

October 11, 2026

"Callings – Invitations to Transform"

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 "Praise Thee, Praise Thee" *Allen*

...quietly 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*)

God of all, we are always your people. Circumstances change. Opportunities unfold. Guide us toward the abundance of life you offer. We trust your promise that you are always with us. Open our spirits to new faith experiences. Lead us into transformation. Amen.

***Opening Hymn (NCH #177)** "God of Change and Glory"

Prayer of Confession and Longing (*unison*)

Holy God of overflowing grace, we trust that you receive us as we are. You came to us in Jesus - sharing in our humanity and showing us how to live in grace. Sweep over us with your Spirit and change us by your love, that we may live to your glory in this world. 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 *(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"

Roger Klisch (10/12), **Lori** Mildon (10/15), **Sharri** Kinkead (10/15),
Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux (10/15)

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...

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 New Testament | *NRSV, p. 127* Acts 9:1-20

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

Contemporary Reading | *Kate Lore* "Something Sacred is Coming"

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

Morning Message "Callings - Invitations to Transform"

Prayer Song (insert) "For Everyone Born, A Place at the Table"
verses 1-3

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 (scan the QR code)
Blue electronic giving cards are in pew pockets
We can hover a hand over the plate as it passes - to bless gifts of time, talent and money

Shared Ministry Inventory

We invite all members and friends into this inventory as an annual practice.
Place your inventory in a basket at either exit as you depart. Thank you!

Offertory "Your Banner Over Me is Love" *Laurelton*

***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 Hymn (insert)** "For Everyone Born, A Place at the Table"
verses 4 - 6

***Benediction**

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

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



Protecting Our Democracy: A Panel Discussion with Local Organizers

Today | **11 am - 12 pm** (our Adult Forum hour)

Gather to hear from community organizers about how you can help protect our democracy this fall and beyond.

ISAIAH is "a statewide multiracial group of faith communities, Black barbershops, childhood centers, and more fighting for racial and economic justice in Minnesota."

St. Croix Valley Indivisible is "an engaged, diverse and expanding grass-roots organization advocating for progressive values, both socially and politically, for the purpose of fostering a multi-cultural democracy that works for all."



Adult Forum

Sunday, Oct. 18th | **11 am**

Join us next week as we begin a study of Christians in Palestine, “A Moment of Truth--Faith in a Time of Genocide.” Come join us and learn about the descendents of the first church.

PRAYER CORNER

*With Rebecca Dennis, prayers for her friend, **Heather**, who tragically lost her sister Kelsey, brother-in-law Tim, nephew Orion, and Aunt Holly in a car accident. Three other children are injured and will need extended care. May love surround all those who love this family in the midst of shock and grief.

*With Rolf Dittmann, prayers for his sister, **Solveig**, to find relief from back pain; and prayers for his brother, **Radar**, as he begins a new vocation as a lay minister for his church.

*Prayers for **our society** as more gun violence rocked a local high school homecoming game last weekend.

*With Bob Heurung, as he and Wendy grieve the loss of their dog, **Nora**... and joy as they spend time with family and watch grandson Quin continue to grow and thrive.

*With Lori Mildon, prayers for **Jason**, hospitalized and in critical condition with unknown causes.

Neighbors in Need Special Offering

October 11 - 25th

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a Special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States.

The Neighbors in Need offering supports ministries of justice and compassion, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries. In 2025 the Neighbors in Need Offering supported 26 grant recipients across the UCC who were engaged in projects of direct service and advocacy.

Envelopes available in your bulletin, or in the entryway.



"Bridge the Gap" Hunger Walk Update

Our Third Annual "Bridge the Gap" Hunger Walk had about 10 walkers and received $50 cash donated, plus a grocery bag full of good food for the pantry. The weather was ideal and everyone was in great spirits!

An ENORMOUS thank you to Bayport Elementary for collecting food items for our pantries. ...And a huge THANK YOU to Bethlehem Lutheran Church for sending over $200 for our pantries. We are grateful for their continued support!

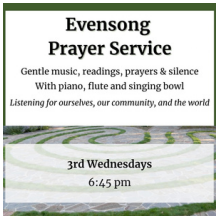


Connecting with the Word - *"Callings" is our Oct. worship theme!*

Wednesday, Oct. 14th | 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.



Evensong Service

Wednesday, Oct. 21st | 6:45 pm *@ church*

Gentle music, readings, prayers & silence
With piano, flute and singing bowl
Listening for ourselves, our community, and the world



Conversations from the Heart

Thursday, Oct. 22nd | 10 am & 6:30 pm *@ church*

The Welcome and Care Team invites you to an opportunity to get to know fellow St. Croix United Church friends on Thursday, Oct. 22nd 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!



All Saints Sunday - *mark your calendar for* November 1st

We're collecting names of those we want to honor on All Saints Day during worship. We will say and light a candle for each name.

