August 23, 2026

"Worship God Alone"

Guest Preacher:
Rev. Jennifer Jaimez

Gathering Music

Prelude & Lantern Lighting "You Are Welcome Here" *DeMan*

...acknowledging the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome & Announcements

Spark of Goodness Lori Mildon

***Call to Worship** *(responsive)*

In the presence of God...
Toes tap to some heavenly chorus,
Tears emerge from a hidden ache,
Silence descends like a gentle mist,
Joy ascends like a bird in the sky.
God is here...
Glad hearts are refreshed,
Sorrowing hearts find comfort,
Broken hearts discover healing,
Searching hearts find home.
Here in the presence of God,
We are made whole and sing our joyful songs of praise.

***Opening Hymn**

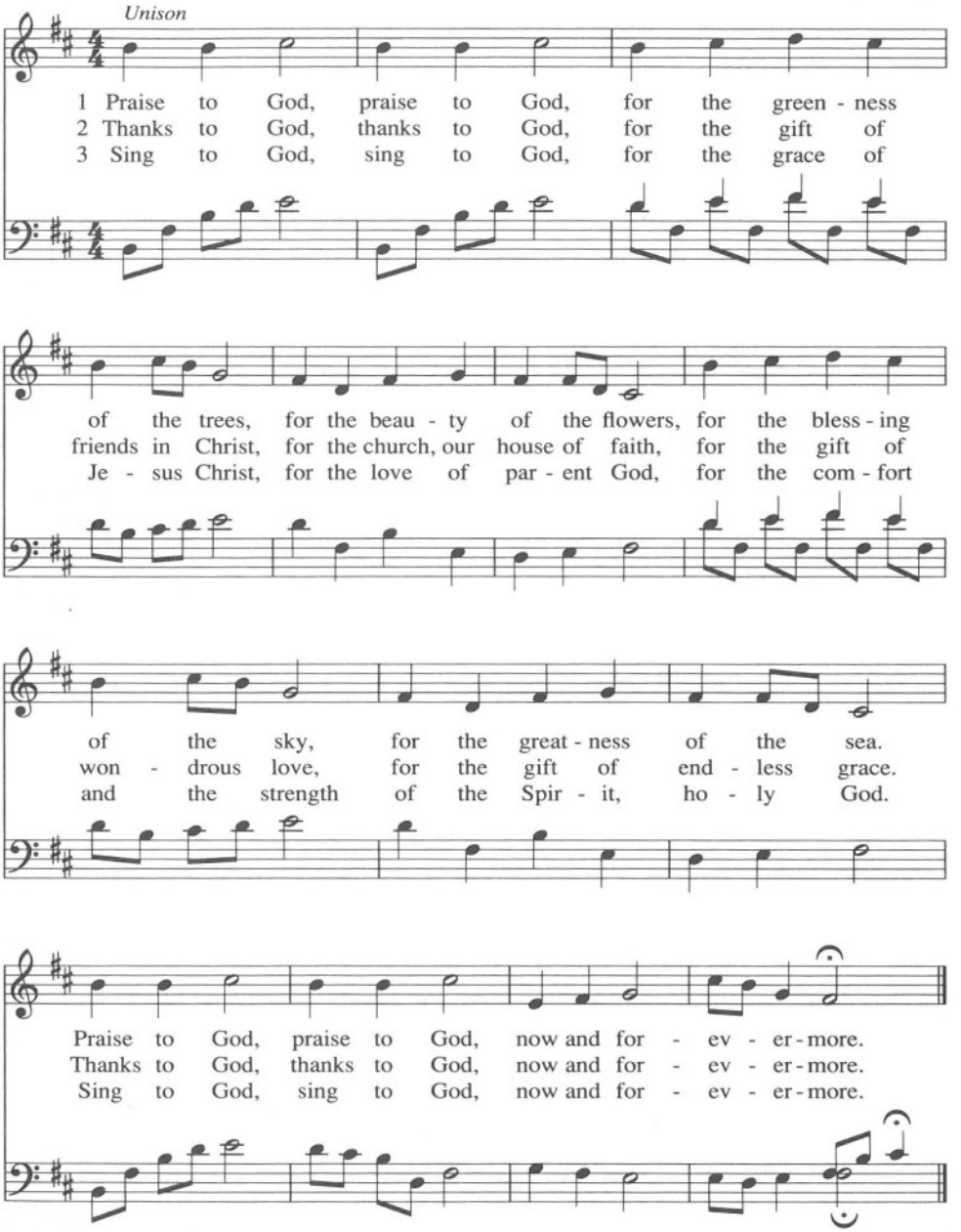
Praise to God

5

Nobuaki Hanaoka, 1980; alt.

Rom. 14:11; John 3:16; Eph. 5:16–20; Ps. 68:4, 32

Unison



Nobuaki Hanaoka was born in Japan and has earned degrees in theology from Japanese and American schools. Hanaoka has served as a pastor in Sacramento, California, and has published articles in both Japanese and English. He is the author of Nihilism and Nothingness, *1968.*

Tune: SAKURA 6.7.7.7.7.6.6.
Traditional Japanese melody
Harm. Jonathan McNair, 1993

Centering Ourselves *...in stillness and breath*

Prayer of Confession and Longing *(unison)*

O God, you see us in our sin and yet, you love us. We are so very grateful. And even when we continue on and on, over and over again with the same failings, your grace never runs out. We praise you for your faithfulness. We confess our inability to flee temptation apart from you. Forgive us once again. Keep our eyes set ever on you and turn our hearts back to you. 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"

Mark Stephan (8/24), **Barb** Hilliard (8/26), **Erin** Klisch (8/29)

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...

"Rooted and Growing" | *Children (age 4+) and youth can join Eli'jah for an activity*
Children 3 and under | *Families supervise their own toddlers*
We welcome the sounds and movements of children who stay in worship!

Reading from the Old Testament | *NRSV* Daniel 3:1, 8-28
Reading from the New Testament | *NRSV* John 11:35

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

Morning Message "Worship God Alone"

Prayer Hymn (p. 6 of bulletin) "Now Bless the God of Israel"

Prayers of the People

We share aloud prayers for ourselves, others, and parts of the world
Please tell Rev. Jennifer if you prefer yours not be printed in our Prayer Corner

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

Prayer of Jesus *(unison)*

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 the Offering

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

Offertory "Garden Hymn" *American Tune*

***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)*

O God, because we have been given so much,
help us to give more.

Because we are loved so much,
give us the strength to love more.

Because we are accepted as we are,
give us the grace to accept others without judgment or prejudice.

We give ourselves and our gifts with grateful hearts.
Amen.

***Closing Hymn (p. 7 of bulletin)** "God Be With You"

***Benediction**

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

"Peace I Leave With You"

