August 30, 2026

"The Power of Words"

Guest Preacher:
Jill Greenhalgh

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 "I Am Not Alone" *arr Tornquist*

...acknowledging the light of Christ among us

please observe silence as we settle into sacred time and space

Words of Welcome & Announcements

Spark of Goodness Chris Bordeaux & Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux

SPP = *Sing! Prayer and Praise* * = Sitting or standing NCH = *New Century Hymnal*

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

God is still speaking.
May we be ready to listen.

Our words have power to heal, encourage, challenge, and inspire.
May we choose our words with wisdom and grace.

Silence, too, can speak.
May we know when to listen and when to find our voice.

May our words, our silence, and our actions be rooted in love.
Together, may we use them to help change the world.
All: Let us worship God.

***Opening Hymn (NCH #531)** "God, Speak to Me that I May Speak"

Centering Ourselves *...in stillness and breath*

Prayer of Confession and Longing *(unison)*

Gracious God, forgive us for the words we have used carelessly, and for the words of kindness and courage we have left unspoken. Forgive us when we have been too quick to speak and too slow to listen. Teach us to make room for voices too often unheard. Give us wisdom to know when to be silent and courage to know when to speak. May our words, our listening, and our lives become instruments of your love. 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

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Sung Invitation *...as young people come forward*

This little light of mine...

Singing "Happy Birthday"

Paula Richey (9/2)

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 & Growing" | *Children (4+) and youth can join Eli'jah for an activity*
Nursery | *Families with infants & toddlers are welcome to utilize the downstairs nursery*
We welcome the sounds and movements of children who stay in worship!

Readings from the New Testament | *NRSV*

Ephesians 4:29, Colossians 4:6, James 1:19

Contemporary Reading | *by Judy Rees* "Please Just Listen"

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

Morning Message "The Power of Words"

Prayer Song (SPP #26) "You Are Welcome Here"

Prayers of the People

We share aloud prayers for ourselves, others, and parts of the world
Please tell Jill 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 | adapted from the *Prayer of the Four Directions*

Oh, Life-Giving God, come to me out of the North,
where fierce storms arise. Give us strength and courage.
Teach us to be strong like all who turn and face
the fierce winds and storms head on.

Oh, God of Light, come to me out of the East
where the sun rises every day. Bring light into our words and minds,
acknowledging new life and creativity and renewed hope every day.

Oh, God of Love, come to me out of the South
where the sun shines the hottest. Bring warmth into our hearts
and friendships and all our relations.

Oh, God of Creation, come to me out of the West,
where the sun sets every night. Teach us to be at home in the dark
and in the silence of the night, and teach us to let go and to
trust as we sink into the unknown and await the sun rising tomorrow.

Invitation to Offering

We give by cash, check or electronically (scanning the QR code)
Blue electronic giving cards *found in pew pockets.*

Offertory "Let It Shine" *Hamm*

***Song of Thanks**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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

Generous God, we offer these gifts with grateful hearts. May they become more than what we give today—may they become words of hope, acts of compassion, and signs of your love in our community and beyond. Guide us to speak with grace, listen with care, and act with courage, as together we work for a more loving and just world. 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** *...as we greet one another*

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

Week at a Glance:

Bayport Elementary Open House | Sept. 1, 6 pm
@ Bayport Elementary (former People's Park location)

Connecting with the Word | Sept. 2, 11 am | @ Church
Free Community Meal | Sept. 2, 5:30 pm | @ Church
Community Game Night | Sept. 2, 6:30 pm | @ Church

Fireside Friends | Sept. 3, 9:30 am | @ Church
Soup & Shop Team | Sept. 3, 2 pm | @ Church

PRAYER CORNER

*With Mary Horak Binger, prayers for all those in **relationships and partnerships**, struggling to stay connected amidst health and chemical addiction struggles.

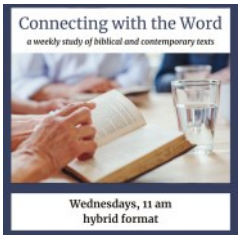
*With **Irene Horak**, many thanks for a beautiful visit home amongst family, friends, the church community, and the beautiful St. Croix Valley.

*Many thanks for the flexibility of worshipping at the beautiful **Lakeside Park** this summer.

*With Bob Dickie, prayers for son, **Brian**, as he continues to struggle with chemical dependency.

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.



