



October 1, 2023

“Will They Know
We Are Christians
By Our Love?”

A United Church
Launches Today!

Let's welcome one another!

Name tags are in the Narthex

Welcome forms in the pews: request prayer, update contact info, join email list

The Love of God Gathers Us

Gathering Music

*We greet those around us or sit quietly,
settling into sacred time and space*

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude and Candle Lighting

“Unidos (United)”

Villanueva

Acknowledging the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome

Pastor Clare Gromoll

* = Sitting or standing

***Opening Hymn (NCH #451)**

“Be Now My Vision”
verses 1-2, 4

Acknowledging Our Need for God’s Grace

Prayer of Confession & Longing (*responsive*)

God of all, you have called us to be a congregation—embodying your love in our unique way in this valley alongside your beautiful, powerful river. We are ready to hear your Word. Grant us courage to listen and to do your will. Even with our doubts and shortcomings, we are deciding to follow Jesus in this time and place. Compassionate God, we confess the times when we have closed ourselves off from love, clinging to fear and letting shame cling to us. When we miss opportunities to be channels for your love, we have become stagnant and stuck. May love open, warm, and heal us. Forgive us and give us courage to trust the ways you flow through us. Guide us by your loving Spirit. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

*...the singing bowl welcomes us into silence
as our longings quietly emerge*

Assurance of Grace (*responsive*)

One: The peace of Christ be with you! **All:** And also with you!

***Passing the Peace**

*We share signs of peace (smiles, handshakes, hands at heart center)
We extend the peace later by phone or email*

A Time With Children and Youth

Sung Invitation

...as our young people come forward

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, oh let it shine.**

Singing “Happy Birthday”

Betsy Stokes (25th), Natalie Graf (26th), Eleanora Favilla (Oct. 1st – 10yrs)

Wondering Together

Pastor Daniel Harrell

Blessing One Another

Seated, we open our arms to the children and youth

Children: God be with you

All: And also with you

Sung Affirmation

...as young people depart or return to families

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine,

let it shine, let it shine, oh let it shine.

*Youngest children (infant - age 3) | Nursery care available downstairs
Older children & youth remain in worship today | Sunday School starts next week!*

We welcome sounds and movements of children who stay in worship.

Proclaiming God's Love

A Reading from Epistles | NRSV, *pg. 197*

Philippians 2:1-13

A Reading from the Gospels | NRSV, *pg. 111*

John 17:14-23

Morning Message

“Will They Know We Are Christians By Our Love?”

Responding To God's Love

Choral Anthem

“Come, Come Unto Me”

Ken Dosso

Prayers of the People

We share aloud prayers for ourselves, others, and parts of the world

We'll add them to our printed and electronic Prayer Corner

Please let Pastor Clare know if you don't want yours added to the Prayer Corner

One: God, in your love

All: Hear our prayer

Prayer of Jesus (*unison*)

**Our Father and Mother who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kin-dom 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 kin-dom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

Invitation to the Offering

*Greeters pass offering plates at this time
We give by cash, check or electronically (scanning the QR code)
Pledged gifts marked for one of our predecessor churches are tracked
accordingly. Loose offerings go to our newly merged church.
[Blue Giving Cards and Welcome Forms](#) also go in the plate*



Offertory

“Take My Gifts ”

Gibson

*Offertory Response

“Praise God” by John Mueller
sung twice

**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.**

Rite of Membership & Affirmation of Leaders

Charge to the Congregation, Bridge Leadership Council and Pastor

Rev. Kelly Gallagher

Questions of the Charter Members of a New Church

Pastor Daniel Harrell

Do you seek to continue your journey of faith, following the way of God’s Love as revealed and embodied by Jesus the Christ, resisting oppression and evil while showing love and justice, relying on the guidance of the Holy Spirit? (*pause*)

Do you promise to live in covenant with your fellow members of this new congregation; challenging one another to live out the values of our faith; worshiping together and supporting shared ministries with your presence, talent, and financial support? *(pause)* Do you promise to open your heart and mind in love among these siblings in Christian faith—allowing yourself to be changed, shaped, and transformed by this community as you live into your called identity as a beloved child of God?

Trusting in God's grace, I do.

Questions of the Bridge Leadership Council

Members of the Bridge Leadership Council, will you commit yourself to leadership during this time of transition? Will you carry out your duties in a manner consistent with our Christian faith and with the bylaws of this new congregation? Will you weave together the best that both former congregations bring to the formation of this new community, welcoming input as you navigate leadership of faithful shared ministries?