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*

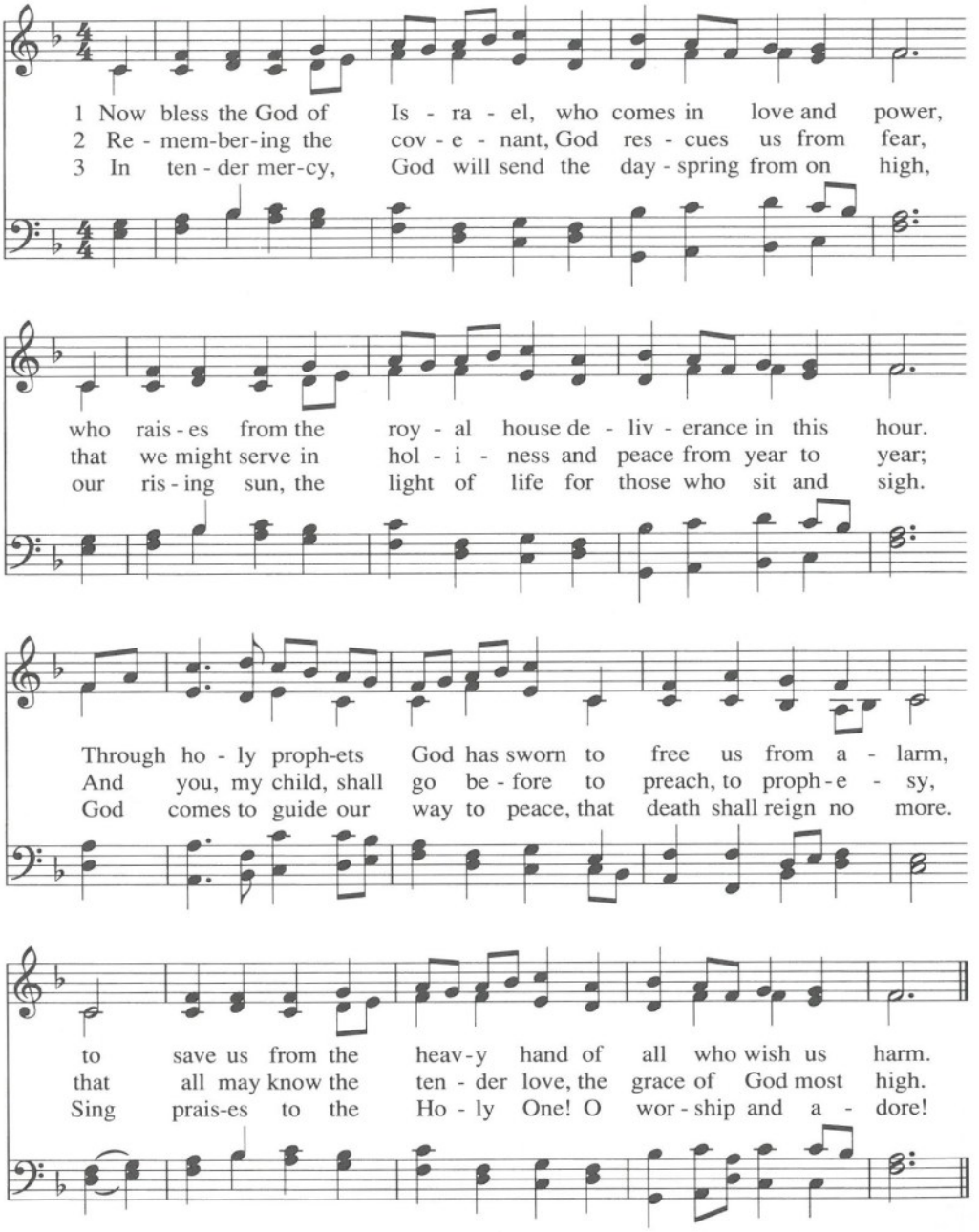
Today Following Worship:

