

May 1, 2022
Third Sunday of Easter



Koenig, Peter. *Breakfast on the Beach*, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

To join worship this morning via zoom app, click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83928727469?pwd=WFhzWkJFQjBhTlp4UEUvdWRhS2lKdz09>

(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.**

Music will be displayed on the screen during the livestream.

Prelude

Choral Introit: "You Are Welcome Here" by Jeff Stone

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.

Gathering Words: from *The Power of Vulnerability* by Brené Brown

Hymn: *Come Let Us Worship God*

Scriptures: Acts 9:1–20; John 21:1–19

Response: “Celtic Alleluia” by Fintan O’Caroll and Christopher Walker

Sermon: “Memoir Theology”

Hymn: *Dear God, Embracing Humankind*, NCH 502

Prayers of the People

You may write your prayer request on the clipboard by the entrance to the sanctuary, share your joys and concerns verbally, in a sentence or two. You may choose to end with the phrase, “God in your mercy” or another phrase, after which the congregation will respond, “Hear our prayer.”

Lord’s Prayer

A commonly used form is printed below. You are welcome to use the version most 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 for ever. Amen.**

Offering

We invite your financial gifts to support our ministries within and beyond First Church. May’s Special Offering is given to MN Interfaith Power & Light (MNIPL). You can give electronically 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: “Celtic Alleluia” by Fintan O’Caroll and Christopher Walker

Prayer of Dedication

All: God of resurrection, we give ourselves to the new life you offer through vulnerability. We will let ourselves be seen. We will love with our whole heart. We will believe that we are enough. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Communion Invitation

Communion Prayer

L: God be with you

All: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them up to God

L: Let us give thanks to God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Retelling the Story

Sharing of the bread and cup

If you are worshipping at home, please have some bread or crackers and juice or wine available for communion.

If you are in the sanctuary, please come forward by the center aisle and return to your seats by the side aisle. Allowing distance between worship pods, come to the communion table. There you can remove your mask to eat and drink. Please place used cups in the baskets provided on each side of the table.

Music during Communion "Eat This Bread" from Taizé

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Announcements

Hymn: *Hallelujah We Sing Your Praise* (South African trad.)

Benediction

Postlude

Thanks to those who serve in the following roles today:

Coffee Hour: Kris Felbeck

Ushers: Marilyn Burns, Sally Wingert

Reader: Linda Valerian

Special Music: Jean Anderson, Carl Dyar, Xan Laurence, Ann Sather, Jeff Stone, Linda Valerian
Guest Musician: Bradley Althoff
Tech Support: Teresa Dyar, Cynthia Hendricks, Greg Hubinger, Hikaru Peterson
Valet: Bill Lindberg

Coming up this week

Today

Sunday, May 1

9:30a: Coffee Hour

10a: Worship/Communion

11a: Coffee Hour

11:15a: Congregational Meeting (hybrid)

12:30p: Hospitality & Engagement team (Zoom)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85039613729?pwd=bTE1Z28rN1RPTC94eElBV0NoSkJQQT09>

Tuesday, May 3

1p: Book Study (in person in parlor)

Sunday, May 8

9:30a: Coffee Hour

10a: Worship/Communion

11a: Coffee Hour

First Congregational Church of Minnesota, UCC • 500 8th Avenue SE,
Minneapolis, MN 55414 • 612-331-3816; office@firstchurchmn.org;
www.firstchurchmn.org

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 Melissa Harl: melissaharl84@gmail.com; 612-810-2804

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Pastor Jane's typical work week is Sun.–Thurs. 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, please call or text her cell phone at any time of the week.

Announcements

Congregational Meeting immediately after worship. We will be deciding how best to dispense the \$17,380 in funds still remaining from the Mission & Ministry donations received as part of the recent Living Stones capital campaign. Based on feedback from our April 3 congregational conversation, the Board has made recommendations on how to spend these funds. All are welcome to join in the discussion!

Sign up now to host Coffee Hour in May and beyond! Given the success of April Coffee Hours, the Hospitality and Engagement team now invites other members of the First Church community to sign up to host. This involves making coffee and hot water for tea starting at 9:30a, and again after worship until 2nd Hour starts. Please consider hosting without food, or very, very simple food items. It is O.K. to serve store-bought cookies, etc. You do not need to provide homemade items! See the sign-up sheet outside the Gathering Hall. If you are unsure about hosting, ask for a partner! Please contact Lisa Hubinger at hubin006@umn.edu or Kate Wyngaard-Niccum at kwniccum@yahoo.com with any questions.

Listening Time with Lisa is back! In slowing down, stopping, and listening, you may find hidden wonders, peace, and relaxation in the world around you. In a park, in your neighborhood, or in your own backyard and out your window. Please join Lisa Keitel for a time of purposeful listening and learning about birds in some of our parks and natural areas. The locations will vary. Please bring a lawn chair (or let Lisa know if you would like me

to bring one for you.) Please bring a sun hat or umbrella for shade, water, and bug spray might be helpful. Please let Lisa know you are coming (lkkeitel@gmail.com) as there is a limit of 12 people. In case of rain the gathering will be cancelled.

The first gatherings will be **Monday May 9, at 10a** at Westwood Hills Nature Center, 8300 W. Franklin Ave. St. Louis Park, 55426. There is a large parking lot. We will meet at the building entrance and walk less than 5 minutes to the open area to set up our chairs. And on **Friday May 13, 6p** at Woodlake Nature Center, 6710 Lake Shore Dr, Richfield. There is a large parking lot. We will meet at the entry gate and take a short walk to an area with seating.

Mississippi Park Connection Mission and Ministry Volunteer Event. Join us for a morning of volunteer service with our M&M Dollars recipient Mississippi Park Connection. We will be working with MPC/AmeriCorps members to prepare an area for prairie restoration at Crosby Farm Regional Park in St. Paul. The prairie is currently covered with burdock, and we need to remove the seeds from the plant to start the restoration of the area. There will also be some interpretation and storytelling by the river. This is a family-friendly event! **Saturday, May 14, 9a–noon.** Crosby Farm Regional Park is at 2595 Crosby Farm Rd, St Paul, 55116. Park in the lot near the pavilion. Dress in layers just so that you can adjust once the work starts. We will be working in a sunny area so bring hats and wear sunscreen. All necessary tools are provided including work gloves. Bring your own water bottle/snacks. Bring your binoculars as well, it's a great time to see unique birds out in the park! There is typically a portable toilet available in the parking lot, but the regular restrooms will be closed.