



## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Epiphany

### February 8, 2026

Join Us on Zoom!



[Click to Join Online](#)

Meeting ID: 839 2872 7469 Password: 890967



1. Call **1-312-626-6799**.
2. When prompted, enter **839 2872 7469 #**.
3. When prompted to enter your participant ID, just press **#**.

*Cultivating a community for all to belong,  
rooted in Jesus' way of love and justice.*



## GATHERING

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### PRELUDE

### WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

### GATHERING WORDS

“Sunrise Morning” by Eve Merriam

### \*HYMN 85

“I Woke Up This Morning”

I woke up this morning with my mind...  
Walkin' and talkin' with my mind...  
Can't hate your neighbor with your mind...  
Singing and praying with my mind...

### MINISTRY MOMENT

Jamie Dolynchuck

President of Community Emergency Service (CES)

### SCRIPTURE

Psalm 112:1-9

Matthew 5:13-20

### TIME WITH CHILDREN

### SERMON

“Imagine Our Light Shining”

### \*HYMN 525

“This Little Light of Mine”

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

*A commonly used form is printed here. You are welcome to use any version meaningful to you.*

**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 forever.**

**Amen.**

### OFFERING

*In addition to financial offerings, we invite you to offer your response to this question on the small piece of paper: Amid the groanings of this time, how do you show up to embody hope?*

*We invite your financial gifts to support our ministries within and beyond First Church. February's special offering supports food aid through Community Emergency Service (CES). Please make checks out to First Church with "CES" in the memo line. See "Get Connected" to learn about giving online or by text.*

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Lux Beata Trinitas”

Words: Anon., trans. by Jeremy White; Music: Ola Gjeilo

O Trinity, blessed light,  
and Unity, foremost in might,  
now the fiery sun has withdrawn,  
pour your light into our hearts.

In the morning, with our song of praise,  
and in the evening let us send up our prayer;  
as suppliants we hymn your glory  
throughout all the ages.

Amen.

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

“Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New”  
Words & Music: John L. Bell

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Blessed light, you create us to be a community of illuminating love, a people who show up with zesty courage. We give you our lives, trusting that through our witness, your purposes will be fulfilled.

**SENDING**

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*HYMN 314**

“Community of Christ”

**BAPTISMAL BLESSING & BENEDICTION**

**CHORAL BENEDICTION**

“Nunc Dimitis” (The Song of Simeon)

Words & Music: Alexander Gretchaninov

English adapt.: N. Lindsay Norden

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace,  
according to Thy word.

For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
Which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people  
to be a light to lighten the Gentiles  
and to be the glory of Thy people Israel.

**POSTLUDE**

*Please join us for coffee, food, and fellowship in the Gathering Hall following the postlude.*

**Thanks to those who are taking part in worship today.**

Valet.....	Tom Lincoln
Usher.....	Mary Jean Korsmo
Reader.....	Sandy Johnson
Tech Support.....	Greg Hubinger, Jeff Peterson
Coffee Hour.....	Christyann Ranck

**After Worship Today**

**Campus Dialogue Series: Mapping Prejudice.** Please join after worship for our inaugural Campus Dialogue at First Church. The topic is housing in our neighborhood. We welcome Kirsten Delegard, director of the “Mapping Prejudice” Project at the University of Minnesota, as well as team members Treasure Tinsley and Kelly Rogers. The dialogue will be hosted and moderated by Melissa Harl.

## Coming Up

**Mardi Gras Mini Golf—Volunteers Still Needed!** Our annual Mardi Gras Mini Golf event will take place on Friday, February 13, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. We will play our 9-hole mini golf course all around the church and eat tacos and freshly made donuts. The Roasters (with Tim Gustafson of ULCH) will play traditional New Orleans jazz, Cajun rhythms, and original songs for your dancing and listening pleasure.

We need folks to help with all kinds of things—from flyering the neighborhood and setting up to greeting guests and serving food. Sign up to help at [firstchurchmn.org/mardigrasvolunteer](http://firstchurchmn.org/mardigrasvolunteer).

**Next Week: Joint Worship at University Baptist Church.** On February 15, we'll worship together with UBC at their location—1219 University Ave. SE—at our usual time—10:00 a.m.

**Elder Gathering: February 11.** This group is for anyone who self-identifies as an elder. It includes a time of sharing about our lives and, currently, informal discussions of brief writings by Cynthia Bourgealt, titled "Aging Spiritually". The conversations are rich and deeply meaningful. If you'd like to join, [reach out to Jane](#) and she will add you to the email list.

**Night Songs—Get Tickets Now.** Tickets are going fast for a night of music under projections of the night sky at University Lutheran Church of Hope on Sunday, February 15, at 7:00 p.m. Night Songs is a celebration of choral music featuring the First Church choir as well as several other neighborhood choirs. This is a popular event, so free tickets are required. Get them at [nightsongs2026.eventbrite.com](https://nightsongs2026.eventbrite.com).

