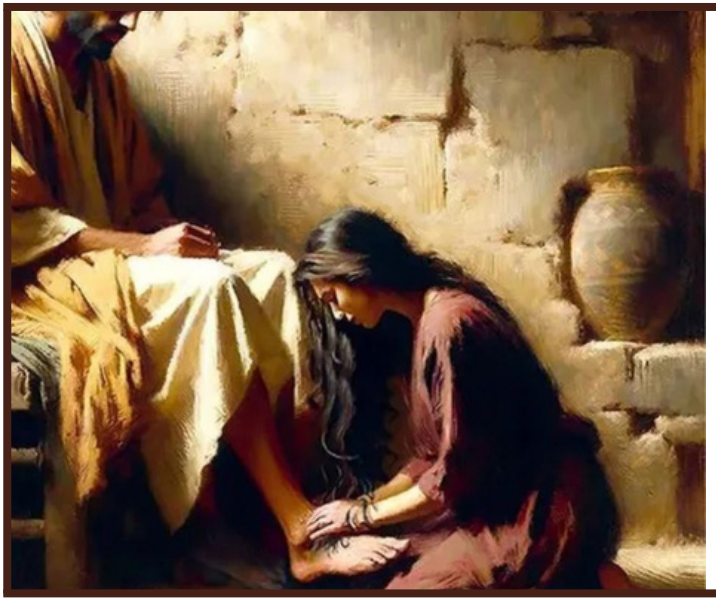


September 27, 2026

"Hospitality: At the Impulse of Love"

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 "My Jesus, I Love Thee" *A.J. Gordon*

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 *...centering ourselves in stillness and breath*

Opening Words from a Neighbor

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

***Gathering Prayer** (*unison*)

Holy One, Light of all healing: Be present with us.
Rooted in your love - may we be. Filled with your peace - may we be.
Illumined by your grace - may we be. Kindle our hearts into quiet strength.
Calm our spirits into restoration. Touch our lives with wholeness again. Amen.

***Opening Song (insert)** "I Dream of a Church"

Prayer of Confession and Longing (*responsive*)

God of all – your world weeps, yearning for a sign of mercy.
Your love works through our hands.

A friend is in anguish, besieged by unexpected pain.
Your love works through our ears.

A multitude are harmed and weary from prejudicial ways.
Your love works through our voices.

A stranger faces death alone, wondering if anyone will remember.
Your love works through our tears.

A neighbor is lonely, longing for someone to come alongside.
Your love works through our bodies.

Forgive our resistance and open us further to your Spirit's movement –
Through all that we are and all that we do. Amen.

Solo "When You Say Nothing At All" *Paul Overstreet & Don Schlitz*

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

Assurance of Grace

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"

Betsy Runke (9/29), **Eleanora** Favilla (10/1, 13 yrs)

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 Claire*
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. 106* John 12:1-8

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

Contemporary Reading | *Jan Richardson* "Love Is the Most Ancient Law"

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

Morning Message "Hospitality: At the Impulse of Love"

Prayer Song (SPP #201) "Deep Peace"

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 kindom 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 kindom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

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

We might hover a hand over the plate as it passes -
to bless gifts of time, talent and money that support our ministries

Offertory "So, Have this Mind Among Yourselves" *English Tune*

***Song of Thanks**

Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-u-ja.
Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-u-ja.
Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-u-ja.
Halleluja! Halleluja!

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Closing Hymn (NCH #562)** "Take My Gifts"

***Benediction**

***Sending Song** *...forming a circle*

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:
all are welcome to longer for refreshments and good company!

Adult Forum - *Sabbatical Reflections*
TODAY | 11 am

Pastor Clare will share reflections and photos from her experiences and ask questions to harvest our experience of the sabbatical time.

PRAYER CORNER

*For **Cindy Baker**, the touch of love in the wake of her brother, Karl's, passing Tuesday afternoon.