Connecting with the Word | Sept. 2nd, 11 am

Come explore the biblical and contemporary readings for the coming Sunday. We examine each passage, wonder about its meaning, and discover connections to our own faith journeys.

Community Collective Game Night | Sept. 2nd, 6:30 pm

Bring a favorite game or two to share with others for an evening!
Come early for the free community meal!
Visit communitycollectivescv.org for more events and information.

Community Collective Craft Night | Sept. 9th, 6:30 pm

Bring your current project and enjoy crafting with friends and conversation!
Come early for the free community meal!
Visit communitycollectivescv.org for more events and information.

Connection Sunday | Sept. 13th, 9:30 am

Please plan to bring a small amount of water (1/4 cup or less) from somewhere you have been this summer. A vacation spot, a favorite nearby place, your home, etc.
Bring it in an enclosed container that you can easily open at the opportune moment. We will combine our water and give thanks as it blesses us on the threshold of autumn.

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.

Bayport Derby Days

Friday, Sept. 18th | 5 - 10 pm

We will have a table at the Party in the Park (at Perro Park, next door to the church) throughout the evening.

We need volunteers to:
*provide treats to share
*serve the treats and greet our neighbors while offering information about our Food Share Pantries and Free Wednesday Suppers, as well as bubbles or backpack tags!

If you are able and willing to help, please sign-up in the Fellowship Hall, or let Megan know!

Next Sunday… Pastor Clare returns from sabbatical!

Join us as we welcome her back from a summer of resting, studying, and grand adventures!

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.

Thank you to today's partners: Jill Greenhalgh (Guest Preacher), Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux (choir director & liturgist), Lori Mildon (flute), Gary Piasecki (usher & greeter), Carol Dusbabek (usher), St. Croix United Choir, Kathy & Bob Iverson (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Betsy Runke (children's activity assistant), Sharri Kinkead (altar flowers)

St. Croix United Church
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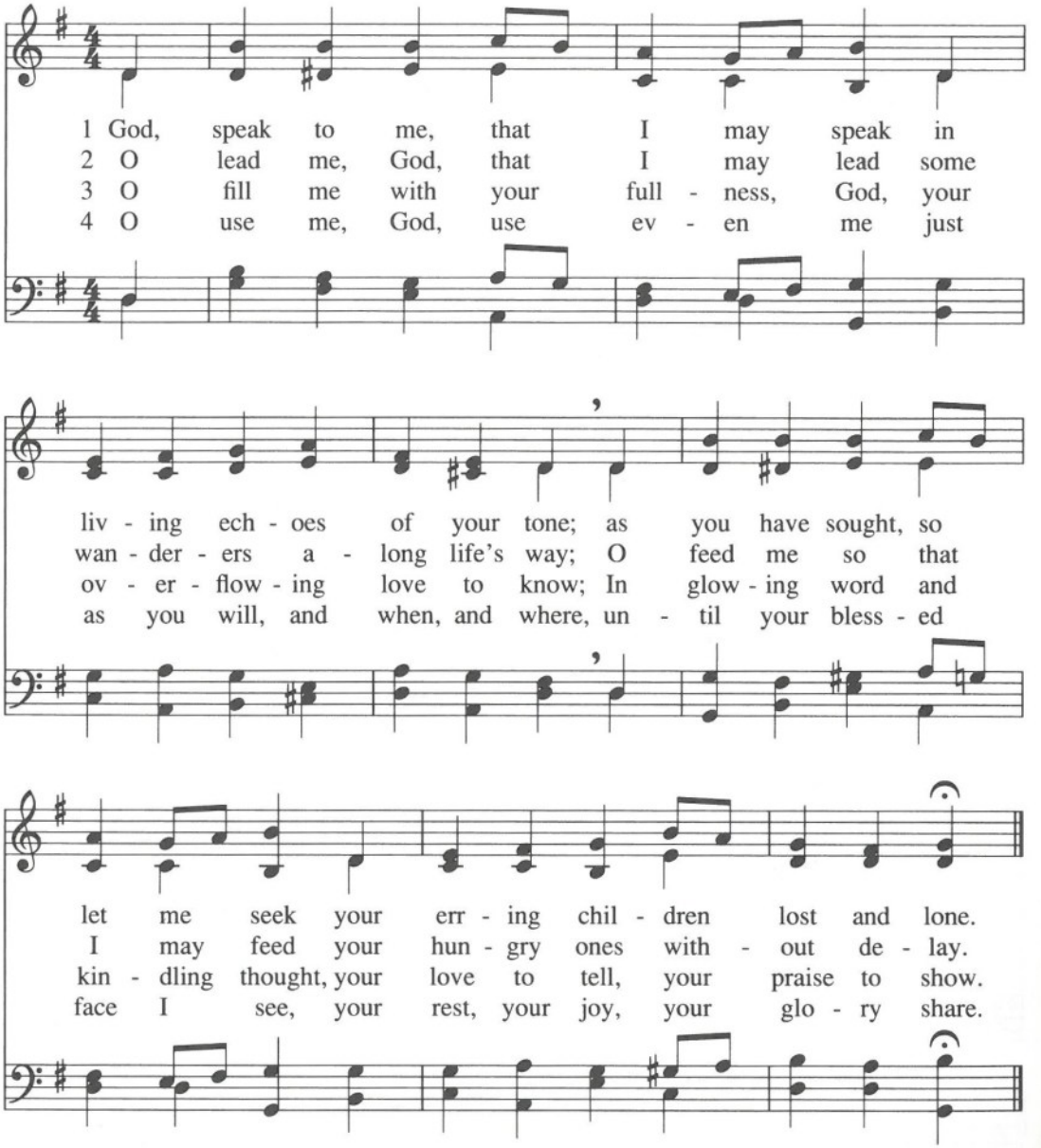
531 God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

