



May 3, 2026

“A Priesthood  
of Living Stones”

Baptism Sunday

### **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** “Come, Now is the Time to Worship” *Doerkson*

*...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)*

We gather to express our unity with God and with each other.

**Our community is bound together by a covenant whose signature is baptism.**

We inherit from our faith ancestors this covenant of belonging in God's love.

**Today, we renew our commitment to live in this covenant.**

Our circle of community includes those who bore witness at our Baptisms and other life milestones.

**As faithful people have done for years, let us worship God.**

**\*Opening Song (insert)**      "For All the Children"

---

**Centering Ourselves**      *...in stillness and breath*

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

**Merciful God, you work through us as channels of your care—inviting us into your great life of love. But often we refuse your invitation and turn away from your call. Instead of asking for help when we need it, we rely on our own stubborn will. Instead of knocking at the doors of your people, we hide from one another. Instead of seeking you in the faces of our sisters and brothers, we pretend not to see the needs and gifts around us.**

**Deliver us, great God. Grant us courage to live in peace and grace. 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”**

**Jane Hanson (5/7)**

## **Sacrament of Holy Baptism**

Zoey Ann Hintze-Graf,  
Edward “Eddy” Kenneth Hintze-Graf,  
Finley Lynn Hintze-Graf

## **Welcoming forward the Baptismal Family**

Tony Graf & Jessica Hintze (*parents*)  
Nat Graf & Pat Mazzitello (*grandparents*)  
Amy Gervais (*grandparent*)  
Rachel Sampson (*godparent*)  
Paul Tricola (*godparent*)  
Sue Favilla (*baptismal sponsor*)

## **Questions of the Baptismal Family**

### **Questions of the Gathered Community**

Members and friends of St. Croix United Church: Do you promise to nurture Zoey, Eddy and Finley in Christian faith by your loving actions? Will you affirm them as they journey in faith – striving to follow the way of Jesus with all their heart, mind, and strength? If so, please say, “we do and we will!”

## **Prayer over the Baptismal Waters**

### **The Act of Baptism**

#### **Dedication** (*unison*)

**Zoey, Eddy and Finley, your lives have been given to you as gifts from God. As we baptize you today, we also rededicate ourselves to God. We promise to do our best as channels of God’s love for you – leaning on the power of the Holy Spirit as we teach you the ways of our friend and savior, Jesus. May God’s love continue to shine upon you and through you. Amen.**

## A Prayer for Zoey, Eddy, Finley and Our Community

### Presentation of Gift and Certificates

### 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 Cindy  
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 New Testament** | *NRSV, p. 233*

1 Peter 2:2-10

**Contemporary Reading** | *Jan Richardson*

**"Baptism of Jesus: Beginning with Beloved"**

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

### Morning Message

**"A Priesthood of Living Stones"**

**Prayer Hymn (NCH #564)** "We Are Not Our Own"

### 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

**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 Offering**

*We give by cash, check or electronically (scanning the QR code)*

***Blue electronic giving cards** found in pew pockets.*



## **Offertory**

**“Say It! Sing It!”**

*Miller*

## **\*Song of Thanks**

**Praise, God, for these gifts;  
we lift them up for heaven’s blessing.  
Praise God, for these gifts;  
we lift them up to serve you, Lord.**

---

*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**

## Communion Song

“You Belong Here”

by The Many

cantor begins and sings verses, all join in the chorus

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff has a treble clef and a common time signature. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). Chords above are D, Bm7, and G. The second staff has a treble clef and a common time signature. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). Chords above are A, D, and Bm7. The third staff has a treble clef and a common time signature. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). Chord above is G.

Come and re-mem-ber who you are here. Do this to— re-mem-ber who I  
am. Come and re-mem-ber you be-long here. All be-  
long here.

As recorded by The Many.  
Lyrics by Lenora Rand. Music by Hannah Rand.  
© 2017 Plural Guild Music.

## 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 affirm the goodness of life and the openness of the future. You have come to us in this act of communion with one another. Now let us go out to others in the way of Jesus. May our every action bring healing, reconciliation and hope to a broken and hurting world. Amen.**

\*Closing Hymn (NCH #347) “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

\*Benediction

**\*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.

**\*Parting Music**

*...as we greet one another*

**Today Following Worship:**

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

**PRAYER CORNER**

\*For Cindy Baker's cousin, **Lynette**, gratitude that liver complications have been resolved and she can continue cancer treatments.