*For **Carol Dusbabek**, the touch of love in the wake of Tom's passing on Monday evening.

*With Betsy Runke, prayers for her **dear friend whose son is in hospice**. Prayers and strength for all who grieve.

Guns to Gardens

The Social Justice Team is **collecting $25 gift cards for Cub and Aldi through TODAY** in support of the Guns for Gardens event happening on Oct. 3, 2026, at First Presbyterian Church in Stillwater.

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!

Bridge the Gap Hunger Walk... mark your calendars!

Sunday, Oct. 4th | 11:30 am

We are looking forward to you joining us 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!

Inquirers Gathering... *are you interested in learning more?*

Newer friends, Pastor Clare, and a cohost from our Welcome & Care Team learn about:

- One another (extended introductions, a bit about our faith journeys, etc.)
- The history and current life of St. Croix United Church
- Our denominational affiliations
- How to deepen participation with us
- What membership means to us

Possible next opportunity: **Wednesday, Oct. 7th at 4:30 or 6:30 pm**. Please let Pastor Clare know if you're interested.

Connecting with the Word - *"Callings" is our Oct. worship theme!*
Wednesday, Sept. 30th | **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.

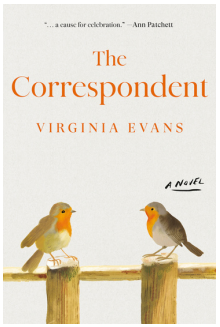
Please let Pastor Clare know if you plan to Zoom.

Seekers
Thursday, Oct. 1st | **7:30 am** & **7:30 pm**

Finding insight & renewal together
Breath, song bowl, a reading, discussion
...to speak to our human experience

Linger for gentle yoga, 8:15-8:45
Bring your own beverage and yoga mat/blanket

All ages, genders, worldviews welcome
(not limited to a Christian perspective)



Book Club
Thursday, Oct. 8th | **6:00 pm**

Join us as we read *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans.

"Filled with knowledge that only comes from a life fully lived, The Correspondent is a gem of a novel about the power of finding solace in literature and connection with people we might never meet in person. It is about the hubris of youth and the wisdom of old age, and the mistakes and acts of kindness that occur during a lifetime."

Valley Bookseller in Stillwater has copies for 15% off!

Soup & Shop - *mark your calendars and invite friends!*
Saturday, Nov. 21st | **10 am - 3 pm**

- All-You-Can-Eat-Soup - freewill donation!
- Gifts-to-Go, local artisans & crafts
- Bake Shoppe
- Wreaths & Porch Pots

Week at a Glance

Wednesday Supper Team | **Sept. 29, 10 am** | @ Church
Welcome & Care Team | **Sept. 29, 12:30 pm** | @ Church

Connecting With the Word | **Sept. 30, 11 am** | @ Church & Zoom
FREE Community Meal | **Sept. 30, 5:30 pm** | @ Church
Flourish Task Force | **Sept. 30, 6 pm** | @ Church

Seekers | **Oct. 1, 7:30 am** | @ Church
Fireside Friends | **Oct. 1, 9:30 am** | @ Church
Seekers | **Oct. 1, 7:30 pm** | @ Church

"Bridge the Gap" Hunger Walk | **Oct. 4, 11:30 am** | @ Church

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Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Lori Mildon (flute), Jane Hanson (usher), Sharri Kinkead (greeter), Mary Maren Bjork (liturgist), St. Croix United Choir, Beryl Garloff (soloist), Diane & Joe Legato (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Claire Spilseth & Roger Klisch (children's activity), Sharri Kinkead (altar flowers)

