February 8, 2026

"Called to Amplify & Shine Light"

Racial Justice 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 "Christ Be Our Light"

...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)*

What does community look like?	**Let's show what community looks like.**
What does God look like?	**Let's show what God looks like.**
What does the kin-dom look like?	**Let's show what the kin-dom looks like.**
What does justice look like?	**Let's show what justice looks like.**
What does worship look like?	**Let's show what worship looks like.**

Beloved community, building the kin-dom of justice –
Moving with the Spirit of Love, let us worship God!

***Opening Hymn (NCH #584)** "I Am the Light of the World"
verses 1– 3

Centering Ourselves *...in stillness and breath*

Prayer of Confession and Longing *(responsive)*

God of pure, unbounded love, we long to be loving and often fail.
Forgive us when our actions hurt ourselves and others.

Forgive us when we fail to choose our words with care and so hurt our family, friend, or neighbor.
Help us to go the second mile in loving and giving of ourselves.

Make us strong and wise in our loving.
Teach us what it means to love our enemies.

We long for healing in our relationships: with you, with loved ones, with nearby and global neighbors, with ourselves.
Through Jesus your Christ we pray. 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"

Forrest Whiterabbit, Sr (2/9), **Susan** Jarosak (2/10)

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 depart or return to families*

Ev'rywhere I go...

Children's Activity (age 3 - grade 4) | *Children can go downstairs with Cindy*
We welcome the sounds and movements of children who stay in worship!

Reading from the Older Testament | *NRSV, p. 688* Isaiah 58:1-9a
Reading from the Gospels | *NRSV, p. 4* Matthew 5:13-16
Contemporary Reading "Complicit"
by Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A Thompson, UCC General Minister & President

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

Morning Message "Called to Amplify and Shine Light"

Prayer Hymn (NCH #282) "Every Time I Feel the Spirit"

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**

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.

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 "I Want To Walk as a Child of the Light"

***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.

***Prayer of Dedication** *(responsive)*

Holy One, for all that we each call mine, we thank you.
Show us how to hold what we have loosely – ready to offer it generously.

For all that is theirs, we thank you.
Teach us to acknowledge what has been stolen, extracted, taken by force, and to make reparations.

For all that is ours collectively, we thank you.
Empower us to create new relationships of justice and equity, and to build a new kin-dom of flourishing for all. Amen.

***Closing Song (SPP #139)** "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

***Benediction**

***Sending Song** *...forming a circle (not 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

***Parting Music** "Morning Has Broken" *...as we greet one another*

Today Following Worship:

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

11 am | Adult Forum

Adult Forum | **Sundays, 11 am**

Embracing Our Questions: Black History Month

For Black History Month, we are offering a conversational discussion on selected sections of the PBS Video:
The Black Church: This is Our Story. This is Our Song.
Hosted by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

This video chronicles the rich history of the Black Church at the heart of the African American experience. The series will provide an opportunity to hear a chorus of leading scholars, ministers, and cultural influencers who grew up in the Black Church. They weigh in and give meaning to its music, historical events (past and present), and the role of the Black Church in the continual march for Freedom for all.

PRAYER CORNER

*For **Sharon Neuenfeldt,** swift and complete healing after last week's hand surgery.

*With Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux, we share deep gratitude for the feeling that **something good is happening here** - a light is shining as our community cares for each other in the midst of darkness.

*For our **Neighborhood Vigils,** with brave voices sharing their stories (especially the youth among us) - we give thanks for our community.

*For **those neighbors in detention centers** - that they may be freed.

*Gratitude for **Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux** as she composes lyrics and leads our wonderful choir in bringing songs to life!

*With Bob Heurung, remembering a time when the country came together over a miracle in the Olympics... May we once again come together to Connect, Grow Love, and Recognize as it happens again.

*Gratitude for **Mary Horak Binger's** birthday and all the ways she received love and light - may we all give and receive love so freely!

*With Mary Horak Binger, prayers for **Becci** (a former member), as she grieves the loss of her brother last weekend.