Trusting in God's grace, I will.

Questions of the Pastor

Clare Gromoll, will you commit yourself to serving as pastor of this new congregation, trusting that God has called you to caring leadership through this community of faith? Will you carry out your ministry in a manner consistent with our Christian faith and with the bylaws of this new congregation? Will you love and pray for these people, nourish them with the word and sacraments, and lead by example through faithful service and living?

Trusting in God's grace, I will.

Questions of the Congregation

People of God, do you receive the leadership of Pastor Clare Gromoll and of your Bridge Leadership Council, trusting that the Love of God empowers them to serve alongside you as you embody the gospel message? Will you pray for them, collaborate with them as partners in ministry, and strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

Trusting in God's grace, we do and we will.

***Laying On of Hands**

*All are invited forward to affirm our Leadership Council, Pastor Clare, and one another.
Place a hand on a shoulder as we connect in a web of faith community.*

Going Forth to Share God's Love

***Closing Hymn (NCH #347)** "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ "
all verses

***Benediction**

***Sending Song** *...forming a circle around the perimeter of the worship space*

"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.**

We carry the light of Christ with us in all times and spaces.

***Postlude** "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" *Lutkin*

After-Worship Fellowship

All are welcome to join us in the Fellowship Hall for treats in good company!

Today Following Worship:

10:30 am | Fellowship

11 am | Faith Conversations *(an adult forum, childcare provided)*

This October, as we grow into our new merged community, we will delve deeper into how we interpret our faith and act through our own distinct spiritual 'types.'

We make an annual gift to Walker West (St. Paul, MN) as a reparations payment for use of "This Little Light of Mine." Walker West creates 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 CORNER

Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:

For persons known to us...

*Celebrating Anniversaries: **Bob Dickie and Cindy Parsons (24th), Walt and Paula Richey (27th)**

Oct. 4, 6:30 - 8 pm



An opportunity for women of all ages to step together into our life as a merged congregation!

Zvago Stillwater Cooperative
114 Brick St. S. Stillwater
Co-hosted by Kathy Iverson & Wendy Staberg

November 18, 9 am—3 pm



Fresh Wreaths
Silent Auction
50/50 Raffle
Bake Shoppe
Local Artisans
Musicians
Soup & Bread Lunch

Spread the word!

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Michael Bjork (Choir Director), PCC Choir, Jane Hanson and Cheri Schwartz (greeters), Jonah Gromoll (youth greeter), Sam Gromoll (acolyte), Mary Maren Bjork (liturgist), Mindy Peters (communion preparer and server), Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux and Chris Bordeaux (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (Sanctuary organizer, outdoor sign), Lisa Culbertson (Childcare Provider), Jenni Shaller (decorations), Rev. Kelly Gallagher (MNUCC Assoc. Conf. Minister)




A United Church

with roots in People's Congregational & St. Peter's UCC



A United Church

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Be Now My Vision

Ancient Irish text, c. 8th century; transl. Mary E. Byrne, 1905
 Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912; adapt.

Unison

1 Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;
 2 Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;
 3 Rich - es I need not, nor life's emp - ty praise,
 4 Sov - ereign of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part—
 ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;
 you, my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

You my best thought, by day or by night,
 Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,
 You and you on - ly are first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.
 now and for - ev - er your child I will be.
 great God, my trea - sure, may we nev - er part.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Dating from the eighth century or earlier, this Irish hymn was translated into prose by Mary Byrne. It was then versified by Eleanor Hull, author of several books on Irish literature and history. David Evans arranged the Irish melody for this text in 1927.

Tune: SLANE 10.10.9.10.
 Traditional Irish melody
 Harm. David Evans, 1927

ENCOUNTER

112 Come to the Table of Grace

$\text{♩} = 90$

1. Come to the ta - ble of grace. _____
 2. Come to the ta - ble of peace. _____
 3. Come to the ta - ble of love. _____
 4. Come to the ta - ble of joy. _____

Come to the ta - ble of grace. _____
 Come to the ta - ble of peace. _____
 Come to the ta - ble of love. _____
 Come to the ta - ble of joy. _____

This is Christ's ta - ble not just yours or mine.
 This is Christ's ta - ble not just yours or mine.
 This is Christ's ta - ble not just yours or mine.
 This is Christ's ta - ble not just yours or mine.

Come to the ta - ble of grace. _____
 Come to the ta - ble of peace. _____
 Come to the ta - ble of love. _____
 Come to the ta - ble of joy. _____

HOLY COMMUNION

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