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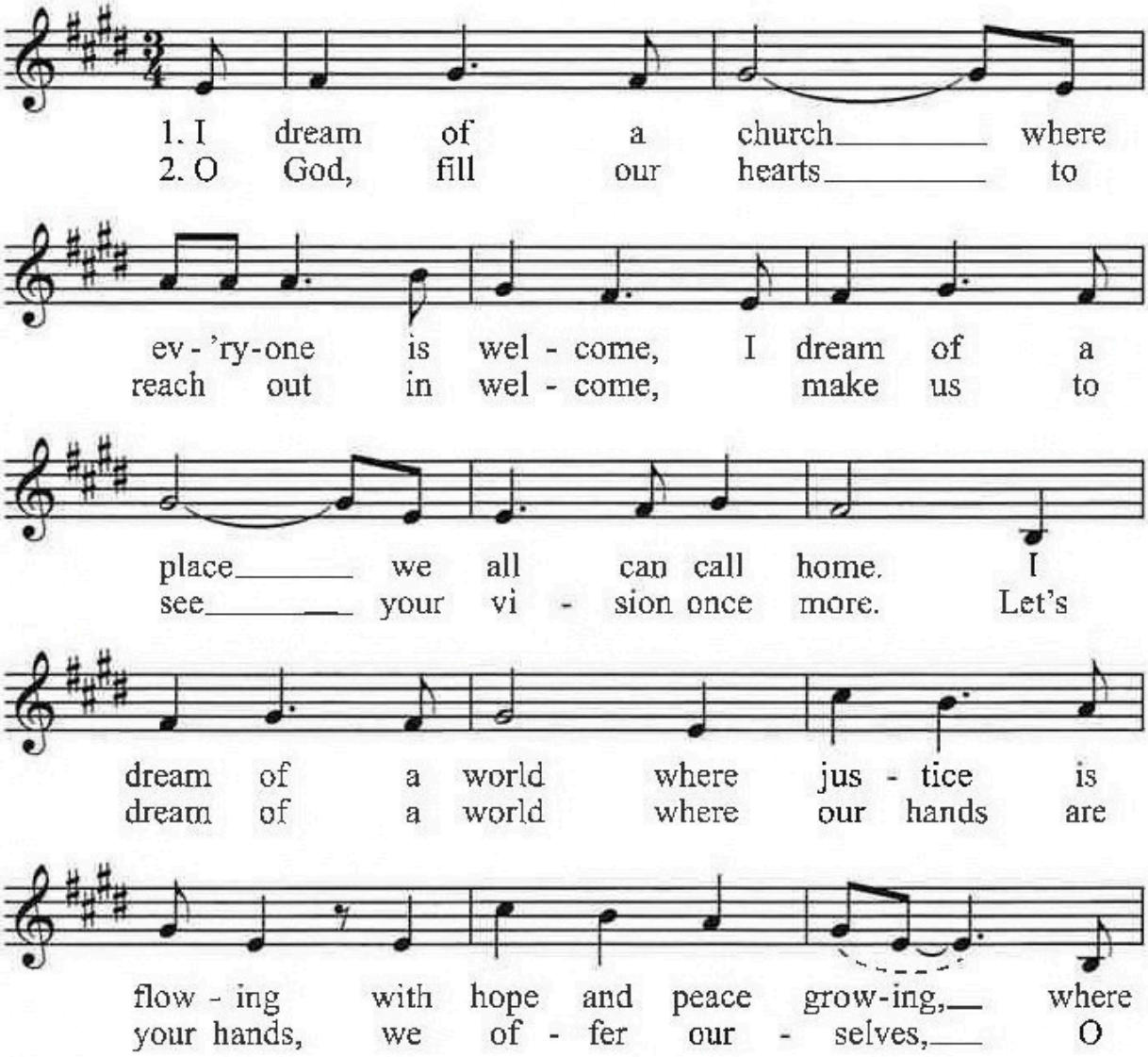
I Dream of a Church



God's will is done. Make it so,
God, make it so.
make it so! We
pray for that day, make it so.
We dream of a world where
Love reigns a - mong us and your will is
done, O God, make it so!

Deep Peace

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Take My Gifts

562

Shirley Erena Murray, 1991