

Crosstown Lutheran Church
Sunday, October 25, 2026
Unification Sunday & Reformation Day

**Together we are a vibrant Church
rooted in Richfield for today and tomorrow
where Worship is alive, community thrives through collaboration,
and people of all ages grow in faith and purpose.**

*Holy Communion will be part of this worship service,
the invitation to share in Communion comes from Jesus himself.*

*Whether this is your first time or you have been to the table many times before, **you are welcome.***

*Whether you are a member of this church, another church, or no church at all, **you are welcome.***

*If you are uncertain or have been rejected in other spaces, **you ARE welcome here!***

The “+” insignia indicates where the congregation should rise in body or in spirit

Prelude

Bourrée

anonymous
arr. Tom Garvin

Fanfare for a New Beginning

Lewis J. Buckley
arr. Timothy Buendorf

Welcome and Gathering

Announcements

+Call to Worship

L: There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

C: We come from different paths, different stories, and different days, yet today we answer a single call to walk together.

L: For years, God tended our roots in separate fields and faithful places. Today, God plants us side-by-side to grow a new branch for God’s kingdom.

C: We bring our memories, our songs, and our hopes. We lay them into the foundation of a shared tomorrow.

L: Lift up your hearts! Give thanks to God and bless God’s holy name!

C: With one voice and one accord, let us worship the Lord our God together.

setting by Daniel Ficarri
arr. by Timothy Buendorf



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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+Prayer of the Day

L: O God, give us the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace as this community moves into your holy future. Grant that we be living examples of the cross in the world, serving you by proclaiming the triumph of your love; through Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Lord.

C: Amen.

You may be seated

Word

First Reading: Psalm 46

setting by David Cherwien

The organ introduces the refrain before being sung by the choir and all gathered.

The choir sings the verses and all sing the refrain where indicated (**R**).

Choir:

All:

The Lord of hosts is with us; The God of Ja-cob is our strong - hold.

Detailed description: This musical score is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The time signature is 4/4. The melody begins with a quarter rest, followed by four eighth notes (G4, A4, B4, C5) and a dotted half note (D5). After a double bar line, there is a quarter rest, followed by three eighth notes (E4, F4, G4), two more eighth notes (A4, B4), and a final dotted half note (C5). The lyrics are placed below the staff, aligned with the corresponding notes.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;
though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble at its tumult. **R**

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, The holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be overthrown; God shall help her at the break of day. The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away. **R**

Come now and look upon the works of the Lord, what awesome things he has done on earth. It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire. “Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.” **R**

Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

L: Word of God, Word of Life. C: Thanks be to God!



God's word is our great her - i - tage and shall be ours for - ev - er;



to spread its light from age to age shall be our chief en - deav - or.



Through life it guides our way; in death it is our stay. Lord, grant while



time shall last your church may hold it fast through - out all gen - er - a - tions.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Ole G. Belsheim, 1861–1925, alt.
Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther, 1483–1546

+Gospel: John 8:31-36

L: The Gospel according to John, the eighth chapter. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.

³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever.

³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

L: The Good News of God. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

You may be seated

Children's Message

Sermon

God's Holy Future

Pastor Neal Cannon

Introduction to the Hymn of the Day

Hymn of the Day

Draw Us, O God, into Your Holy Future

Choir only stanzas 1 & 3 - All sing stanzas 2, 4-5



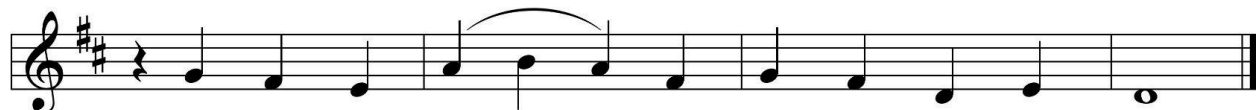
1 Draw us, O God, in - to your ho - ly fu - ture,
2 Like as a tree, up - reach - ing to the heav - ens,
3 Out from dark earth, from shad - ow and from si - lence,
4 Leaves fade and fall and feed new gen - er - a - tions;
5 Draw us, O God, in - to your new cre - a - tion,



where we be - come what we were made to be:
we stretch and grow toward stars and sun a - bove;
the seed may sprout, the old be - get the new;
new life comes forth from what has gone be - fore;
that we bear fruit for hope and mak - ing whole:



each life u - nique, a loved and pre - cious crea - ture,
may we as - pire to draw in light and wis - dom,
may we let go of all that stunts and binds us,
cre - ate in us a sense of sure vo - ca - tion:
the fruit of truth, of beau - ty, and com - pas - sion—



yet all en - twined, a man - y - branch - ing tree.
se - cure and sound, deep - root - ed in your love.
and win - now well all that we thought we knew.
a life of grace, for all the world out - poured.
a - bun - dant life, of bod - y, mind, and soul.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, 1953–2021
Music: Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950
Text © 2019 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress
Music © 2026 Robert Buckley Farlee

HAYFORD
11 10 11 10

Commissioned for Crosstown Lutheran Church at its Formation
by a generous bequest from Rachael Hayford.