\*With Sam Gromoll, prayers for **Aunt Rebecca** as she enters hospice.

\*For **our country**, may we find ways other than violence to solve problems.

"The perfect antidote to our modern mental health epidemic!"  
—MAGAZINE THE ANTHROPOLOGIST  
"An urgent, culture-shifting book that will fundamentally  
reshape the way you live, lead and love."  
—SARAH BLOOMER

**Mattering**



The Secret to  
Building a Life of  
Deep Connection  
and Purpose

Jennifer Breheny Wallace  
Internationally Bestselling Author

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

**May 7th & 21st | 5:30 pm**

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

This will be discussed across two gatherings: May 7th & 21st.

Please let Pastor Clare know if you plan to attend.

In-person and on Zoom (reach out for the link).



## Week at a Glance:

**Connecting with the Word** | **May 6, 11 am** | @ Church & Zoom

**Free Community Meal** | **May 6, 5:30 pm** | @ Church

**Fireside Friends** | **May 7, 9:30 am** | @ Church

**Welcome & Care Team** | **May 7, 10:30 am** | @ Church

**Faith & Spirit Book Club** | **May 7, 5:30 pm** | @ Church & Zoom


**Social Justice Team** | **May 7, 6:45 pm** | @ Church

**Flourish Task Force** | **May 8, 4 pm** | via Zoom

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux (choir director & liturgist), Lori Mildon (flutist), Carol Dusbabek & Mary Horak Binger (ushers & communion servers), Bob Iverson (greeter), St. Croix United Choir, Sue Favilla & Jane Hanson (communion preparers), Kathy Iverson, Nat Graf, & Pat Mazzitello (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Cindy Baker & Roger Klisch (children's activity)



## St. Croix United Church

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

### Pastor Clare Gromoll

[pastor@stcroixunitedchurch.org](mailto:pastor@stcroixunitedchurch.org), (651) 600-6409

**Megan Adams** | Office Coordinator

[office@stcroixunitedchurch.org](mailto:office@stcroixunitedchurch.org), (651) 439-5667

**Eli'jah Carroll** | Youth Coordinator

[carroll.elijah2025@gmail.com](mailto:carroll.elijah2025@gmail.com), (920) 650-1225

CREDITS & PERMISSIONS | **Call to Worship** 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** adapted from *Flames of the Spirit: Resources for Worship* by Ruth C. Duck. Copyright © 1985 Pilgrim Press. **Scripture Reading from the New Testament of The NRSV. Contemporary Reading from** © Jan Richardson. [janrichardson.com](http://janrichardson.com). **Prayer of Dedication** reprinted or adapted by permission of the publisher from *Before the Amen: Creative Resources for Worship*, ed. Maren C. Tirabassi & Maria I Tirabassi. Copyright © 2007 The Pilgrim Press. **Communion liturgy** (Invitation & Prayer, Words of Remembrance) Adapted from *Living Table UCC*. Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-703858. All rights reserved.

# For All the Children



1. God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -  
2. Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be  
3. Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and  
4. God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the pro - mise of Your love.  
free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,  
shame so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.  
wide, can live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.



Though the day may not yet be here, we trust it soon will  
that they nev - er have a rea - son to doubt that they are  
May the mess - age now be ban - ished that Your love is for the  
As they grow in strength and sta - ture, may they join us hand in



be, when your chil - dren will be free.  
blest. May they, in Your love, find rest.  
few, may their faith in You re - new.  
hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.



O, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen



wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry - one in - side.



