



November 24, 2024

“Will We Invest
In One Another?”

Stewardship Sunday

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)

The Love of God Gathers Us

Gathering Music

We gently settle into sacred time and space

Ring the Bell

Prelude & Candle Lighting “For the Beauty of the Earth”

arr. White

We acknowledge the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Opening Words from a Neighbor

***Prayer of Gathering** (*responsive*)

God of all, there is a place of faith deep inside us—
A place where you sow seeds of trust, hope and love.

We come this morning to worship you.
We bring trust that makes us vulnerable.

We bring hope that you will guide us—
And you meet us with your boundless love.

We come to connect with the faith deep inside us.
Send your Holy Spirit to fill and strengthen us. Amen.

***Opening Hymn (NCH #422)** “Come, O Thankful People, Come”
all verses

Acknowledging Our Need for God’s Grace

Centering Ourselves *...as the singing bowl invites us into stillness*

Prayer of Confession and Longing (*unison*)

**God of all, you reveal many opportunities to do justice, kindness, and love.
Sometimes we step forward; sometimes we turn away.**

**Sometimes we take paths that lead not toward you but away from you.
Be with us on our journey. Draw us closer to you.**

**Help us reach out to others in companionship, generosity, and solidarity.
Creator, Revealer, Sustainer – may we embody your love through our living.
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

Tibetan singing bowls took form in the 6th and 5th centuries BCE. In some Buddhist traditions, singing bowls accompany meditation and chanting. Since the 1970s, singing bowls have also contributed to spiritual practices in the United States.

A Time With Children and Youth

Sung Invitation

...as young people come forward

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

Singing “Happy Birthday”

Emily Wulff (11/30)

Wondering Together

Blessing One Another

...with arms wide open

Young Ones: God be with you

All: And also with you

Sung Affirmation

...as young people return to families

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

Children's Activity | Children (age 3 - gr. 4) go downstairs with Cindy and Wendy
Youth Group | Youth (gr. 5-12) go with Telae to their main-level meeting space
Nursery | Families with infants & toddlers are welcome to utilize the downstairs nursery
(the worship service can be heard in the nursery)

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

Proclaiming God's Love

A Reading from the Gospels | NRSV (part 2, p. 6)

Matthew 6:19-21, 25-33

A Reading from the Epistles | NRSV (part 2, p. 183)

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Here ends the readings.

May God speak to us through these sacred words.

Morning Message

“Will We Invest In One Another?”

As reparations for use of “This Little Light of Mine” and other 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.

Responding To God's Love

Musical Interlude

*An opportunity to respond: **I want to invest myself more fully in...**
We can place our intentions in the Giving Basket later in the service*

Prayer Hymn (NCH #562)

**“Take My Gifts”
all verses**

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)

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

the hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on Earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

Witnessing Steward

Therese Thorson



“Imagine Together” (Fall Stewardship Campaign, Nov. 3—24)

“The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and shouting.” –Isaiah 35:1-2

- How has participation in our congregation changed your life?
- How can you imagine us positively impacting lives in 2025?

Invitation to the Offering

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



Offertory

“Sing to the Lord of Harvest”

Steurlein

*We bring forward to the giving basket (or send forward with a neighbor):
2025 pledge forms, offerings & electronic giving cards for today
poinsettia order forms, written intentions*

*Offertory Response (NCH #448) “Take My Life, God, Let It Be”

**Take my life, God, let it be consecrated faithfully.
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my love and help it grow; let me loving overflow.
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ’s community.**

*Prayer to Consecrate Our Shared Gifts for Ministry (*unison*)

Generous God of all – you inspire our commitments to give away a portion of our resources. Bless our gifts of gratitude, investment, and trust. Uplifted by your loving presence, we recommit ourselves to serving as your hands and feet through our ministries as a congregation. May the gifts we give today and in the coming year move us to more deeply and fully embody your justice, kindness, and love. Amen.

