



September 13, 2026

*“Hospitality —
Open to
Possibilities”*

Connection Sunday

Welcome!

We encourage wearing name tags.

Restrooms: main level (exit front left), lower level (at foot of entry stair/elevator)

Gathering Music

Ring of the Bell

Prelude & Candle Lighting *“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”* *Robinson*
we observe silence as we enter into worship, acknowledging the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome & Announcements

One **Whoever we are and wherever we are on our life journey –**
All **We are welcome here – beloved within the body of God**

Singing Bowl & Opening Words from a Neighbor

**indicates sitting or standing*

NCH = New Century Hymnal SPP = Sing! Prayer and Praise

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

Creator God, we welcome your uplifting presence among us today.
We feel the turning of the seasons in the cooler air.

As our young people begin a new school year -
Help all of us to stretch in wisdom and maturity.

While some welcome a harvest, other gardens struggle.
May we all produce love and kindness.

As we leave summer rhythms behind -
Your compassion continues to renew us, day by day.

As the world keeps spinning, new troubles emerge.
Steady and heal your Earth, leading us through struggles to peace.

We confess: we have not always chosen your ways of healing and peace.
May we stretch and grow, always remembering that we are your children.

Bless this church family as we sing, pray, learn and serve together.
May our gifts from your Spirit strengthen the community. Amen.

***Musical Interlude** *...to accompany our quiet prayers*

***Assurance of Grace**

The peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

***Passing the Peace**

...smiles and gestures of peace - to those online and seated near us

***Opening Song (SPP #16)** “Come to the Water”
verses 1-4

Water Ritual

On this Connection Sunday, we bring forward water from places sacred to each of us...

A favorite spot in nature, our home, a home away from home

Cups of water from our Stillwater and Bayport buildings are available in the front pews

You are invited (optionally) to briefly state the name of your water source

Prayer of Gratitude for Water, Places, and Our Connections

Sung Invitation

...as young people come forward

This little light of mine...

Singing “Happy Birthday”

Any birthdays this week?

Backpack Blessing

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...

Sunday School | Children (age 3 – gr. 4) can go downstairs with Carol

Youth Group | Youth (gr. 5–12) can go with Eli’jah to our downstairs Youth Room

Nursery | Families with infants & toddlers are welcome to use the downstairs nursery

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

Reading from the Gospels | NRSV, p. 82

Luke 19:1–10

Ancient words can speak to us today. **We listen for our still speaking God.**

Contemporary Reading | Mary Oliver

“Don’t Hesitate”

God speaks wisdom through our neighbors. **May we be moved by what we hear.**

Morning Message

“Hospitality – Open to Possibilities”

Prayer Hymn (NCH #388) “Help Us Accept Each Other”
Sharon will play once through before we sing

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

We use several versions of this prayer, faithfully expressed across the ages
**Our Father and Mother who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kin-dom come. Thy will be done on Earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kin-dom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Invitation to the Offering

<i>We give by cash, check, or electronically (scanning the QR code) Blue electronic giving cards found in pew pockets We might hover a hand over the plate as it passes – blessing the gifts of time, talent and money that support this church and our wider community</i>	
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Offertory

“Seek After God”

Hurlbutt

***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**

***Closing Song (SPP #163)** “Your Love Is Amazing”

***Benediction**

***Sending Song**

...forming a circle

“Go Now in Peace”

Keyboard, handbells,
and/or Orff instruments

Go now in peace, go now in peace, may the love of

God sur-round you ev-ery-where, ev-ery-where you may go.

Fine

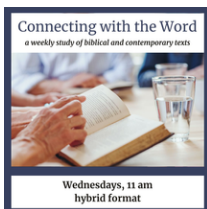
The image shows a musical score for the song "Go Now in Peace". It is written for keyboard, handbells, and/or Orff instruments. The score is in 2/2 time and consists of two systems. The first system has a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/2 time signature. The bass staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/2 time signature. The lyrics are "Go now in peace, go now in peace, may the love of". The second system also has a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/2 time signature. The bass staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/2 time signature. The lyrics are "God sur-round you ev-ery-where, ev-ery-where you may go." The score ends with a "Fine" marking.

***Parting Music**

...as we greet one another

Today following worship:

all are welcome to longer for refreshments and good company!



Connecting with the Word – Hospitality is our Sept. worship theme!

Wednesday, Sept. 16th | 11 am @ church & Zoom

Come any Wednesday to 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.

Please let Pastor Clare know if you plan to Zoom.

