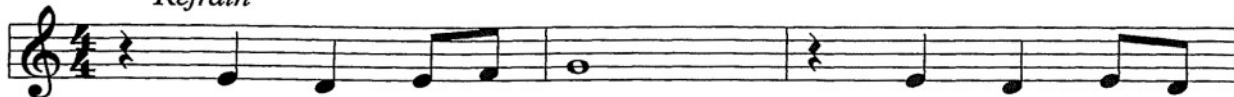
Rising One, appear over and over again.

Returning One, turn toward us as we turn toward you this Easter season.

***Opening Hymn**

“Joy Comes With the Dawn”

Refrain



Joy comes with the dawn;

joy comes with the



morn - ing sun;

joy springs from the tomb

and

Fine



scat-ters the night with her song, joy comes with the dawn.



1. Weep-ing may come;

weep-ing may come in the

2. Sor - row will turn,

sor - row will turn in - to

3. We will re - joice,

we will re - joice, and give

D.C.



night, when dark shad - ows cloud our sight.
song, and God's laugh - ter make us strong.
praise, to the One who brings us grace.

Centering Ourselves

...in stillness and breath

Prayer of Confession and Longing *(unison)*

God of resurrection power, break through the locked doors and walls of our certainty. Encourage our wonderings and our questions. Break into our doubt and confusion, that we might come to know your presence more fully in our lives and in the world. When we begin to judge ourselves and others, open the locked doors of our hearts. Give us the patience of the risen Christ, in whose 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

Sung Invitation

...as young people come forward

This little light of mine...

Singing “Happy Birthday”

Jackie Savage (4/19), Rebecca Dennis (4/20), David Kirstein (4/22),
Mary Piasecki (4/25)

Wondering Together

Blessing One Another

...with arms wide open

Young Ones: God be with you

All: And also with you

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.

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 Carol
Youth Group | Youth (gr. 5-12) go with Eli'jah to their downstairs meeting space
Nursery | Families with infants & toddlers are welcome to utilize the downstairs nursery
We welcome the sounds and movements of children who stay in worship!

Reading from the Gospels | NRSV, p. 114

John 20:1-31

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

Morning Message

“See. Touch. Believe.”

Prayer Hymn (NCH #238)

“Now the Green Blade Rises”

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

**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

“In the Presence of the Lord”

Trad American

***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*)

God of the Risen Christ, in you we find life and grace. You grant us peace and renewed life. Receive our gifts as part of our ongoing work to live out the gospel of Christ. In the name of Jesus, the Risen One, we pray. Amen.

***Closing Song (insert)** “Open My Eyes That I May See”

***Benediction**

***Sending Song**

...forming a circle (not holding hands)

“Peace I Leave With You”

**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!

PRAYER CORNER

*With Bob Schwartz, prayers of thanks for granddaughter, **Bea's**, continued healing and wellness – and for all who have been part of her journey.

*With Mary Binger, prayers for friend, **Dee**, and all those mired in hopelessness, sadness, and loss of purpose. Prayers, too, for those around them as they try to support in love.

*With Bob Heurung, gratitude for daughter **Laura's** 40th birthday and recent engagement.

*With Pastor Clare, gratitude for **Sam's** recent big success in life and development.

*For **Pastor Clare's** travels and vacation – may she be safe and refreshed!



Pastor Clare will be away on vacation | April 13-20

In the event of a question or need,
please contact one of the following:

Urgent Pastoral Concerns:

Rev. Dan Warnes (402-200-9680)

Other questions:

Megan Adams, Office Coordinator (651-439-5667, office@stcroixunitedchurch.org)

Nat Graf, Leadership Council Moderator (651-470-0408, ngraf11@gmail.com)

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



Wednesdays, 11 am
hybrid format

Connecting With the Word

Wednesday, April 22nd | 11:00 am @ Church

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.



Earth Day Circle

Wednesday, April 22nd | 7 pm @ Lakeside Park

Recognizing both the harm we do to the Earth and our capacity to connect and heal with words & music from many sources

Indigenous-led smudging with sage to the four directions

Linger after the circle for blessings of animals, and gentle Tai Chi

Conversations From the Heart

Thursday, April 23rd | 10:30 am & 6:30 pm @ Church

The Welcome and Care Team invites you to an opportunity to get to know fellow St. Croix United Church friends this Thursday.

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

All are welcome!



Sunday Potluck!

Sunday, April 26th | 10:45 am @ Church

The Welcome and Care Team invites you to join us after worship for a POTLUCK BRUNCH.

Please bring your favorite potluck item to share (drop it off between 9:00-9:30am). Beverages will be provided.

Join us for the first of what we hope to be a monthly event!

NOTE: We still need 2 people to sign up as Fellowship Lead and Fellowship Helper on a potluck Sunday (to receive potluck dishes between 9-9:30, serve, and clean up).

Sunday Potluck!

April 26th
following worship



Bring a dish to pass.
Beverages will be provided.

Faith & Spirit Book Club

Thursdays, May 7th & 21st | 5:30 pm @ Church

Mattering: The Secret to Building a Life of Deep Connection and Purpose
by Jennifer Breheny Wallace.



Week at a Glance:

Pastor Clare out of the office | April 13 – 20

Connecting with the Word | April 22, 11 am | @ Church

Staff Meeting | April 22, 4:15 pm | @ Church

Free Community Meal | April 22, 5:30 pm | @ Church

Earth Day Circle | April 22, 7 pm | @ Lakeside Park

Conversations from the Heart | April 23, 10:30 am | @ Church


Finance Committee | April 23, 1:30 pm | @ Church

Conversations from the Heart | April 23, 6:30 pm | @ Church

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux (choir director), Jane Hanson (usher), Sharri Kinkead (greeter), Kathy Iverson (liturgist), St. Croix United Choir, Diane & Joe Legato (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Carol Dusbabek & Wendy Heurung (children's activity)



St. Croix United Church

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Now the Green Blade Rises

238

John M. C. Crum, 1928; alt.

Matt. 27:57-28:7; Luke 23:50-24:12

1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain;
 2 In the grave they laid their Love whom hate had slain,
 3 Christ came forth at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain,
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,

Wheat that in dark earth for man - y days has lain;
 Think - ing that their Love would nev - er wake a - gain,
 Je - sus, who for three days in the grave had lain,
 Christ's warm touch can call us back to life a - gain,

Love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:
 Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen:
 Quick from the dead the ris - en One is seen:
 Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

Refrain
 Love is come a - gain like wheat that ris - es green.

John M. C. Crum, an English priest who was canon of Canterbury for fifteen years, wrote these words for this ancient French Christmas carol tune when it was included in the Oxford Book of Carols (1928).

Tune: NOËL NOUVELET 11.10.11.
 French noel, 15th century
 Harm. Martin F. Shaw, 1928

454 Open My Eyes, That I May See

1. O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou
 2. O - pen my ears, that I may hear voic-es of truth thou
 3. O - pen my mouth, and let me bear glad-ly the warm truth

hast for me; place in my hands the won-der - ful key
 send - est clear; and while the wave - notes fall on my ear,
 ev - ery-where; o - pen my heart and let me pre-pare

Refrain

that shall un-clasp and set me free.
 ev - ery-thing false will dis - ap-pear. Si - lent - ly now I
 love with thy chil - dren thus to share.

wait for thee, read - y, my God, thy will to see.

O - pen my eyes,
 O - pen my ears, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
 O - pen my heart,

WORDS: Clara H. Scott, 1895
 MUSIC: Clara H. Scott, 1895

OPEN MY EYES
 88.98 with Refrain