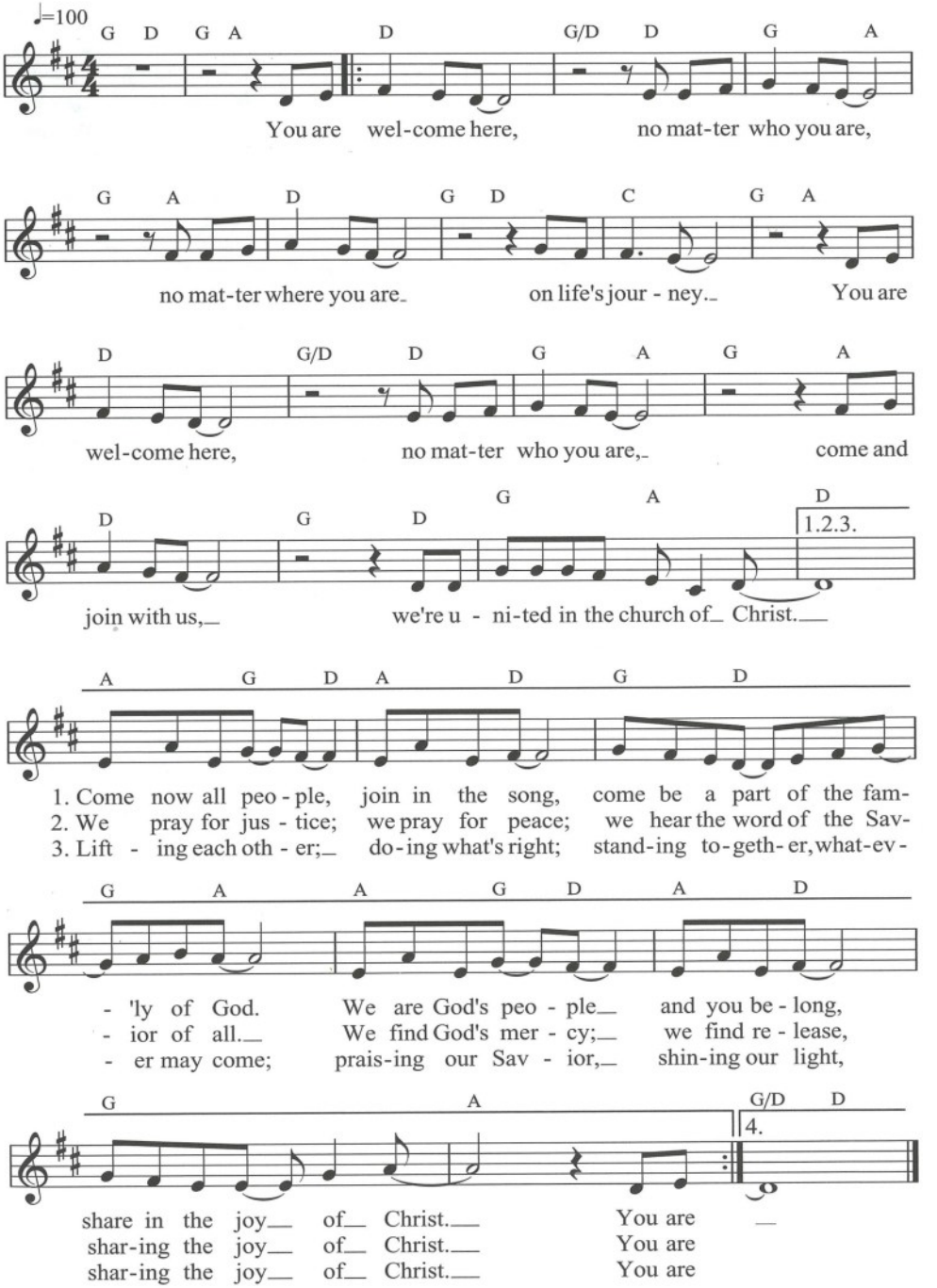
Frances Ridley Havergal, 1872; alt.