**Theatre at First Church: The Happiest Man on Earth.** After worship on February 22 we will share lunch, then welcome artists from Six Points Theater for a noon performance of "The Happiest Man on Earth." This is a solo show based Eddie Jaku's bestselling Holocaust memoir which promises to "inspire you to face life's darkest moments with courage, choose love over despair, and share your joy with those you love most." A freewill donation will be accepted (no advance registration is required).

**Neon Stories: Crashing Out.** The next sacred storytelling event from Neon's campus ministry is titled "Crashing Out." This will be a powerful night of stories about struggles with mental health, letting go of stigma and shame, and seeing ourselves as beloved. This event takes place on Thursday, February 26 at 6:00 p.m., and will be followed by dinner. If you're planning to attend, please sign up on the sheet at church or [email the church office](#).

**Lenten Small Groups—Sign Up Now.** Lent begins this year with Ash Wednesday on February 18. We're offering four opportunities to gather, connect, and learn during the Lenten season. [Sign Up for Small Groups](#)

### Regular Gatherings

Bible Study—Tuesday, February 10 (noon—hybrid)

Elder Gathering—Wednesday, February 11 (noon on Zoom)

Indigenous Study Group—Wednesday, February 11 (3:00 p.m.—hybrid)

Knitting Group—Monday, February 16 (7:00 p.m. @ Chris Follet's home)

Family Gathering—Sunday, February 22 (11:30 a.m.)

Spanish Conversation Group—Saturday, February 28 (10:00 a.m. @ HarMar Mall Barnes & Noble (Roseville))

Craft Group—Wednesday, March 4 (11:00 a.m.)

# Week of February 9–15

You can find links for Zoom meetings on our website: [firstchurchmn.org](http://firstchurchmn.org)

MON (2/9)	9:30 AM	Southeast Play Group	Basement
	6:30 PM	<i>Faith Formation Team</i>	Zoom
TUE (2/10)	noon	Bible Study	Library/Zoom
	7:00 PM	Justice League/Board Meeting	Library/Zoom
WED (2/11)	noon	<i>Elder Gathering</i>	Zoom
	3:00 PM	Indigenous Study Group	Library/Zoom
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
THU (2/12)	9:30 AM	Southeast Play Group	Basement
Fri (2/13)	5:30 PM	Mardi Gras Celebration	Gathering Hall
SUN (2/15)	10:00 AM	<i>Worship</i>	University Baptist Church
	11:15 AM	<i>Coffee Hour</i>	UBC
	11:45 AM	<i>Forum</i>	UBC
	7:00 PM	<i>Night Songs</i>	ULCH

## Get Connected

**Weekly Email.** You can [sign up to receive all the news](#) on Thursday afternoons, as well as other important updates.

**Online & Text Giving.** [Give Online](#) You can also give by texting 612-255-4109; “\$(amount) Special” for the monthly offering or “\$(amount) General Fund”.

**Democracy in Action Signal Group.** Join our Democracy In Action group on Signal if you would like to connect with others in the church about opportunities to show up to protest and resist. [Join Signal Group](#)

**Worship Volunteers.** Can you lend a hand in worship as a reader or usher? Are you a coffee hour virtuoso? [Sign Up to Help in Worship](#)

Helping for the first time? [Joy Gullikson](#) can help you get oriented.

*Wherever you are on life's journey, let us walk with you . . .*

Pastor Jane's typical work week is Sunday through Thursday. Please call or email her to set up appointments as she is in and out of the office. She hopes you will contact her for support and prayer in times of illness, hospitalization, or crisis. If your need is urgent, you may call or text her cell phone at any time of the week.

To aid in worship, assistive listening devices and large-print bulletins are available from the ushers.

**We welcome you to visit the remembrance area** at any time during worship. At the back of the sanctuary there is a table with journals that can be utilized to write or draw your remembrances in memory of a loved one. You can also light a candle on the columbarium.

**Children are most welcome in worship at First Church.** Families are invited to use the kids' corner in the front of the Sanctuary during worship. We are working to become an inclusive community that welcomes people of all abilities within all church spaces. If you have questions or comments about sharing our worship service with those of differing abilities, please speak to Jane McBride.

**Valet parking is available every Sunday** for those who find it difficult to navigate the walk from a parking spot to the church. Valets will meet you at the 8th Ave. entrance, assist you in getting inside and park your car for you (and get it for you after the service). If the valet sign is posted and you don't see a parker, please wait for them to return.

**February's Special Offering** supports Community Emergency Service (CES) which feeds our neighbors through a shippable food shelf, 24/7 food lockers, pet food, and hot meals delivered through Meals on Wheels.

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**Cover art:** Photograph by Matt Roth for USA Today: Morgan State students in jail after protests at Baltimore's segregated Northwood Theater, 1963

**First Congregational Church of Minnesota, UCC**

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Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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