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

110 Now Bless the God of Israel

Luke 1:68–79; Ps. 18:1–3; Isa. 9:2–7

Ruth Duck, 1985



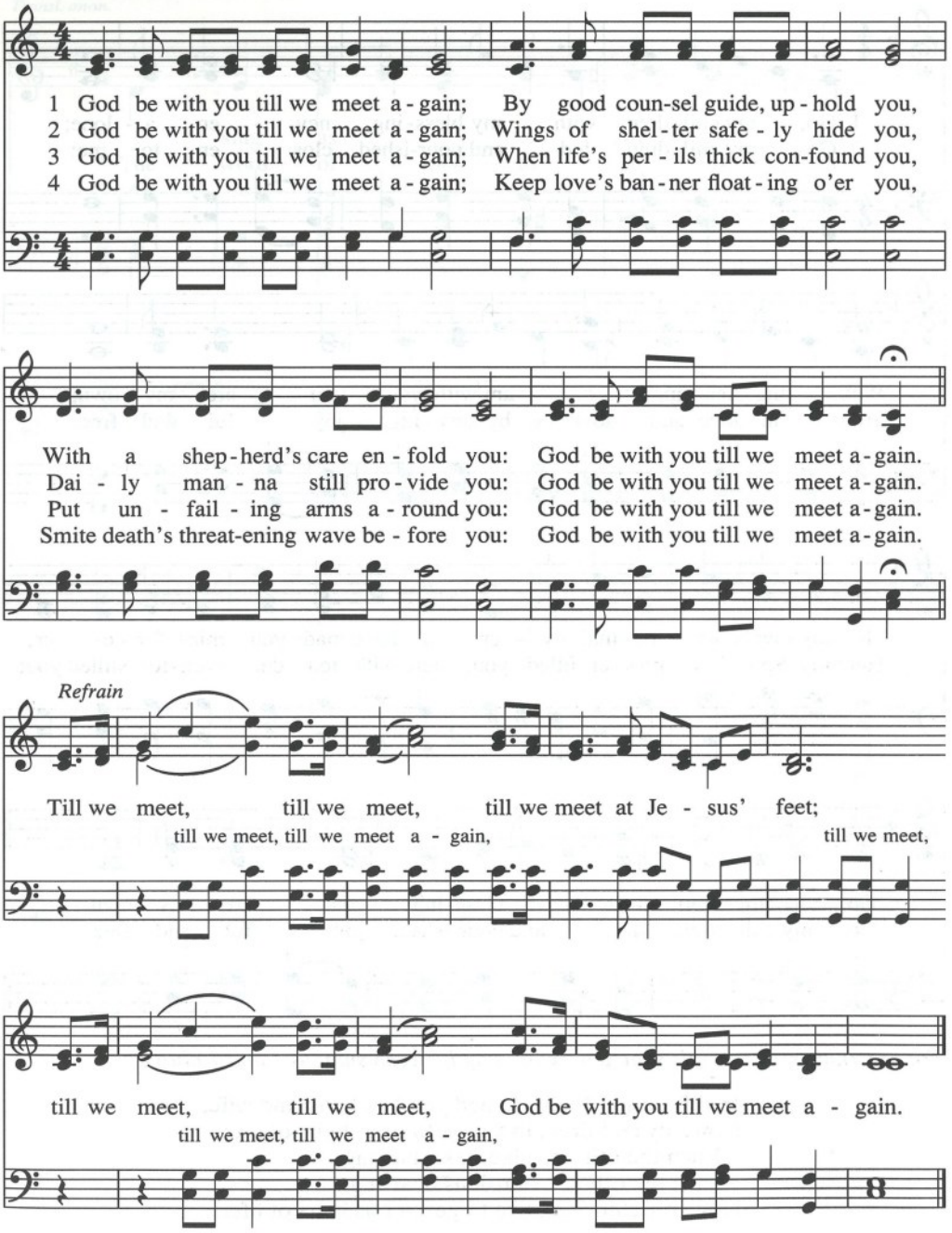
This text by United Church of Christ clergywoman Ruth Duck is a paraphrase of the "Benedictus," which is often sung at morning prayer. She came to appreciate daily prayer while studying at the University of Notre Dame.

Tune: FOREST GREEN C.M.D.
Traditional English melody
Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Words Copyright © 1992 by G. I. A. Publications, Inc.
Harmonization Copyright ©, Oxford University Press. From *The English Hymnal 1906.*

God Be with You 81

Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880; alt.



Written during his last pastorate, at First Congregational Church in Washington, D.C., Jeremiah Rankin's hymn spread quickly throughout America and England by way of Moody and Sankey's revival meetings. Rankin later served as the seventh president of Howard University.

Tune: GOD BE WITH YOU 9.8.8.9. with refrain
William G. Tomer, 1880

Sabbatical Support Team

Mary Horak Binger, Nat Graf, Debbie Knox, Dan Warnes, Eli'jah Carroll, and **Megan Adams**

This team is available to visit when you need a listening ear or a caring presence.

Megan (651-439-5667, office@stcroixunitedchurch.org) and **Nat (651-470-0408, ngraf11@gmail.com)** will serve as main lines of contact, yet we welcome you to reach out to any of us.