More information about the hymn, author, composer and donor
may be found at the end of this bulletin.

You are invited to rise in body or in spirit as we proclaim what we believe

+Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

You may be seated

Prayers of Intercession

L: God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Spoken Response: L: Hear us, O God, **C: Your Mercy is Great.**

prayers end with: We share these and all our prayers with you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **C: Amen.**

Today and throughout the week, please keep the following people in your prayers:

Jill Heinecke	Elaine	Cynthy & Ken Mandl
Jackie Johnson	Brittney	Shirley Perkins
Shari Sjostrand	Jaimie	Eileen Abrahamson
Brooks	Matt	Casper and Family
Elise	Julie	The Patton Family
Tyler	Josh & Family	

We pray also for the families of those who have died this past month, especially;
Diane Schuveiller

+Peace

L: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

You are invited to share the peace with those around you as you feel comfortable.

Meal

The Crosstown Lutheran Church Finance Team and Leadership recommend that congregants begin directing their offerings to Crosstown Lutheran Church effective Nov. 1, 2026. Envelopes marked "Crosstown Lutheran Church" will be available for your use at both services each week. Offerings made to House of Prayer & Woodlake are welcomed and will be accepted for our legacy churches through Dec 31, 2026. For those of you wanting to update your online giving towards Crosstown Lutheran Church, that information will be available at the Information Desk again on October 25 and November 1"

Offering &

Musical Offering

Called to Share God's Love

Anne Krentz Organ

Offering Prayer

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

Distribution Songs

To The Table

Verse 1

Hear the voice of love that's calling There's a chair that waits for you
And a friend who understands Everything you're going through

Verse 2

But you keep standing at a distance In the shadows of your shame
But there's a light of hope that's shining Won't you come and take your place

Chorus 1

And bring it all to the table It's nothing He ain't seen before
For all your sin all your sorrow And your sadness
There's a Savior and He calls Bring it all to the table

Verse 3

He can see the weight you carry The fears that hold your heart
But through the cross you've been forgiven You're accepted as you are

Chorus 2

So bring it all to the table It's nothing He ain't seen before
For all your trials all your worries And your burdens
There's a Savior and He calls Bring it all to the table

Interlude

Bring it all
You can bring it all

Bridge

Come on in take your place
There's no one who's turned away
All you sinners all you saints
Come right in and find your grace

Jonathan Smith, Tony Wood, Zach Williams

CCLI Song #7055780

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Hypnosis Songs Essential; So Essential Tunes; Wisteria Drive

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Everyday Life

What in the world are we going to do?
Look at what everybody's going through
What kind of world do you want it to be?
Am I the future or the history?

'Cause everyone hurts
Everyone cries
Everyone tells each other all kinds of lies
Everyone falls
Everybody dreams and doubts

Got to keep dancing when the lights go out
How in the world I am going to see?
You as my brother
Not my enemy?

'Cause everyone hurts
Everyone cries
Everyone sees the color in each other's eyes
Everyone loves
Everybody gets their hearts ripped out

Got to keep dancing when the lights go out
Gonna keep dancing when the lights go out
Hold tight for everyday life
Hold tight for everyday life

At first light
Throw my arms out open wide
Hallelujah
Hallelujah
Hallelu-halle-hallelujah
Hallelujah
Hallelujah
Hallelu-halle-hallelujah
Yes

Songwriters: Christopher Anthony John Martin / Guy Rupert Berryman / John Metcalfe /
Jonathan Mark Buckland / William Champion

Post Communion Blessing

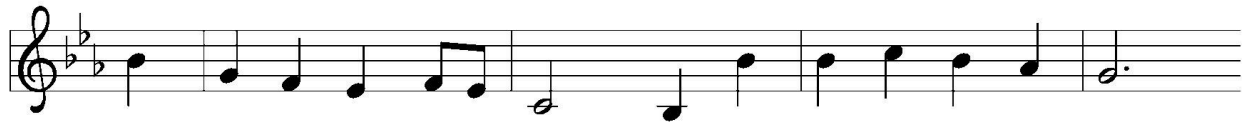
Prayer after Communion

Sending

+Sending Hymn

We All Are One in Mission

ELW 835



1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit-ness in God's name.
3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.



our var-ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem-ing Word.



