

November 8, 2026

24th Sunday After Pentecost

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.

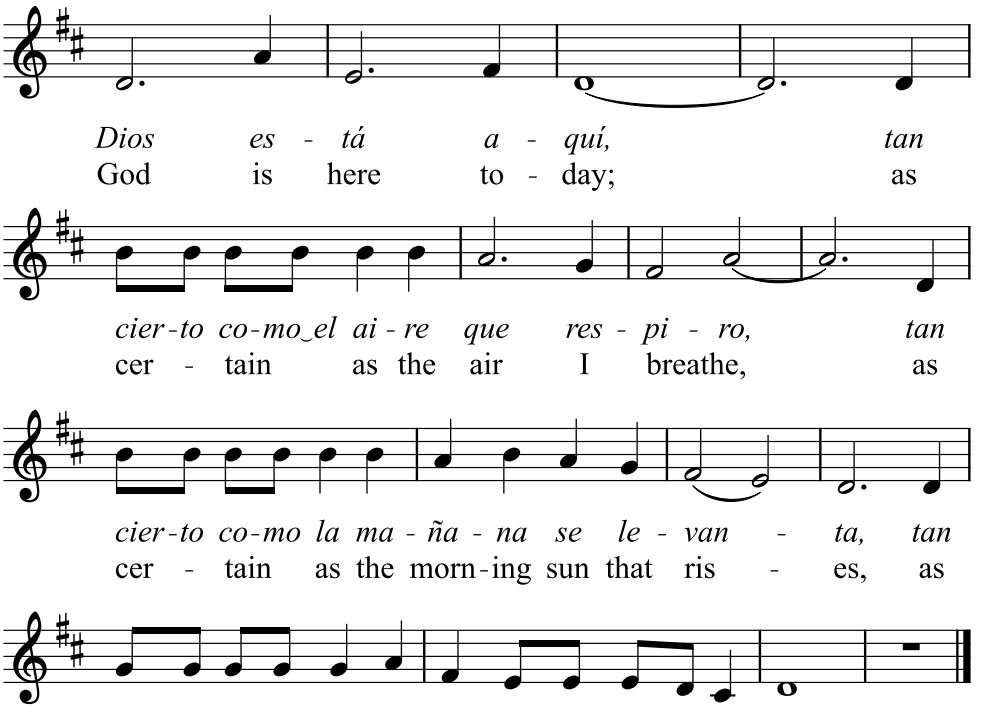
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH of Minnesota
United Church of Christ

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome

Gathering Song "God Is Here Today"



Words & Music: Javier Gracías; tr. C. Michael Hawn © 1999 Choristers Guild

Gathering Words "The Song of Miriam" by Rabbi Ruth Sohn

*__Hymn__ "Breath of God, Breath of Peace" (song sheet)

Generosity Moment *Open Doors* Campaign

Time with Children & Storytelling Exodus 14–15
"A Path to Freedom" and "The Song of the Sea"
from *The Book of Belonging* by Mariko Clark

Anthem "Light of a Clear Blue Morning"
Words & Music: Dolly Parton; arr. Craig Hella Johnson

Sermon "Freedom to … "

*__Hymn 2__ "Glory, Glory Hallelujah"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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 Invitation

We also invite your financial gifts to support our ministries within and beyond First Church. November's special offering supports Southeast Seniors. Give Online

Offertory Anthem "We Shall Not Give Up the Fight"
South African freedom song

*__Offertory Response__ "I Can Feel You Near Me God" (song sheet)

*__Prayer of Dedication__

Leader: Creator God, your Spirit hovers over all the earth, singing a love song, a song of belonging and delight.

All: **We are grateful. We bring our gifts. We join the song. Amen.**

SENDING

Announcements

*__Hymn 326__ "Crashing Waters at Creation"

*__Benediction__

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.....Marilyn Burns
Readers .....Xan Laurence, Ruth Lemire, Bill Lindberg
Tech Support ..... Maggie George, Jeff Peterson
Coffee Hour.....Christyann Ranck

After Worship Today

Democracy in Action Bridge Brigade. Grab your coffee and your protest sign (and a chair if that would be helpful) and join us on the pedestrian bridge over I-35W next to the church to embody hope and resist authoritarianism.

Family Gathering. On the second and fourth Sundays each month, kids and their grownups gather in the play room downstairs after the worship service. We share a Bible story, make a craft or other story response, engage in lots of free play, eat snacks, and build beloved community together.

