To join worship this morning via zoom app, click this link: 
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83928727469?pwd=WFhzWkJFQjBhTlp4UEUvdWRhS2IKdz09  
(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

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: “The Fountain” by Denise Levertov

Hymn: Shall We Gather at the River, NCH 597


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


Hymn: Every Time I Feel the Spirit, NCH 282

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: Advocating, Peace-making, life-renewing Spirit, we give thanks for your guiding presence among us. We freely share your gifts with each other and with the world. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.

Announcements

Hymn: *There’s a Spirit in the Air*, NCH 294

Benediction

Postlude

Thanks to those who serve in the following roles today:
Coffee Hour: Jean Anderson, Kathy Hoaglund
Flowers: Barb Franklin
Ushers: Marilyn Burns, Tim Danz
Reader: Lisa Hubinger
Tech Support: Greg Hubinger, Ruth Lemire, Hikaru Peterson
Valet: Brad Schumann

Coming up this week

Today
Sunday, May 22
9:30a: Coffee Hour
10a: Worship
11a: Coffee Hour
11:15a: All Team/Staff/Board meeting (stay on. Zoom call)

Tuesday, May 23
1p: Book Study (in person in parlor)

Thursday, May 25
7p: Immigration Justice working group
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82923519633?pwd=eTlVaGZJZFZlcGxtSGpxRnBISUlsvUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82923519633?pwd=eTlVaGZJZFZlcGxtSGpxRnBISUlsvUT09)

Sunday, May 29
9:30a: Coffee Hour
10a: Worship
11a: Coffee Hour
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

All-ministry team meeting today after worship. All are invited to a joint meeting of our ministry teams, board, and staff. We will reflect on the current program year and begin to set directions for the coming year. This will be a hybrid meeting, in the sanctuary and on Zoom.

The Red Dress Project. You’ve probably noticed the red dresses hanging from the tree on the 8th Ave. lawn. These empty dresses have been hung in remembrance of the missing and murdered Indigenous women in our country. Minnesota reports between 27 and 54 missing women and girls each year. Homicide is the third leading cause of death among Native girls and women aged 10–24 in the United States. You can help!
Contact: Minnesota Indian Women’s Sexual Assault Coalition (MIWSAC.org.) Many thanks to members of the racial justice working group for coordinating our participation in the Red Dress Project, and for installing this exhibit on our grounds.

**Faith on Tap Is Back and Seeking Your Input.** This monthly meeting has been on hiatus but will be starting up again in June – and we’ve got a couple of changes planned. There will still be casual, free-flowing conversation about faith and spirituality, but in this iteration, we’re looking to the congregation to supply the discussion topics. What are your burning questions about faith? You’ll find two short forms on the Faith Formation page where you can post a question and a Faith on Tap RSVP form. **Faith on Tap will convene at 7:00 on Monday, June 6, at the Longfellow Grill in south Minneapolis.** If you plan to come, please RSVP on the form or contact Jean Anderson directly (jeaneth.anderson@gmail.com) so we can get a head count for the restaurant reservation. All are welcome!

**Staff Notes:** Jane McBride will be on vacation this coming week. Between May 23–26, please contact Rev. Doug Donley, pastor at University Baptist Church, with pastoral care needs, at 763-242-6553.

**Our preacher next Sunday is** Rev. Désirée Harson Gold. She is a graduate of Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, MO and has served UCC churches in Sacramento, Baltimore, and Cottage Grove. Désirée currently serves on the Covenant Subcommittee of the Minnesota Conference UCC Committee on Ministry, and she supply preaches throughout the state.

**June 5 will be a day of celebration!** We will have special music offerings – contact Byron if you have a vocal or instrumental piece you’d like to offer. We will honor and bless our graduates. Please send the office information about graduates in your life who have a First Church connection so that we can include them. And we will celebrate the life of longtime First Church member Marcia Sundquist. We will have a brief time of remembrance and prayer during the worship, followed by an open mic time of sharing stories and memories after the service.

**Family Gathering.** Families with children infant–5th grade are invited to gather for a time of play, faith formation activities, and dinner at Van Cleve Park (901 15th Ave. NE in Minneapolis) on June 5, from 3–5p.

**The Faith Formation Team is planning a book group this summer** as a way to stay in touch. Typically, groups at First Church meet in the fall and during Lent, and the groups focus on the kind of nonfiction texts that typically call for some study. Not everyone enjoys that, however. What if we read a novel or a memoir instead? There are so many great ones out there. They don’t require study per se but give us so much to think about. We have several candidates in mind so far: Diane Wilson’s novel, The Seed Keeper (winner of a Minnesota Book Award last month); Diana Butler Bass’s new “theological memoir,” Freeing Jesus; and Marcus Borg’s Convictions: How I Learned What Matters Most. (All are available in paperback.) No doubt many of you could propose other candidates. We’re eager to hear your suggestions! We’re in the early planning stages. You can help us with that planning by letting us know:

- Whether you would be interested in joining a small group this summer that would read and discuss a novel or memoir from the perspective of how it informs our own faith and spiritual lives.
- What time/day of the week would work best for you.
- Whether you would prefer to meet in person or online.
- Other fiction and creative nonfiction titles/authors you recommend.

Let Jane McBride or Mary Byers know if you are interested.