



September 8, 2024

"How Can We
Practice Mutuality?"

Connection Sunday

Welcome!

We encourage wearing name tags.

The Love of God Gathers Us

Gathering Music

We gently settle into sacred time and space

Ring the Bell

Prelude & Candle Lighting "Deep Within Our Hearts"

Liberatore

We acknowledge the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome & Announcements

***Prayer of Gathering (unison)**

Gracious God, we welcome your uplifting presence among us today. We move with excitement toward autumn, even if wistful for summer rhythms. Bless this church family as we sing, pray, learn and serve together. May our worship and ministry glorify your love. May our gifts from your Spirit build up the body of Christ. Amen.

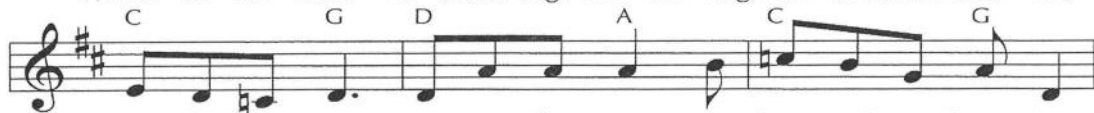
*Opening Hymn

"Gather Us In"

verses 1-2, 4



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Acknowledging Our Need for God's Grace

Centering Ourselves

... as the singing bowl's vibrations invite us into depths of grace

Prayer of Confession and Longing *(responsive)*

O God, this is a season of changes. We feel it in the cooler air. Some are finding our way back to school, and we all want to learn.

Help us to grow in wisdom and maturity.

Some of us are watching the harvest arrive, while other gardens struggle.

May our hearts produce love and kindness.

Many of us are leaving vacations behind.

But God, you renew our lives by filling us with your joy and your rest.

Creative God, every year the world spins through its seasons as new troubles emerge.

Steady and soothe your Earth, that its struggles lead to healing and peace.

Loving God, we confess that we have not always chosen your ways of healing and peace.

May we stretch and grow, always remembering that we are your children. 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**

To those with us online and onsite: smiles, peace signs, handshakes

A Time With Children and Youth

Sung Invitation

...as young people come forward

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

Singing "Happy Birthday"

Kayla Garcia (9/10), Claire Spilseth (9/11), Dale Shaller (9/14)

Wondering Together & Blessing of Backpacks

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, I'm gonna let it shine...

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

*Children's Activity | Children (gr. K-4) follow leaders to the picnic shelter
(4-year-olds are welcome in Children's Activity, at parent's discretion)*

Youth Group | Youth (gr. 5-12) go with Telae

Nursery Care | Toddlers and Preschoolers join Lisa on the playground

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

Proclaiming God's Love

A Reading from the Gospels | TIB

Mark 7:24-37

A Reading from the Epistles | TIB

James 2:10-17

Here ends the readings.

May God speak to us through these sacred words.

Morning Message

"How Can We Practice Mutuality?"

Responding To God's Love

Prayer Song (SPP #187)

"Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary"

all verses

Prayers of the People

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

Prayer of Jesus (*unison*)

**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 the Offering

*We give by cash, check or electronically (scanning the QR code)
Blue giving cards represent gifts made electronically.*



Offertory

“Touch the Earth Lightly”

Murray

***Offertory Response**

**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.**

***Prayer of Dedication** (*unison*)

God of all, we come to you in plenty and in want. Teach us to receive without embarrassment when we have needs. Help us to give without reservation when we have abundance. Bless and multiply our gifts, unwrapping our hearts to you every day. Amen.

***Closing Song (SPP #139)** “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”
all verses

Going Forth to Share God’s Love

***Benediction**

***Sending Song**

Optionally linking elbows or holding hands

Irish Blessing
sung twice

**May the road rise to meet you
May the wind be at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face
The rain fall soft upon your fields
And until we meet again
Till we meet again
May God hold you in the palm of God’s hand**

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

***Postlude**

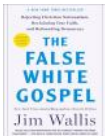
“Peace”

J. Rose

After-Worship Fellowship

All are welcome to linger on the lawn for refreshments & good company!

Book Club | Sept. 12 & 26 | 6:30—8 pm



You are invited to join our book club reading of Jim Wallis' *The False White Gospel* to help deepen our understanding of Christian Nationalism and learn ways of combating its message. Sept 12 focus: chap. 4—6

Blood Drive Sept. 17th | 9 am—3 pm | St. Croix United Church
Call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter
“Bayport” to schedule an appointment.