PRAYER CORNER

- *With Angelica and Ronnie, lovingly remembering **her dad** on his birthday and every day. Knowing that Randall ended his own life, we pray for those who struggle with mental health – that they may access treatment.
 - *With **Claire Spilseth**, gratitude for surgeries that repaired her eyesight!
 - *With Mary Piasecki, prayers for **students and teachers** heading back to school – may they feel blessed and be a blessing on this new adventure!
 - *With Bob Heurung, prayers for all who loved dear longtime friend, **Sally**.
 - *With Naomi, prayers amidst grieving the death of a close, longtime friend; and at the loss of the Kirsteins' son's best friend as well... May we remember how precious each day is.
 - *For **Sam Gromoll**, recently diagnosed with scoliosis, and is being fitted for a back brace and ACL braces. More info is available on his CaringBridge.
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Bridge the Gap Hunger Walk... mark your calendars!

Sunday, Oct. 4th | 11:30 am

We are looking forward to you joining us Sunday, October 4th for our 3rd Annual BRIDGE THE GAP Hunger Walk.

Registration begins at 11 am and the Walk will begin at 11:30 am.

We're raising funds, collecting non-perishable food items, and spreading the word.

Come walk with us, donate, and make a direct impact right here in our community!



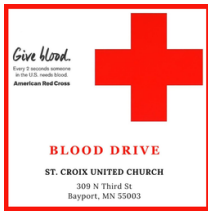
Guns to Gardens

The Social Justice Team will be collecting gift cards in support of the Guns for Gardens event happening on Oct. 3, 2026, at First Presbyterian Church in Stillwater.

We will be collecting \$25 gift cards for Cub and Aldi Sept.13-27. You may leave the gift cards with Megan in the church office, Wendy Heurung, Kathleen Dennison, or Betsy Runke.

Last year, 38 guns were gathered!

Thank you for your support!

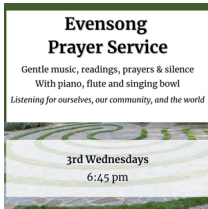


Blood Drive

Tuesday, Sept. 15th | 9 am - 3 pm

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

8 spots still available!



Evensong Service

Wednesday, Sept. 16th | 6:45 pm @ church & livestream

Gentle music, readings, prayers & silence

With piano, flute and singing bowl

Listening for ourselves, our community, and the world

Gathering music begins at 6:30pm, words of welcome at 6:45, and we conclude at 7:15pm.



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:

- *set-up and take down

- *provide treats to share

- *serve the treats

- *greet our neighbors and hand out 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!



Gender Affirming Care Champion Information Session

Sept. 23rd | 7:00pm @ United Theological Seminary (St. Paul) & Zoom

The Minnesota Conference UCC voted to affirm the sacredness of trans people and the vital importance of protecting access to gender affirming care. Steady, grounded advocates are necessary to provide a counterpoint to the abounding misinformation. Want to learn what it means to be a Gender Affirming Care Champion and connect with others who are engaged in this advocacy work? All that's needed is a desire to care deeply for our trans siblings and connect with other advocates. Please register for this event so we are able to plan (link in Midweek News).



Choir is starting **Sunday, Sept. 20th | 8:30 am**

The choir is preparing for a new season, and all are welcome!

If you've ever thought about singing with the choir but weren't sure where to start, this is a perfect opportunity to come and see what it's all about. No previous choir experience is necessary. We'd be delighted to have you join us! Feel free to reach out to Heather (heatherkennedylegal@hotmail.com) for more information..



Frank Cole's Celebration of Life

Saturday, Sept. 19th | 2 pm

We will host a memorial service in remembrance and celebration of the life of Frank Cole, who joined our church when he relocated from Illinois a few years ago.

If you would like to assist with hospitality, please reach out to Kathy Iverson (612-834-0774, kmiverson49@gmail.com).

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



St. Croix United Church

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Pastor Clare Gromoll

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Megan Adams | Office Coordinator

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Eli'jah Carroll | Youth Coordinator

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Come to the Water



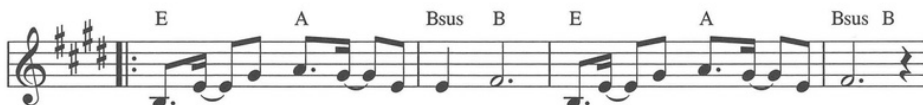
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|--------|--------------------|-----------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| 1. All | who are thirst-y__ | for jus - tice, | all | who are thirst-y__ | for |
| 2. All | who are thirst-y__ | for mer - cy, | all | who are thirst-y__ | for |
| 3. All | who are thirst-y__ | for heal - ing, | all | who are thirst-y__ | for |
| 4. All | who are thirst-y__ | for beau - ty, | all | who are thirst-y__ | for |



- | | | | | |
|--------|-----|----------------------|------------|-----------------|
| peace. | All | who are thirst - y__ | for peace, | for jus - tice, |
| love. | All | who are thirst - y__ | for love, | for mer - cy, |
| touch. | All | who are thirst - y__ | for touch, | for heal - ing, |
| truth. | All | who are thirst - y__ | for truth, | for beau - ty |