*With Mary Ann Litfin, gratitude for this open-hearted community and all the ways we are lightworkers in the world. Help us to continue to shine in the darkness.

*For Cindy Parson's mom, **Angie**, as she moves into assisted living. Prayers for the whole family as they adjust.

*For Jane Hanson's friend, **Jane**, as she grieves the loss of her brother, Marlyn.

*Gratitude for our **new members** - **Angelica & Ronnie, Susan, Betsy**!

Weekly Neighborhood Vigil | Saturdays @ 7 pm

We are encouraged to "Shine a Light for Minnesota!"

Come join in solidarity with neighbors who are speaking out against the reckless terror DHS and ICE are inflicting on the people of Minnesota. Let us find encouragement together.

Let Pastor Clare know if you can help with hospitality!

Wednesday Evenings in Lent: Stories of Struggle & Growth

Feb. 25 - Mar. 25 | 6:30pm

During Lent, we make time to reflect on our journey in faith - seeking to follow Jesus in the ways of love and justice amid life's challenges. We recognize that through every painful or difficult struggle, we can grow and rise.

Last year, we were gifted with stories of resilience from members of our church. This year, we seek five people to each share a key story of struggle and growth from their own life. Could you be one of our 5 story sharers?

To offer yourself as a story sharer or with questions, please contact one of us!
Sue Favilla, Naomi Kirstein, Pastor Clare (Worship & Sanctuary Team)

Community Collective | Thursday, Feb. 12th | 7 pm

Join us during this unprecedented time as we find support and balance together while exercising our creativity in taking action.

Licensed therapist, Michelle Young (a new friend within our church), will facilitate our conversation.

Blood Drive | Wednesday, Feb. 25th | 9 am - 3 pm

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit **RedCrossBlood.org** and enter "Bayport" to schedule an appointment.

SEVERE BLOOD SHORTAGE: There is a severe blood shortage as requests from hospitals exceed the available supply of blood, drawing down the blood supply by about 35% over the past month. ***We have 22 openings!***

Wednesday Community Suppers... *Now a weekly offering!*

Want to help with the next one (Feb. 18th) or be on the planning team? Questions? Want to consider helping in some way?
Contact Sue Favilla (wicompound@gmail.com, 612-381-4996)

Week at a Glance:

Connecting with the Word | **Feb. 11, 11 am** | @ Church
Leadership Council | **Feb. 11, 6:30 pm** | @ Church & Zoom

Community Collective | **Feb. 12, 7 pm** | @ Church

Neighborhood Vigil Musicians Gather | **Feb. 14, 6 pm** | @ Church
Neighborhood Vigil | **Feb. 14, 7 pm** | @ Church

Thank you to today's partners: Debi Orff (guest worship accompanist), Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux (choir director), Lori Mildon (flute), Cheri & Bob Schwartz (ushers), Bob Iverson (greeter), Maya Klisch-Solano (acolyte), Kathy Iverson (liturgist & greeter), St. Croix United Choir (cantors), Gina Buberl, Arly Fuhr, Sarah Thorson (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Cindy Baker & Roger Klisch (children's activity)