PRAYER CORNER

*For grieving loved ones, students and staff, and the community surrounding **Apalachee High School** in Georgia, where a shooting killed 4 and injured 9.

*With Aidan Gromoll (providing medical care to refugees near the English Channel), we pray for **loved ones of the twelve people (mostly women and children) who died on Tuesday** as they attempted to cross from France to England.

*For Jane Hanson's close friend, **Carl**, currently in the VA hospital with multiple health concerns.

*For **Sharon Neuenfeldt and sister-in-law, Jenna**, in the wake of losing Sharon's brother, Greg.

*Celebrating anniversaries: **Adam and Kaira Bettin** (9/10)

Stillwater Chamber
of Commerce
Ribbon Cutting
Ceremony



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Sponsored by the Greater Stillwater Chamber of Commerce

Sept. 17th | 11 am @ St. Croix United Church

Come celebrate the merging of our two congregations into one!
Refreshments will follow on the church lawn.

Harvest Fest - Planning Team Meeting

Sept. 18 | 10:30 am

Would you like to be part of the conversation as we start planning for Harvest Fest 2024? You're welcome to attend our next meeting to see if it interests you. Fresh ideas are welcome! When this annual friend-raising, fundraising event rolls around (**Nov. 23**), it will be all hands on deck!

Any questions? Please contact Mary Binger
(mehbinger@gmail.com, 651-357-8601).



Derby Days "Party in the Park" Refreshment Stand

Sept. 20 | 5 - 10 pm

Help hand out cups of water, treats, and backpack tags for kids! Let us know if you can join Pastor Clare at our table for part of the evening (please specify your hours) OR drop off plated/easy-to-grab cookies/bars (store-bought and home-baked both welcome) in the church kitchen, Sept. 17-19. Thank you!

St. Croix United Church

Grand Opening Celebration

Sunday, Sept. 22 | 11-1pm


Fun * Food * Music

Please plan to attend our grand opening! We'll enjoy light lunch, music, a self-guided building tour, children's activities (face painting w/ a firefighter, button making w/ a local librarian). The celebration culminates in a 12:30pm service of blessing led by clergy from various local faith communities.

Watch for ways to help out. And bring a friend that day!

Thank you to today's partners: Telae (Youth & Outreach Director), Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Lori Mildon (flute), Jane Hanson, Maya Klisch-Solano (greeters), Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux (liturgist), Cheri Schwartz (cantor), Chris Bordeaux (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Lisa Culbertson (nursery care), Carol Dusbabek & Kim Klisch (children's activity), Sue Favilla (youth group assistant)



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RESPOND

187 Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary

$\text{♩} = 60$

D/A Em/A D A

1. Lord pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and
- pow'r me to be a wit - ness for you, act - ing

G Em⁷ D/A A A⁷

ho - ly, tried and true; with thanks -
bold - ly, in your name; seek - ing

D A

-giv - ing, I'll be a liv - ing sanc - tu -
jus - tice, where there is hurt - ing off - 'ring

G Em⁷ A⁷ D D/A Em/A D

1. - ar - y for you. 2. God em -
hope where there is pain.

Words (verse 1) and Music: John W. Thompson and Randy Scruggs

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Words (verse 2): Scott A. Ressman, Copyright ©2009. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me 139

$\text{♩} = 68$

F Bbmaj7/C F F7

1. I'm gon-na live so _____ God can use me _____ an - y -
2. I'm gon-na work so _____ God can use me _____ an - y -
3. I'm gon-na pray so _____ God can use me _____ an - y -
4. I'm gon-na sing so _____ God can use me _____ an - y -

Bb Cm/Bb Bb Bb/D Gm/F C/F Gmsus/F

- time, Lord, _____ and an - y - where. _____
- time, Lord, _____ and an - y - where. _____
- time, Lord, _____ and an - y - where. _____
- time, Lord, _____ and an - y - where. _____

F C7 F F/Eb D7 A7/E

- I'm gon-na live so _____ God can use me _____
- I'm gon-na work so _____ God can use me _____
- I'm gon-na pray so _____ God can use me _____
- I'm gon-na sing so _____ God can use me _____

D7 D7/F# G9 C7sus Bbmaj7/C F

- an - y - time, Lord, _____ and an - y - where. _____
- an - y - time, Lord, _____ and an - y - where. _____
- an - y - time, Lord, _____ and an - y - where. _____
- an - y - time, Lord, _____ and an - y - where. _____