Please email Megan with names you'd like to remember during this special service by Tuesday, Oct. 27th.



Vigil for Our Democracy - *mark your calendar*

Monday, November 2nd

Gather with neighbors in our Sanctuary on the eve of Election Day. We will lift up the well-being of our democracy through music, spoken word, and resource sharing.

A light reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

Contact Pastor Clare to help with music, reading, or hospitality.

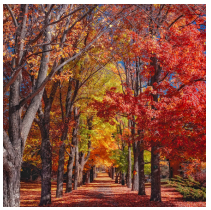


Week at a Glance

Finance Committee | **Oct. 13, 4 pm** | @ Church

Connecting With the Word | **Oct. 14, 11 am** | @ Church & Zoom
FREE Community Meal | **Oct. 14, 5:30 pm** | @ Church
Teen Time | **Oct. 14, 6 pm** | @ Church
Leadership Council | **Oct. 14, 6:30 pm** | @ Church & Zoom

Fireside Friends | **Oct. 15, 9:30 am** | @ Church



The office will be closed Thursday, Oct. 15th
as Pastor Clare and Megan enjoy MEA with their families.

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Lori Mildon (flute), Jane Hanson & Rolf Dittmann (ushers), Sharon Binger (greeter), Sharri Kinkead (liturgist & altar flowers), St. Croix United Choir, Cheri Schwartz (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Carol Dusbabek & Cindy Parsons (children's activity)

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
youth@stcroixunitedchurch.org, (920) 650-1225

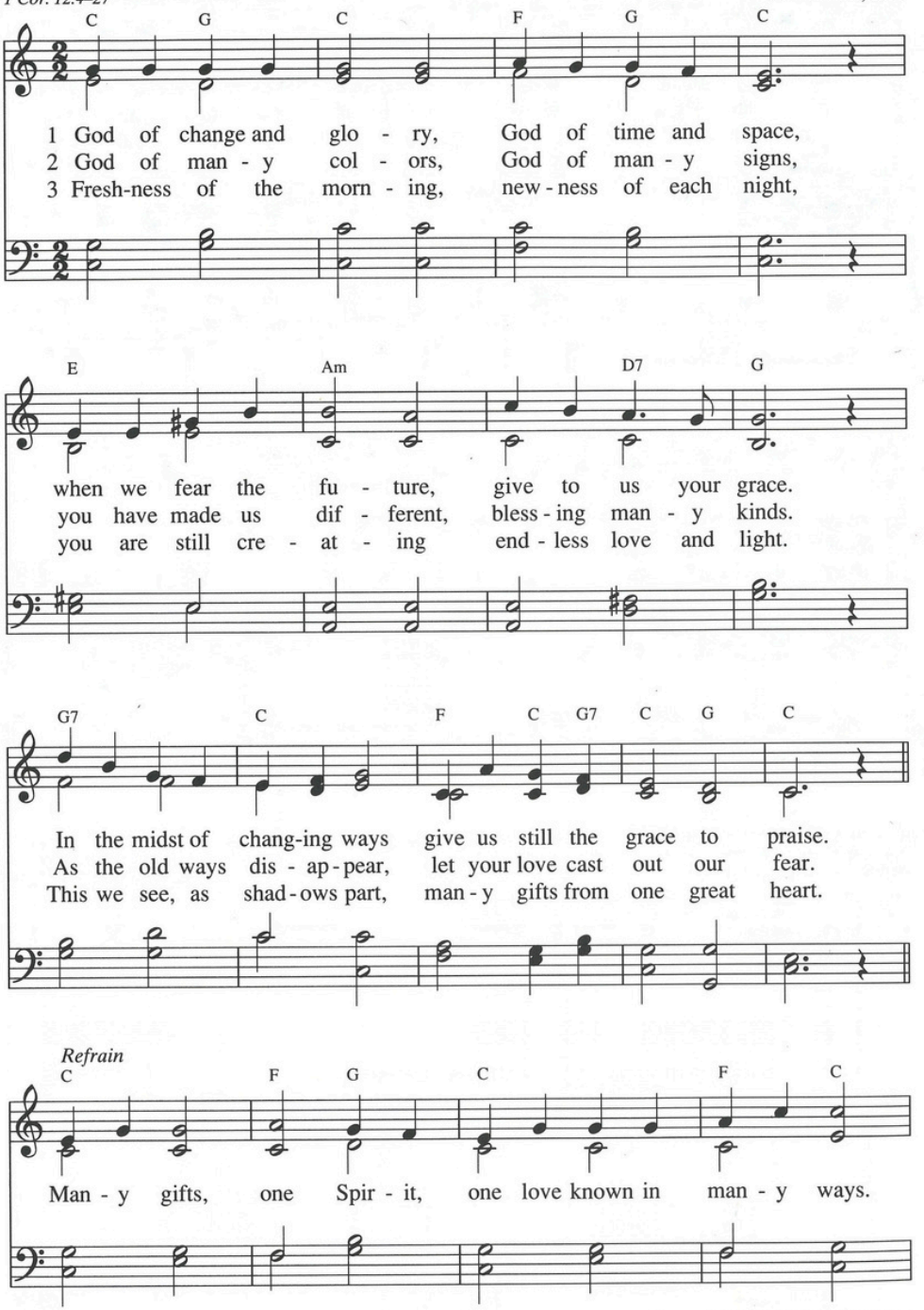
Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux | Music Director
(651) 470-1502