Daughter of the English hymnwriter William H. Havergal, Frances Ridley Havergal was a gifted poet and student of several languages, including Hebrew and Greek. She also composed several hymn tunes. Canonbury *was adapted from one of Robert Schumann's piano pieces.*

Tune: CANONBURY L.M.
Arr. from Robert Schumann, 1872

You Are Welcome Here



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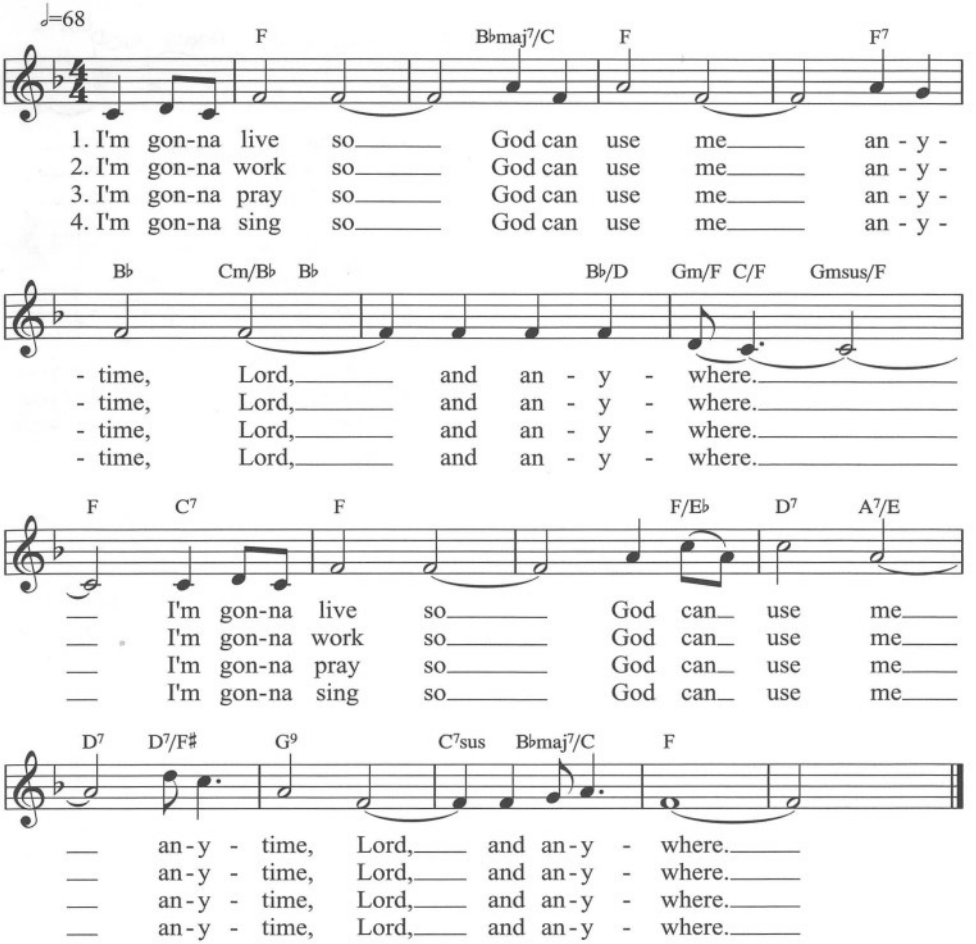
I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me **139**



Words and Music: African-American Spiritual