Confirmation Gathering. The confirmation group will meet at noon at Mt. Zion Temple in St. Paul.

Coming Up

Founding Day Celebration—RSVP Now. Join us on Sunday, November 15, as we officially begin our 175th anniversary celebration with a special Founding Day worship followed by a lunch program. **Please register** if you're planning to attend.

***Open Doors* Capital Campaign.** Capital Campaign packets were distributed following worship last Sunday, and were mailed to those not able to be present. If you have not received one, you can **download the campaign packet**.

As we discern our levels of commitment to the *Open Doors* capital campaign as well as to the ongoing support of First Church in the coming year, we revisit the apostle Paul's words to the church in Corinth: "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7; NRSV)

Let us pray: Holy One, help me to give cheerfully.

Neon Stories: All of Me. Neon, a campus ministry, invites you to attend a powerful night of stories about the beauty of intersectionality and the experiences that tie us all together; this is a chance to celebrate our whole identities. All are invited—whether you're a college student or a community member, we can all show up for each other, share a (free!) meal, and find strength in our solidarity. The event is on Thursday, November 12, at 6:00 p.m. at Coffman Theater. Sign up in the sanctuary or **email the church office** to let us know you'll be there.

2nd Hour: First Church in Our Neighborhood. On Sunday, November 22, Hennepin History Museum Executive Director John Crippen will join us for 2nd Hour to share insights about First Church's history, providing city and statewide context for the activities of church leaders and members, including sharing about the church's leadership in the abolitionist movement.

Wopíla—An Evening of Gratitude. All Nations Indian Church is inviting their partners to their Wopíla on Monday, November 23. Wopíla is a Lakota expression of thanksgiving and gratitude. Participants will share a traditional community Stone Soup meal, music, storytelling, prayer, and Dinner Church, and give thanks for the relationships that connect us. First Church has reserved a table for six; **contact Pastor Jane** to attend.

Toy Giveaway—Collection In Progress. Once again we're organizing a free toy giveaway for the holidays. We are collecting gently-used gifts for kids from birth to age 18, things like toys, arts & crafts supplies, video games, movies, and books. Everything must be in good condition, in working order, and with no missing pieces. Bring items to the basement kitchen at church throughout November.

In addition to donations, we also need people to help set up during the first week of December and to staff the event on the afternoon of Sunday, December 6. **Contact Mercedes** (612-756-3114) if you can help.

Elder Gathering Meets Tomorrow. This group meets on Zoom at 1:00 p.m. on the second Monday of the month, and is for anyone who self-identifies as an elder. Participants share about their lives and discuss reflections from a variety of sources. The conversations are rich and deeply meaningful. If you'd like to join, **reach out to Pastor Jane** and she will add you to the email list.

Owámniyomni Interpretive Tours. As part of our 175th anniversary celebration, we're exploring the significance of our founding at Owámniyomni (St. Anthony Falls), a place of profound spiritual and cultural significance for the Dakota and other Indigenous people for countless generations. Owámniyomni Okhódayapi, a Dakota-led nonprofit that aims to restore and celebrate Dakota culture and values at Owámniyomni, is offering a 75-minute guided site visit of the Falls and the Upper Lock. Public tours are scheduled for November 18 and December 16. Get Free Tickets

Week of November 9–15

Mon (11/9)	9:30 am	Southeast Play Group	Basement
	1:00 pm	*Elder Gathering*	*Zoom*
Tue (11/10)	noon	Bible Study	Library/Zoom
Wed (11/11)	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Thu (11/12)	9:30 am	Southeast Play Group	Basement
Sun (11/15)	9:00 am	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	9:30 am	Coffee Hour	Gathering Hall
	10:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary/Zoom
	11:15 am	Founding Day Lunch	Gathering Hall
	11:15 am	*Democracy in Action: Bridge Brigade*	*I-35W Ped. Bridge*

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 612-999-1236: text **$10** to give $10 to the general offering or **$10 special** to give $10 to the monthly special offering (you can text any amount).

Democracy in Action Signal Groups. Our Democracy In Action group has Signal chats for both urgent alerts/opportunities and general democracy-related conversation. Learn More and Connect

Worship Volunteers. Can you lend a hand in worship as a reader or usher? Ready to tackle coffee hour? Sign Up to Help in Worship

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.

Assistive listening devices 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 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 Pastor Jane.

Valet parking is available every week 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.

November's Special Offering benefits Southeast Seniors. From their offices at First Church, Southeast Seniors coordinates services to help neighbors age 65 and older live well at home.

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