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177 God of Change and Glory

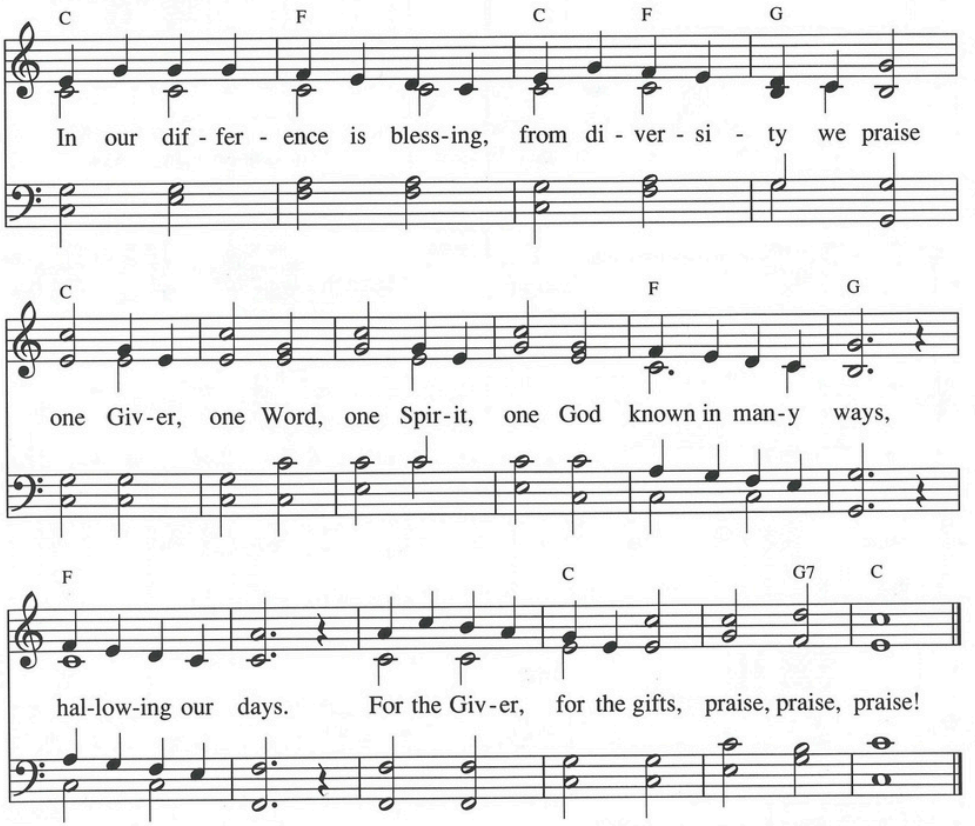
1 Cor. 12:4–27

Al Carmines, 1973



Al Carmines, composer, playwright, performer, and teacher, has served as minister for two United Church of Christ congregations in New York City. This hymn, commissioned in 1973, was one of the first modern texts to claim diversity as a gift from God.

Tune: KATHERINE 6.5.6.5.7.7.
Al Carmines, 1973


C F C F G
In our dif - fer - ence is bless-ing, from di - ver - si - ty we praise
C F G
one Giv-er, one Word, one Spir-it, one God known in man-y ways,
F C G7 C
hal-low-ing our days. For the Giv-er, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

For Everyone Born, A Place at the Table



*Optional verse.

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray
MUSIC: Lim Swee Hong

KARIBU
("Welcome" in Swahili)

Words © 1998 Hope Publishing Company
Music © 2018 Hope Publishing Company


A
E/G#
D/F#
A/E
shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing, for
wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er, for
hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled, for
an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy, for
work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship, for
rain - bow of race and gen - der and col - our, for
D
A/C#
Bm
E
ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head, and
wo - man and man, a sys - tem that's fair, and
young and for old, the right to be - long, and
just and un - just, a new way to live, and
ev - ery - one born, the right to be free, and
gay and for straight, the chal - ice of grace, and
Refrain
D
E/D
C#m7
F#m
God will de - light when we are cre - a - tors of


D
E/D
C#m7
E/B
A
jus - tice and joy, com - pas - sion and peace: yes,
D
E/D
C#m7
F#m
God will de - light when we are cre - a - tors of
Bm7
D/E
A
jus - tice, jus - tice and joy!