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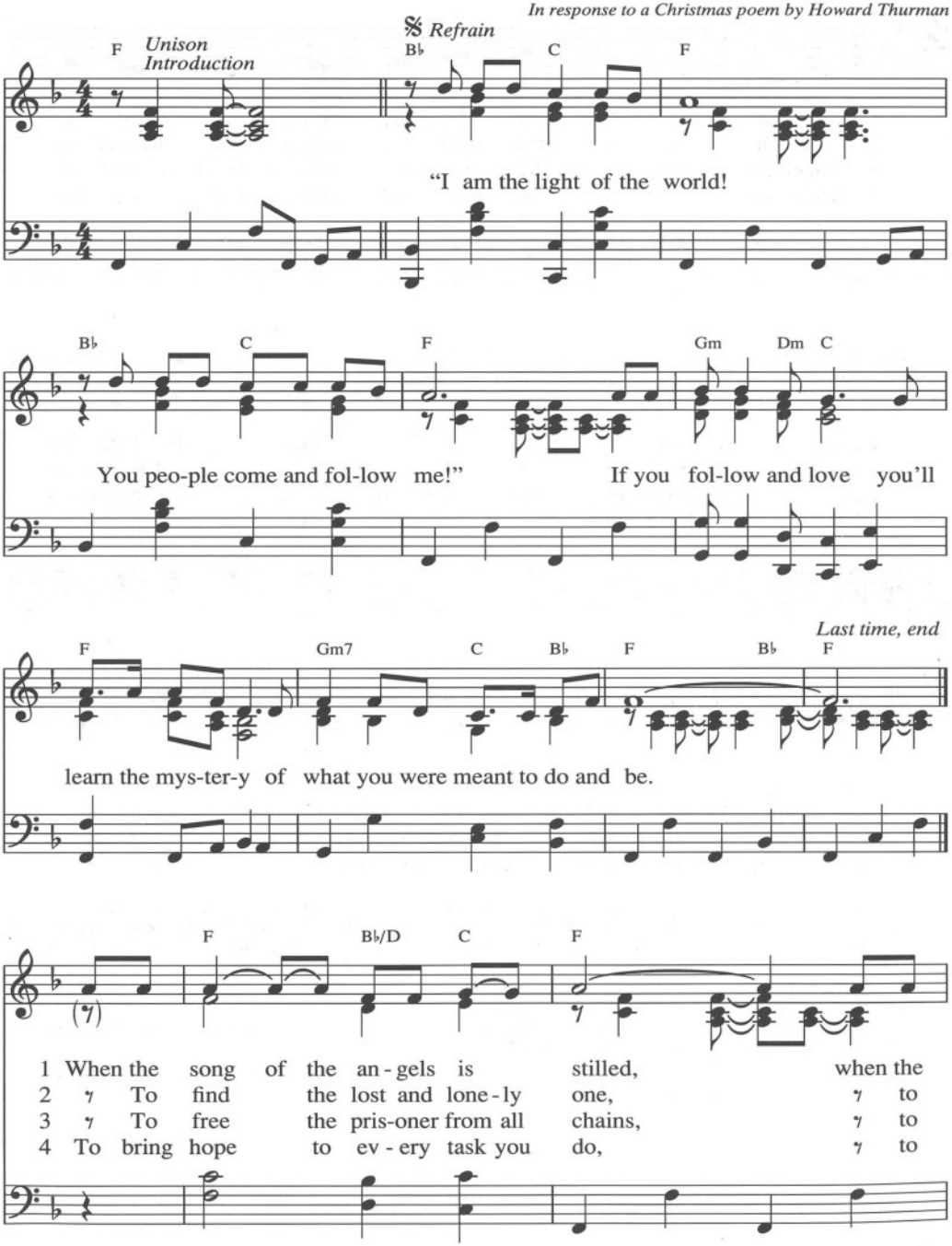
CREDITS & PERMISSIONS | **Call to Worship, Prayer of Dedication** adapted from "Join the Movement: Racial Justice Sunday 2023, Building Intergenerational Movements: Antiracism Worship and Spiritual Practices for Every Age (https://jointhemovementucc.org/jtm-resources/building-intergenerational-movements-racial-justice-sunday-2023-resources/). **Prayer of Confession & Longing** adapted by permission of the publishers from *Touch Holiness,* ed. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. Copyright © 1990 by The Pilgrim Press. **Scripture Reading** from *The NRSV*. **Prayer of Jesus**, *First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament*. **Offertory Response** written by John Mueller. Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-703858. All rights reserved.

584 I Am the Light of the World

John 8:12

Jim Strathdee, 1969; rev. 1981
In response to a Christmas poem by Howard Thurman



This text is based on a Christmas poem by Howard Thurman, a prolific twentieth-century writer, theologian, and teacher. The song grew out of Jim Strathdee's music ministry at an intercultural, bilingual congregation in Los Angeles.