Week at a Glance:

Flourish Task Force | **Aug. 24, 4 pm** | @ Church

Conversations from the Heart | **Aug. 26, 10 am** | @ Church
FREE Community Meal | **Aug. 26, 5:30 pm** | @ Church
Conversations from the Heart | **Aug. 26, 6:30 pm** | @ Church

Food Pantry Team | **Aug. 27, 10:30 am** | @ Church

Thank you to today's partners: Rev. Jennifer Jaimez (Guest Preacher), Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux (choir director), Lori Mildon (flutist & fellowship), Mary Maren Bjork (liturgist), Bob Dickie (greeter, usher & tech team), St. Croix United Choir, Paul Spilseth & Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Val Green (children's activity assistant), Sharri Kinkead (altar flowers)

St. Croix United Church
www.stcroixunitedchurch.org @SCUCBayport

Pastor Clare Gromoll
pastor@stcroixunitedchurch.org, (651) 600-6409
Megan Adams | Office Coordinator
office@stcroixunitedchurch.org, (651) 439-5667
Eli'jah Carroll | Youth Coordinator
carroll.elijah2025@gmail.com, (920) 650-1225

CREDITS & PERMISSIONS | **Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession & Longing, Prayer of Dedication** from Homileticsonline.com **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.

PRAYER CORNER

*With Bob and Cheri Schwartz, we celebrate and give thanks for the birth of great-granddaughter **Charlotte Ruth**!

*With Bob Schwartz, we give thanks for 4-year old **Astrid's** wellbeing and the miracle of prayer that has sustained her. We also pray for **Ebony**, a daycare worker with the Schwartz's daughter, who has been diagnosed with breast cancer that has begun to spread. We pray for a miracle for her - and that she be surrounded by love in this time.

*With Sarah Thorson, continued prayers for her best friend, **Kristy**, as she mourns the passing of her husband Bob, and begins the long process sifting through the paperwork and estate.

*For those in our midst, **living with cancer** - may God continue to heal and surround them with a community of love and comfort.

*For 2-year old **Atticus**, recently diagnosed with metastasized kidney cancer as he begins chemo. Surround him and his parents with hope, wisdom, and comfort as they journey through this difficult time.

*With Bob Dickie, we give thanks for the many ways people find our church and community dinner! One family searched "Mabel" (their daughter's name) and found Mabel's ice cream... which led them to stop in to our free community dinner!

*For **Reese**, as she struggles with mental health issues, may she continue to find healing, peace, and connection in her new-found faith.

Week at a Glance:

Flourish Task Force | **Aug. 24, 4 pm** @ Church

Conversations from the Heart | **August 26, 10 am** @ Church
FREE Community Meal | **Aug. 26, 5:30 pm** @ Church
Conversations from the Heart | **Aug. 26, 6:30 pm** @ Church

Food Pantry Team | **Aug. 27, 10:30 am** @ Church

Worship w/ Jill Greenhalgh Preaching | **Aug. 30, 9:30 am** @ Church

Conversations from the Heart | Aug. 26th | 10 am & 6:30 pm

The Welcome and Care Team invites you to an opportunity to get to know fellow St. Croix United Church friends this Wednesday at 10 am and 6:30 pm.

Join us for a time of conversation and chance to foster deeper personal connections within our church community.
All are welcome!

Bayport Elementary School Open House

Sept. 1st | 6—7:30 pm

Stillwater School District is excited to welcome the community to the new Bayport Elementary.

Soup & Shop is up and running for 2026!

next meeting.... **Thursday, Sept. 3rd | 2 pm**

We are in need of leaders for particular parts of the festival:
* **Bake Sale Manager** - lead set up, sales, and clean up
* **Artisan Vendor Manager** - contact potential vendors (letters are written and spreadsheets of past vendors are available), lead set-up of vendor area, work with Megan to collect payments and registrations

Both jobs have plenty of support from the office and fellow worker bees! Can you be the leader we need? Contact Mary Horak Binger or Megan Adams with questions, or to say Yes!

Blood Drive | Sept. 15th | 9 am—3 pm

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