To join worship this morning via zoom app, click this link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83928727469?pwd=WZhWZkIFQjBtIgVeUvdWRNS21Kdz09 (if you are asked for a password, it is: 890967). To dial in by phone call 1 312 626 6799. When prompted, enter 839 2872 7469#. Next, you will be prompted to enter your participant ID or to push #; simply push # again.

Prelude

Welcome
If you’re new to First Church, we’d love to get to know you better. You can sign up to receive our email communications on the home page of our website, www.firstchurchmn.org (scroll down to the heading “stay connected” on the right side of the page). You find us on Facebook by searching for “First Congregational Church of MN, UCC.” You’re also welcome to introduce yourself in the chat or comments.
Reading: John 15:9–17

Sung Response: *Be Not Afraid*, Taizé

Gathering Words: “Remember” by Julie Cadwallader Staub
Hymn: Where Charity and Love Prevail, NCH 396

1 Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found; Brought
2 With grateful joy and holy fear true charity we learn; Let
3 Forgive we now each other’s faults as we our faults confess; And
4 Let strife among us be unknown, let all contention cease; Be

here together by Christ’s love, by love are we thus bound.
us with heart and mind and strength now love Christ in return.
let us love each other well in Christian holiness.
Christ the glory that we seek, be ours Christ’s holy peace.

Small Group Conversation

2020-21 Congregational Theme
Amid the pandemics of COVID-19, climate change, and racial injustice, the First Church community will cultivate intentional spiritual connections, work toward healing and justice, and reimagine how we are church.

Large Group Reporting
Chant: See I am Near

"See, I am near," says our God.

"See, I make all things new."

Oh, oh.

Small Group Conversation

Outcome Statement 1: We will cultivate intentional spiritual connections with the result that we will deepen a sense of being known, valued, and engaged.

Outcome Statement 2: We will work toward healing and justice with the result that we establish relationships of accountability that allow us to listen to, learn from, and act in partnership with those experiencing injustice, and with those working to heal the earth.

Outcome Statement 3: We will reimagine how we are church with the result that we foster new connections in the wider community, broaden our view of the life of the church, and identify and eliminate barriers and blind spots that get in the way of greater participation.

Large Group Reporting
Prayers of the People
To share a prayer concern with the community today, please share your prayer in the chat on the zoom call or comment on the livestream. To honor the privacy of those you pray for, please seek their permission, and pray for them using their first name only. Please respond to each prayer with the words: “Hear our prayer.”

Lord’s Prayer
A commonly used form is printed below. Please use the version most meaningful to you.

Let us pray with words and in the spirit of Jesus:

Our God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom 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 kingdom and the power and the glory for ever. Amen.

Offering Invitation
We invite your financial gifts to support our ministries within and beyond First Church. May’s Special Offering is for MN Interfaith Power and Light. MN-IPL responds to climate change by bringing Minnesota’s faith communities together and providing opportunities for congregations to join the growing climate justice movement.

You can give by going to our website: www.firstchurchmn.org, and clicking on the “Support Us” link. You can also give by texting 612-255-4109: “$(amount) Special”
(for the monthly offering) or "$(amount) General Fund. If you give by check, please make it out to First Church with "MNIPL" in the memo line. Thank you!

Offertory

Offertory Response: Never Ending Joy

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Never ending joy, never ending joy, never ending joy,}
\end{align*}
\]

1 God of every tribe, every language, God of every river and sea,
2 God of every hill, every valley, God of every leaf, every tree,
3 God of every song, every story, God of every captive set free,

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{God of every mountain and island, you bring joy to me.}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{God of every cloud, every raindrop, you bring joy to me.}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{God of every dance, every footprint, you bring joy to me.}
\end{align*}
\]
Prayer of Dedication
All: We will abide in your love, O Risen Christ. We will love one another. We will love this world. Alleluia and Amen.

Announcements

Hymn: Called as Partners in Christ’s Service, NCH 495
Thank you to those who led our worship today!

**Reader:** Barb Franklin  
**Tech Support:** Greg Hubinger, Hikaru Peterson  
**Small Group Facilitators & Notetakers:** Members of the Board and Ministry Team Leaders

## Coming up this week

**Sunday, May 9**  
10a: Worship: Congregational Conversation

**Monday, May 10**  
8p: Praying & hymns with Sandy Johnson  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87337381871?pwd=cytncDhPS2UrbUlvOGE2d1VoV2ZKUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87337381871?pwd=cytncDhPS2UrbUlvOGE2d1VoV2ZKUT09)