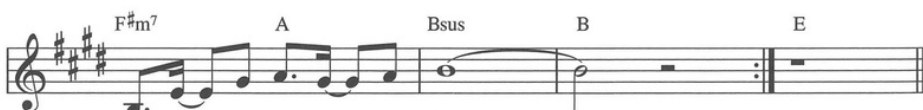
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|-------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| come, | come to__ | the wa - ter__ | of life._____ |
| come, | come to__ | the wa - ter__ | of life._____ |
| come, | come to__ | the wa - ter__ | of life._____ |
| come, | come to__ | the wa - ter__ | of life._____ |



- | | | | | | |
|--------|--------------------|------------------|-----|--------------------|-----------|
| 5. All | who are thirst-y__ | for free - dom, | all | who are thirst-y__ | for hope. |
| 6. All | who are thirst-y__ | for laugh - ter, | all | who are thirst-y__ | for joy. |



- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------------|-----------|------------------|-------|
| All | who are thirst - y__ | for hope, | for free - dom, | come, |
| All | who are thirst - y__ | for joy, | for laugh - ter, | come, |



- | | | |
|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| come to__ | the wa - ter__ | of life._____ |
| come to__ | the wa - ter__ | of life._____ |

Help Us Accept Each Other

388

Fred Kaan, 1974; alt.

John 15:12; 17:20-23; Eph. 4:1-6, 11-16

- 1 Help us ac-cept each oth-er
as Christ ac-cept-ed us;
teach us as sis-ter, broth-cr,
each per-son to em-brace.
Be pres-ent, God, a-mong us,
and bring us to be-lieve
we are our-selves ac-cept-ed
and meant to love and live.
- 2 Teach us, O God, your les-sons,
as in our dai-ly life
we strug-gle to be hu-man
and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for pco-ple,
for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them,
or as they may bc-come.
- 3 Let your ac-cep-tance change us,
so that we may be moved
in liv-ing sit-u-a-tions
to do the truth in love;
To prac-tice your ac-cep-tance,
un-til we know by heart
the ta-ble of for-give-ness
and laugh-ter's heal-ing art.
- 4 God, for to-day's en-coun-ters
with all who are in need,
who hun-ger for ac-cep-tance,
for righ-teous-ness and bread,
Bring us new eyes for see-ing,
new hands for hold-ing on;
re-new us with your Spir-it;
God! Free us, make us one!

Dutch theologian Fred Kaan was ordained in the United Reformed Church in England and Wales and has served as an international church administrator. Author of more than 200 hymns, Kaan frequently has addressed contemporary issues in his texts.

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.
Samuel S. Wesley, 1864

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To the tune of... The Church's One Foundation (*next page*)

The Church's One Foundation

*Eph. 2:13-22; 4:4-6; 1 Cor. 3:11**Samuel J. Stone, 1866; alt.*

1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ our Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of our war,
 4 Yet we on earth have un - ion with God, the Three - in - One,

we are Christ's new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word;
 one char - ter of sal - va - tion, one God, one faith, one birth,
 we wait the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heaven Christ came and sought us in love to set us free;
 One name to - geth - er bless - ing, one ho - ly food we share,
 Till with the vi - sion glo - rious, our long - ing eyes are blessed,
 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! God, give us grace that we,

with pre - cious blood Christ bought us for all e - ter - ni - ty.
 to one hope we are press - ing, at one in work and prayer.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 like them, the meek and low - ly, may live e - ter - nal - ly.

Like the writings of Ambrose many centuries earlier, this hymn was born out of a doctrinal dispute. The young priest Samuel J. Stone composed twelve hymns on the articles of the Apostles' Creed in support of those reacting against nontraditional views of biblical scholarship. This hymn is based on article nine, "the holy Catholic Church."

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.
 Samuel S. Wesley, 1864

Your Love Is Amazing

163



1. Your love is__ a - maz - ing, stea - dy and__ un - chang -
 - ing, I can feel__ it ris -
 - ing, stea - dy and__ un - chang -



- ing, your love is__ a moun - tain, firm be - neath my feet.
 - ing, all the joy__ that's grow - ing deep in - side__ of me.
 - ing, your love is__ a moun - tain, firm be - neath my feet.



— Your love is__ a mys - t'ry, how you gent - ly lift__
 — Ev - 'ry time I see__ you all your good - ness shines
 — Your love is__ a mys - t'ry, how you gent - ly lift__



— me. When I am__ sur - round - ed your love car - ries me.
 — through. I can feel__ this God__ song ris - ing up__ in me.
 — me. When I am__ sur - round - ed your love car - ries me.



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah,



your love makes me sing. Ha - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, ha - le - lu -



- jah, your love makes me sing. 2. Your love is__ sur - pris - Hal le - lu - jah.
 3. Your love is__ a - maz -

Words and Music: Brenton Brown and Brian Doerksen

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