

February 1, 2026

“Blessing One Another”

New Member Sunday  
Annual Meeting

### **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**      “Tierra Calle”

Stevens

*...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.

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

God, we need peace—**so we come for quiet.**

We need joy—**so we come for singing.**

We need to let things go—**so we come for forgiveness.**

We need hope—**so we come for scripture and community.**

We come this morning from our own routines—

**May we leave with the blessings we long for and also unexpected gifts. Amen.**

**\*Opening Song (SPP #26)** “You Are Welcome Here”

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**Centering Ourselves**

*...in stillness and breath*

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

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the realm of heaven.

**Forgive us our spiritual arrogance.**

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

**Forgive us our false independence.**

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

**Forgive us our misplaced aggression.**

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst, for they shall be satisfied.

**Forgive us our gluttony.**

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

**Forgive us our half-hearted commitment.**

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.

**Forgive us for waging war.**

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the realm of heaven.

**Forgive us for not taking a stand. Gracious God, forgive us. 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*

### **Choral Anthem**

### **“Hallelujah”**

*by Leonard Cohen*

*with new lyrics by Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux*

I heard he had a healing touch, when a person didn't have too much  
The broken and the cast aside, I tell ya  
He walked along the sick and lame – the ones society would shame  
And lifted up the fallen – Hallelujah. Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.  
He sat with beggars in the street, he washed the leper's weary feet  
When all the others pass'd him by, I can tell ya  
No palace halls or golden throne – he made the outcast feel at home  
And spoke of love & mercy – Hallelujah. Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.  
The rich man asked him what to do, he said give up what you have it's true  
Just follow me and give to others, will ya  
The last will be the first in line, the meek will see the grand design  
And every broken heart sing Hallelujah. Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

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### **Sung Invitation**

*...as young people come forward*

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

### **Singing “Happy Birthday”**

*Are there any birthdays this week?*

### **Invitation to the Rite of Membership**

### **Sharing by our Candidates for Membership**

Susan Jarosak, Betsy Runke,  
Angelica & Ronnie Van Iperen

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.

## Questions of the Candidates

Do you seek to follow Jesus in the way of God's Love, trusting the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the companionship of this community?

Do you promise to open your heart and mind among these siblings in Christian faith, trusting that we can help one another grow along the journey of faith?

Do you promise to support our ministries with your presence, talent, and resources – trusting that together we can nurture a vibrant community?

## Presentation of Membership Certificates & Gifts

### \*Laying On of Hands

*All are invited forward to lay hands on our new members as a sign of support.*

*Place a hand on a shoulder as we connect in a web of faith community.*

### \*Covenanting Together

Marianne Warnes – Leadership Council Clerk

Please join with me in covenanting together.

**Enfolded in God's love, we gladly embrace Susan, Betsy, Angelica, and Ronnie as our newest members in this Christian community. We recommit ourselves to mutual care and partnership in ministry. We trust the Holy Spirit to inspire and encourage our efforts to embody love in the world. Amen!**

### 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, I'm gonna let it shine...**

***Children's Activity (age 3 - grade 4) | Children can go downstairs with Claire***

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

**Reading from the Gospels | First Nations Version**

Matthew 5:1-12

**Contemporary Reading | by Jan Richardson**

“Blessing That Knows”

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

## Morning Message

## “Blessing One Another”

## Prayer Hymn (insert)

## “The Summons” verses 1, 4-5

## 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 or printed in our Prayer Corner*

...God, in your love      **Hear our prayer**

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## Invitation to Offering

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

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



## Offertory

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

*S. Temple*

## \*Song of Thanks

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below – Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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*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

### 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 salt and light, for the healing you offer through broken bread and poured cup, thank you. For the community you restore in us through the sharing of life, thank you. For the courage and strength you promise to us, thank you. Send us forth from this place in love – to do justice with gentleness and power through your Spirit. Amen.**

**\*Closing Song (SPP #123)**     “Draw the Circle Wide”

#### **\*Benediction**

**\*Sending Song**     *...forming a circle (not holding hands)*

*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!

11 am | **Annual Meeting**



# Annual Meeting

**TODAY**

Following Worship

## PRAYER CORNER

\*for Jane Hanson's best friend's brother, **Marlyn**, as he enters hospice with quickly spreading lung cancer. May he—and all who love him—be surrounded by love in this time.

\*For **Sharon Neuenfeldt**, as she has surgery Feb. 5th to relieve pain in her hand—for swift and complete healing.

\*For **Alex Pretti** and every neighbor who has been executed by ICE this winter. May they rest in peace and love beyond what we imagine... and may peace and love surround their loved ones.

\*For 7-year-old **Arwin**, as she navigates custody hearings. May she be surrounded with stability and safety.

\*Gratitude for our recent **vigil** - for people coming together in the face of adversity and evil.

\*For Sharon Neuenfeldt's daughter, **Kristy**, as she moves through the trauma of her house catching fire. May she be given a spirit of resilience.

\*For Pastor Clare's mom, **Norda**, healing in mind, body, and spirit after a fall, having fractured her femur next to a hip prosthesis.

\*Gratitude for the opportunity to have our faith tested - to find our grit and tenacity; to examine what we believe and truly take a stand.

\*For **John Mueller**, a musician friend of our church, as he recovers from surgery and awaits results and next steps in a new journey with lung cancer.

\*Gratitude for **Pastor Clare and all the clergy and other leaders** who are investing their time and energy in leading us through these hard times.