**Tuesday, May 11**  
Noon: Kundalini yoga:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84028373184?pwd=bk43bk02eXF3N2FGV3NzUzlMT21FQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84028373184?pwd=bk43bk02eXF3N2FGV3NzUzlMT21FQT09)  
1p: Staff Meeting  
7p: FCC Board  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86400804235?pwd=elhzU3ZvOHl5ZEJIdgpZWXRvRkZHQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86400804235?pwd=elhzU3ZvOHl5ZEJIdgpZWXRvRkZHQT09)

**Wednesday, May 12**  
8p: Lectio divina with Jane McBride  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82073060366?pwd=RjIyREQ0SzZBajZ2OHEwRzd3UnNTUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82073060366?pwd=RjIyREQ0SzZBajZ2OHEwRzd3UnNTUT09)

**Thursday, May 13**  
10a: Guided meditation w/Jean Chagnon

**Saturday, May 15**  
9a: Volunteer morning @Community Emergency Service
Sunday, May 16
10a: Worship
noon: Congregational Care team:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85838998086?pwd=OEpCMU0vZm91eHAzWXczbDVbFl0Zz09

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Ministers The People of First Church

Principal Minister Jane McBride: jmcbride@firstchurchmn.org; ext. 304; cell: 612-598-2432

Minister of Music Byron Almén: balmen@firstchurchmn.org; cell: 512-809-9789

Parish Administrator Sarah Tittle: office@firstchurchmn.org; cell: 612-205-9870

Facilities Manager Brad Schumann: bschumann@firstchurchmn.org; cell: 651-357-8082

Moderator Greg Hubinger: hubinger5@comcast.net; cell: 612-384-2631

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Announcements

Mission and Ministry Money! At last week’s congregational meeting, we voted to share $7,500 of our Capital Campaign funds with each of four organizations, for a total of $30,000.

- Avivo Village https://avivomn.org/avivovillage/ (contact: Tim Danz and the Hospitality and Engagement Team)
- Mississippi Park Connection https://parkconnection.org (contact: Lisa Keitel and the Climate Justice Working Group)
**Little Free Pantry Update:** With the warm weather upon us, the Hospitality and Engagement Team is planning on including fresh produce in our Little Free Pantry. We’ll have a table outside the church once a week—more details tbd. If you are interested in contributing plants or produce—or any other item for the pantry—please let Sarah Tittle know: office@firstchurchmn.org. We are still looking for weekly pantry sponsors! Please let Sarah know if you would like to sign up.

**You’re Invited to an Outdoors Open House at Mercedes’ Faribault Farm!** Mercedes, Marcus and Torsten invite you to their farm on Saturday, May 22 from 11am-4pm. It will be outdoors only, and they have tons of space for people to be safe. Bring a picnic lunch and lawn chairs! There are two walking/hiking trails through the woods and prairie field on the farm. Marcus and Mercedes will be fully vaccinated by then, but, depending on where things are at by that point, they may ask that everyone wear masks, even outside. They have three very friendly farm cats, five nosy laying hens, and will be raising fifty meat chickens, so you can see their small but growing farm. This gathering is special for the church congregation. Everyone from church is invited! The farm is located 18170 Cagger Trail, Faribault, MN (1 hour south of Mpls./St. Paul). Be careful on the gravel road; it’s slippery! RSVP to Mercedes at 612-756-3114 or tumah010@gmail.com

**South Minneapolis Day Camp June 21-25.** This year, our theme for our collaborative day camp is “Soil and Spirit.” Due to the unknowns related to the continuing pandemic and vaccine roll-out, we are planning to offer camp for elementary age online, with at least one outdoor, in-person evening gathering opportunity for every kid (with an option for the whole family to join) from 6:30–8p on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Our online camp will include live Zoom gatherings from 9–10a Monday to Friday, which will involve songs, ASL learning, prayer time, and learning about our theme. We will have further content on our website with daily art, storytelling, and gardening videos that kids can engage in throughout their days, and materials for those activities will be provided to kids prior to the start of camp. Everything online and in person will be ASL interpreted. You can register your child to participate at https://sites.google.com/view/southminneapolisdaycamp2021/home

Middle school and high school youth and families: we are thinking of holding a time for art, volunteer projects and faith formation outdoors in person from 1–4 p each day. Please let Jane know if you would be interested in this. And for senior high youth, let Jane know if you’d like to serve as a volunteer leader for our morning and evening sessions this year.

**All-church camping opportunities.** We have reserved group campsites on two weekends this summer. First Church households are invited to camp together June 4-6 at Wild River State Park and/or August 20–22 at William O’Brien State Park. Both parks are close the twin cities (between 45-hour drive), so we encourage those who aren’t camping to come out on Saturday for a picnic and community time. Campers should plan to bring their own food and equipment for tent camping. To help pay for the campsite, we request a contribution of $10 per person or $30 per family. Please let
Jane know if you plan to join either of these weekends. If you’d like to come but don’t have equipment, or can’t go but have equipment to lend to others, please let Jane know that too.