A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris-ing grace,
We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune

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+Dismissal

L: Go in peace, spread the Good News,

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Festival Postlude on "Ein feste Burg"

Tom Garvin

Worship Participants

Presider	Pastor Eric Luedtke
Preacher	Pastor Neal Cannon
Musicians	Timothy D. Buendorf, Transitional Director of Worship and Music Josh Countryman, Transitional Director of Porch Worship Crosstown Choir Crosstown Brass Ensemble; Nathan Orcutt, Associate Director
Assisting Minister	Laurie Franklin
Communion Assistants	Pastor Eric, Pastor Neal, Muriel and Orv Holland
Ushers	Jim Gay, and Scott Dahlquist
AV Technician	Vivian Beck
Sacristan	Muriel Holland

Crosstown Lutheran Church

2120 West 76th Street
Richfield, MN 55423
Pastors Neal Cannon and Eric Luedtke

Acknowledgements

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Draw Us, O God, Into your Holy Future:

A brand-new hymn commissioned for Crosstown Lutheran Church

Crosstown Lutheran Church begins its new life on Reformation Sunday 2026. On the same day, the new Crosstown congregation will premiere a brand-new hymn specifically written for the new congregation. *Draw Us, O God, into Your Holy Future* is a hymn and a prayer about new beginnings. The imagery of the hymn draws God's people toward a new future in which God brings justice, peace, reconciliation, and renewed creation. A central theme of the hymn is that God's future is not necessarily something that Christians must wait for. Rather, the congregation is called to participate in that future now – by living out God's purposes through service, love of neighbor, compassion, and work for justice.

At its core, the 5 verses of the hymn move us through the following strong narrative: “God calls us. We respond. Our actions are based on our faith. Through our call and our actions, we have hope in God's promised future.” Note that this a future that we do not create ourselves. Rather, we are invited and drawn into that future.

The hymn exemplifies a Lutheran understanding of grace. God acts first, and the congregation responds in faith. It also speaks to our denomination's emphasis on being a church that is continuously renewed and sent into the world. An additional theme is the emphasis on reconciliation and addressing divisions with church and society. Finally, the hymn concludes with a call that echoes the ELCA catchphrase “God's work. Our hands.” The congregation gathers for worship and is then sent into the world. The future belongs to God, but we Christians have a vocation to embody God's love, mercy, justice, and reconciliation in the present.

No better hymn or prayer can we offer to God as Crosstown Lutheran Church embarks upon its bold and exciting future!

Clarence M Smith
Interim Director for Music and Worship, Woodlake Lutheran Church
and facilitator for the hymn commission project

The Composer

Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950, recently retired as Associate Pastor and Director of Music at Christ Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. Bob Farlee and his wife Jane Buckley-Farlee (pastor at Trinity Lutheran Congregation, ELCA, Minneapolis) were ordained in 1980. He is a graduate of Christ Seminary-Seminex, St. Louis, Missouri. He also served on the worship editorial staff at AugsburgFortress Publishers, and he was deeply involved in the 2006 publication of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, our primary hymnal within the ELCA.

The Poet

Susan Palo Cherwien, 1953-2021, was a poet and musician. She received her bachelor's degree in church music and voice from Wittenberg University in Ohio, attended the Spandauer Kirchenmusikschule in Berlin; and completed the Abschlussprüfung in voice at the Hochschule der Künste Berlin and a Master of Liberal Studies from Mundelein College, Chicago, where she focused on spirituality, ritual, and the arts.

Susan composed numerous hymn texts which appear in denominational hymnals in the United States, Canada, and Europe and has written for *The Lutheran*, *Christian Century*, *CrossAccent*, *Gather*, and *Word and World*. She is the author of the hymn text collections, *O Blessed Spring: Hymn Texts of Susan Palo Cherwien*; Vol. II: *Come, Beloved of the Maker*; and Vol. III: *Peace, Be Still* (all with AugsburgFortress); as well as hymn festival reflections collected in *Crossings: Meditations for Worship*, *From Glory Into Glory: Reflections For Worship*, and *To God I Give My Melody* (all with MorningStar); Susan also edited the sacred vocal collection, *To God Will I Sing* (AugsburgFortress).

The Donor

Rachael Hayford, 1922-2025, was a lifelong lover of music and her faith was a cornerstone of her life. As a member of Woodlake Lutheran for over 70 years, Rachael sang in the choir, knit prayer shawls, participated in the Rebecca Circle, and made baptismal napkins.

Andrea Nelson (Rachael's daughter) contributed the following words: "Today's music is dedicated in memory of **Rachael M. Hayford**. Rachael loved the organ and had a profound gift for making others feel welcome. Funded by her memorial, this piece beautifully unites her love of music with the bringing together of our two congregations. As we sing this hymn, we honor her legacy and remember to "*welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you*" (Romans 15:7) even as we step forward into our shared future."