Tune: LIGHT OF THE WORLD Irr.
Jim Strathdee, 1969

282 Every Time I Feel the Spirit

2 Sam. 22:9; Ps. 18:8

African-American spiritual

Refrain

Ev - ery time I feel the Spir - it mov-ing in my heart I will pray. Yes, ev - ery time I feel the Spir - it mov - ing in my heart I will pray.

Last time, end

1 Up - on the moun - tain my God spoke, out of God's mouth came fire and smoke. Looked all a - round me; looked so fine; I asked my God if all were mine.

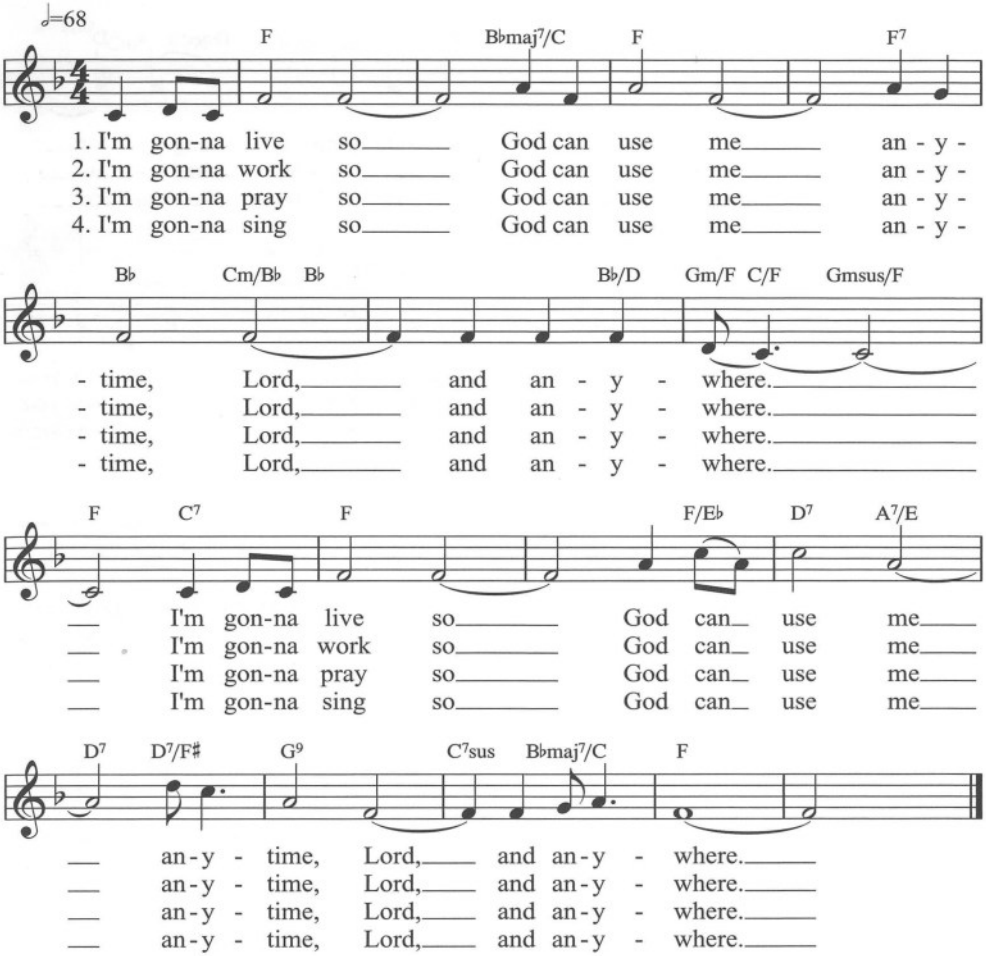
2 Oh, Jor-dan riv - er, chil - ly and cold, it chills the bod - y, not the soul. There's on - ly one train on this track; it runs to heav - en, then right back.

to Refrain

Among the thousands of spirituals that exist today are songs of gladness and songs of sorrow. This well-known spiritual is a song of joy, captured not only in the words, but in the lively rhythms.

Tune: African-American spiritual
Arr. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me 139



Words and Music: African-American Spiritual