### Week at a Glance:

Gentle Tai Chi | **Feb. 2, 7 pm** | @ Church

Gentle Tai Chi | **Feb. 4, 10 am** | @ Church

Welcome & Care Team | **Feb. 4, 10 am** | @ Church

Connecting with the Word | **Feb. 4, 11 am** | @ Church


Fireside Friends (aka Garden Gathering) | **Feb. 5, 9:30 am** | @ Church

Wednesday Community Supper Planning Team | **Feb. 6, 10 am** | @ Church

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux (choir director), Lori Mildon (flute), Sue Favilla & Jane Hanson (communion preparers), Sam Gromoll (acolyte), Carol Dusbabek & Susan Jarosak (ushers), Jonah Gromoll (youth usher), Sharri Kinkead (liturgist), Carol Dusbabek (communion server), St. Croix United Choir, Kathy & Bob Iverson (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Claire Spilseth & Kim Klisch (children's activity)



### St. Croix United Church

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## You Are Welcome Here

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You are wel-come here, no mat-ter who you are,



no mat-ter where you are. on life's jour - ney... You are



wel-come here, no mat-ter who you are, come and



join with us, we're u - ni-ted in the church of Christ.



1. Come now all peo - ple, join in the song, come be a part of the fam-
2. We pray for jus - tice; we pray for peace; we hear the word of the Sav-
3. Lift - ing each oth - er; do - ing what's right; stand - ing to - geth - er, what - ev -



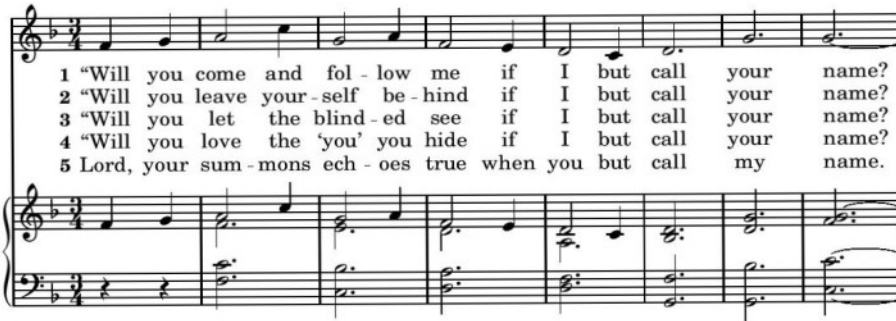
- 'ly of God. We are God's peo - ple and you be - long,  
 - ior of all. We find God's mer - cy; we find re - lease,  
 - er may come; prais - ing our Sav - ior, shin - ing our light,



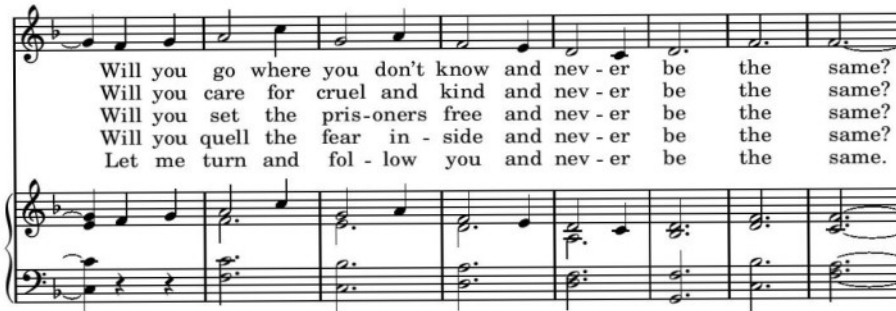
share in the joy of Christ. You are  
 shar - ing the joy of Christ. You are  
 shar - ing the joy of Christ. You are

# Will You Come and Follow Me

The Summons



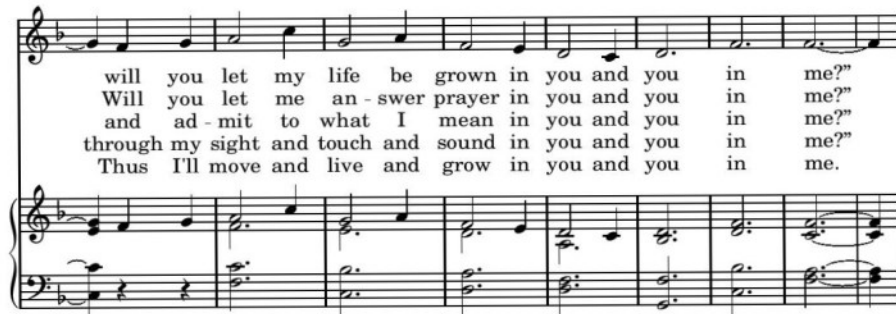
1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?  
2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call your name?  
3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?  
4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?  
5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?  
Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?  
Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?  
Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;  
Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?  
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,  
Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the world a - round,  
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot - steps show.



will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"  
Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"  
and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"  
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

# Draw the Circle Wide

$\text{♩} = 132$

Draw the cir-cle\_ wide. Draw it wid-er still. Let this be our\_

song, no one stands a-lone, stand-ing side by side, draw the cir-cle\_

To verses

Last time, Fine

wide. \_\_\_\_\_

wide. \_\_\_\_\_

1. God the still - point of the cir - cle, 'round whom all cre -
2. Let our hearts touch far hor - i - zons, so en - com - pass
3. Let the dreams we\_ dream be larg - er, than we've ev - er

- a - tion turns; noth - ing lost, but  
 great and small; let our lov - ing  
 dreamed be - fore; let the dream of

held for - ev - er in God's gra - cious arms. \_\_\_\_\_  
 know no bor - ders, faith - ful to God's call. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Christ be in us, o - pen ev - 'ry door. \_\_\_\_\_