For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -



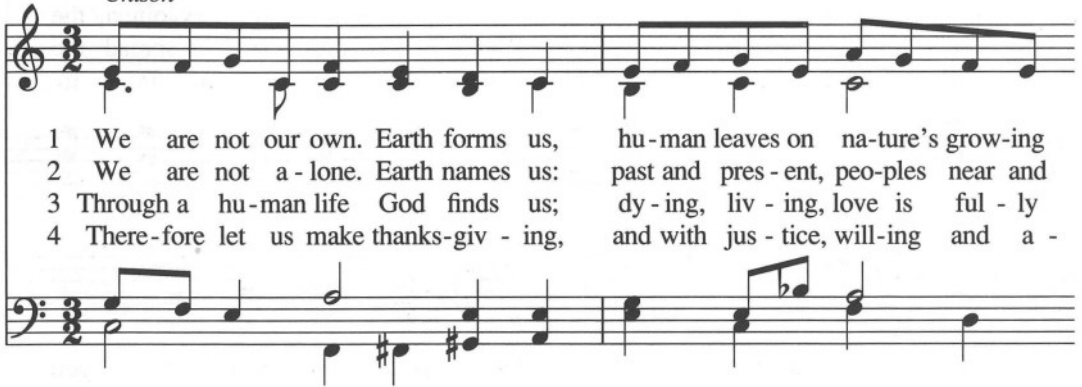
long. May that wel - come be our song.

# We Are Not Our Own

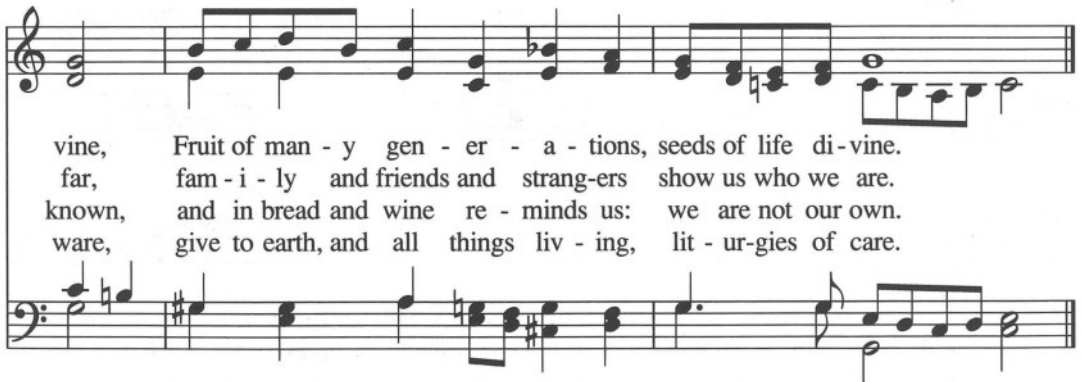
564

Brian Wren, 1987

Unison



1 We are not our own. Earth forms us, hu-man leaves on na-ture's grow-ing  
2 We are not a-lone. Earth names us: past and pres-ent, peo-ples near and  
3 Through a hu-man life God finds us; dy-ing, liv-ing, love is ful-ly  
4 There-fore let us make thanks-giv-ing, and with jus-tice, will-ing and a -



vine, Fruit of man-y gen-er-a-tions, seeds of life di-vine.  
far, fam-i-ly and friends and strang-ers show us who we are.  
known, and in bread and wine re-minds us: we are not our own.  
ware, give to earth, and all things liv-ing, lit-ur-gies of care.

5 And if love's en-coun-ters lead us  
on a way un-cer-tain and un-known,  
All the saints with prayer sur-round us:  
we are not a-lone.

6 Let us be a house of wel-come,  
liv-ing stone up-hold-ing liv-ing stone,  
Glad-ly show-ing all our neigh-bors  
we are not our own!

*This hymn was commissioned for the tenth anniversary of the Liturgical Studies Program of Drew University, New Jersey, in 1987. Brian Wren's melody came to him early on in the writing process and was helpful in the creation of the final hymn text.*

Tune: YARNTON 8.9.8.5.  
Brian Wren, 1987  
Arr. Fred Graham, 1987

Copyright © 1989 by Hope Publishing Company

347

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Luke 10:1-9

Fred Kaan, 1975; alt.

C F G Dm G C G

1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em-ploy, reach-ing out with a shout of joy:  
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at his ta - ble he set the tone,  
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,

C F G Dm7 C G C

bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.  
 teach-ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex-press.  
 gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im-man - u - el) ev - ery-where!

Refrain (first time *p*, second time *f*)

C C7 F Dm G C F C

Je-sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a-bound!

*This hymn came into being when composer Doreen Potter asked poet Fred Kaan to write a text for her adaptation of a Jamaican folk melody. It was first used at the World Council of Churches Assembly in Nairobi (1975), and in Vancouver (1983).*

Tune: LINSTEAD L.M. with refrain  
 Jamaican folk song  
 Adapt. Doreen Potter, 1975