Going Forth to Share God’s Love

*Closing Hymn (NCH #425) “For the Fruit of All Creation” **all verses**

*Benediction

*Sending Song

*Optionally holding hands
(Cont’d on next page...)*

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**

“With Grateful Heart, We Thank You, Lord”

Beall

Today Following Worship:

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

PRAYER CORNER

*For the life of **Linda Tossey**, we give thanks. She was surrounded with tender support leading up to and through her peaceful Nov. 19th passing. We pray that God's strong love will enfold all who miss Linda for years to come. Details to come about a Dec. 14th memorial service.

*With Chris Staberg, we pray for the family of his close friend, **Peter Boetcher**, who passed away unexpectedly on Nov. 12th at 39 years old.

Thanksgiving Office Hours:

The office will be **OPEN** on Monday, Nov. 25th,
and Tuesday, Nov. 26th, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm.

We will be **CLOSED** on Wednesday and Thursday,
Nov. 27-28.

*“Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.
God's love endures forever.” —Psalm 107: 1*



Poinsettia orders are due tomorrow!

Please place your order in the offering, Megan's office mailbox, or emailed to the office.



Healing Session

Tuesday, Nov. 26 | 4 pm



Healing Sessions

You are welcome to experience a healing session with Lori Mildon and Diane Markel (Mary Ann Litfin is taking a much-needed break this month)! Both are trained and experienced in both Reiki and Healing Touch energy healing modalities. Their objective is to help you deeply relax and find relief from discomfort in body, mind, and spirit.

Timeslots begin at 4pm and will be 45 min. apart.

Therefore, there are 6 slots available: 4:00, 4:45, and 5:30.

For questions or to reserve your time, please contact Lori Mildon at 612-770-0327 or LMildon2001@yahoo.com

Gentle Tai Chi

Mondays 7pm and Wednesdays 10am

For notifications of cancellations or vacations, please contact MaryAnn to be added to the email list:
Mary Ann Litfin | malitfin@gmail.com | 612-382-9920



Connection... Balance... Renewal

Women's Gathering



Women's Gathering

Saturday, Dec. 7 | 11am

Join us as we start our holiday celebrations with a visit to the charming country home of Sharri Kinkead. Soup, bread, and lively conversation are on the menu!

Location: 444 County Road F Hudson, WI 54016

Reservations are appreciated—morninggloryfarm@baldwin-telecom.net



Week at a Glance:

Church Office Open | MONDAY & Tuesday, Nov. 25-26, 8:30-3:30

Gentle Tai Chi | Nov. 25, 7 pm | @ Church

Healing Session | Nov. 26, 4 pm | @ Church

Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving Break | Wed & Thurs, Nov. 27 - 28

Gentle Tai Chi | Nov. 27, 10 am | @ Church

Choir Rehearsal | Nov. 27, 6:30 pm | @ Church

Happy Thanksgiving! | Nov. 28

Thank you to today's partners: Telae (Youth & Outreach Director), Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Lori Mildon (flute), Sharon Binger & Jonah Gromoll (greeters), Mary Maren Bjork & Sam Gromoll (liturgists), St. Croix United Choir, Diane & Joe Legato (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Cindy Baker & Wendy Staberg (age 3 - gr 4), Jane Hanson (youth group), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Sharri Kinkead & Kathy Iverson (altar decor)




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Come, O Thankful People, Come

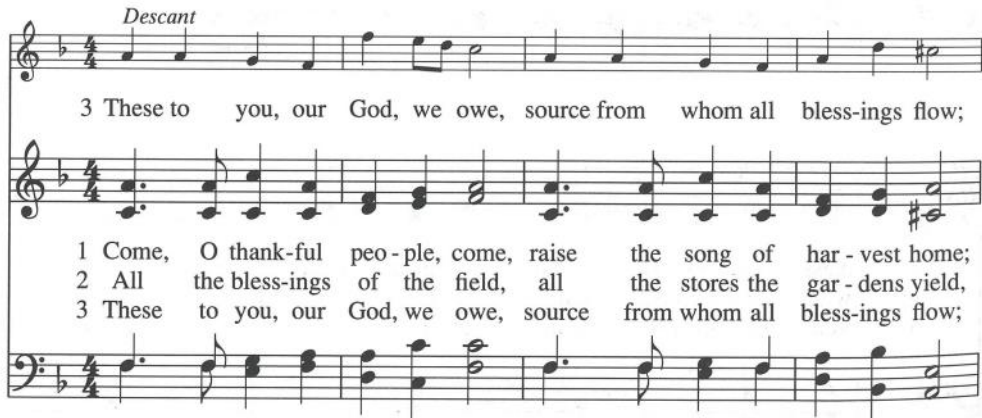
Exod. 23:16

St. 1, Henry Alford, 1844; alt.

St. 2, Anna Laetitia Aiken Barbauld, 1772; alt.

St. 3, composite of Alford and Barbauld; alt.

Descant



3 These to you, our God, we owe, source from whom all blessings flow;

1 Come, O thank-ful peo-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home;

2 All the bless-ings of the field, all the stores the gar-dens yield,

3 These to you, our God, we owe, source from whom all blessings flow;

This hymn represents the joining of two Thanksgiving hymns by nineteenth-century poet Henry Alford and eighteenth-century poet Anna Laetitia Aiken Barbauld. The creator of this combined form, which appeared early in the twentieth century, is not known.

Tune: ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR 7.7.7.7.D.

George J. Elvey, 1858

Descant: H. A. Chambers, 1931

Scroll to the next page for page 2 of this hymn,

and for these our songs we raise, grate - ful vows and sol - emn praise.

all is safe - ly gath - ered in as the win - ter storms be - gin;
 all the fruits in full sup - ply, rip - ened 'neath the sum - mer sky,
 and for these our songs we raise, grate - ful vows and sol - emn praise.

Come, then, thank - ful peo - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home;

God our Mak - er does pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied;
 All that spring with boun - teous hand scat - ters o'er the smil - ing land,
 Come, then, thank - ful peo - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home;

come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.

come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.
 all that lib - eral au - tumn pours from its rich o'er - flow - ing stores,
 come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.

Take My Gifts

562

Shirley Erena Murray, 1991

1 Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
2 Take the fruit that I have gath - ered from the tree your Spir - it sowed,
3 Take what - ev - er I can of - fer— gifts that I have yet to find,

gave me light and food and shel - ter, gave me life and set me free,
har - vest of your own com - pas - sion, juice that makes the wine of God,
skills that I am slow to sharp - en, tal - ents of the hand and mind,

now be - cause your love has touched me, I have love to give a - way,
spiced with hu - mor, laced with laugh - ter— fla - vor of the Je - sus life,
things made beau - ti - ful for oth - ers in the place where I must be:

now the bread of love is ris - ing, loaves of love to mul - ti - ply!
tang of risk and new ad - ven - ture, taste and zest be - yond be - lief.
take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.

Take My Life, God, Let It Be

448

Frances R. Havergal, 1874; alt.

Rom. 12:1

1 Take my life, God, let it be con - se - crat - ed faith - ful - ly.
2 Take my spir - it, let it move at the im - pulse of your love.
3 Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.
4 Take my love and help it grow; let my lov - ing ov - er - flow.

Take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease-less praise.
Take my in - tel - lect and use all its pow - ers as you choose.
Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwell - ing place.
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's com - mu - ni - ty.

Frances R. Havergal wrote her hymn following a visit to Areley House in Worcestershire, England. Among the ten persons at the house were "some unconverted . . . some converted but not rejoicing." Before she left, "everyone had got a blessing."

Tune: VIENNA 7.7.7.7.
Justin H. Knecht, 1797
Alternate tune: HENDON

For the Fruit of All Creation

425

Fred Pratt Green, 1970

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For God's gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,

Fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 In the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
 Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

This text was written in response to a request for a new harvest hymn for an existing tune. After its publication in England in 1970, it became popular in many countries and can be found set to various tunes.

Tune: AR HYD Y NOS 8.4.8.4.8.8.8.4.
 Welsh traditional melody
 Musical Relicks of the Welsh Bards, Dublin, 1784
 Harm. L. O. Emerson, 1906
 For another harmonization, see 82