

September 18, 2022  
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Gogh, Vincent van, 1853-1890. *The Sower III (version 2)*, 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 service.**

### **Prelude**

**Introit:** “Sanna, sannanina (Holy, Most Holy God)”; trad. Tanzanian melody, arr. Patrick Matsikenyiri

## **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](http://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.

## **Grounding**

*Place your feet firmly on the ground and reach your hands, palms-down, toward the earth.*

L: We acknowledge that this is the sacred homeland of the Dakota people, and home to the Ho Chunk and Anishinabe people. We give thanks for their ongoing stewardship of the land and look to them as our teachers.

**All: This land is home and life.**

*Turn your palms up and stretch your arms outward.*

L: Let us take responsibility for the harm of broken relationships and oppressive systems.

**All: We live, work and worship on stolen land. Many of us have benefitted from stolen lives and labor.**

*Place your hands to your heart.*

L: Let us pray for the Spirit's guidance as we seek to be agents of healing, repair, and renewal.

**All: Spirit, guide us toward a new vision of community.**

**Sung Response:** "Like a Rock" by Kerry K. Wehlander

## **Greeting Time**

We will have a few minutes during each service this summer to connect with each other. This activity is encouraged yet optional! If you are on Zoom, and you want to join in, you can accept the invitation to a breakout room.

This week's prompt is: *Describe a Favorite Place*

**Gathering Words:** "Book of Kells" by Barbara Crooker

**Hymn:** *My Life Flows on in Endless Song*, NCH 476

**Scripture:** Luke 16:1–13

**Response:** Glenn Strand

**Sermon:** “Squandering”

**Community Response**

**Hymn:** *Be Now My Vision*, NCH 451

**Prayers of the People**

Please share your prayer requests in the chat and we will pray with you.

**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. September’s Special Offering is given to Lexington Commons. You can give electronically by going to our website: [www.firstchurchmn.org](http://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 “Lexington Commons” in the memo line. Thank you!

**Offertory:** “Keep Your Lamps!” arr. Andre Thomas

**Offertory Response:** “Rise Up, Rise Up” by Linnea Good

**Prayer of Dedication**

**All:** God of creative transformation, we will seek the true riches of your way. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

**Announcements**

**Hymn:** *We Shall Not Give Up the Fight*, NCH 437

## **Benediction**

**Choral Benediction:** “Sanna, sannanina (Holy, Most Holy God)”; trad. Tanzanian melody, arr. Patrick Matsikenyiri

## **Postlude**

**Thanks to those who serve in the following roles today:**

**Flowers:** Mary Byers

**Usher:** Tom and Linda Lincoln

**Reader:** Barb Franklin

**Tech Support:** Maggie George, Gabe Magby

**Valet:** Brad Schumann

## ***Coming up this week***

### **Today**

9:30a: Coffee Hour (in person)

10a: Worship (hybrid)

11a: Coffee Hour (hybrid)

11:15a: 2<sup>nd</sup> Hour: “Sharing Faith” (hybrid)

### **Monday, Sept. 19**

9:30a: SE Playgroup

7p: Knitting Group @home of Cynthia Hendricks

### **Tuesday, Sept. 20**

12:30p: Building Committee (hybrid)

1p: Book Study

Articles due for October Chimes

### **Wednesday, Sept. 21**

7p: Choir Rehearsal

### **Thursday, Sept. 22**

9:30a: SE Playgroup

## **Sunday, Sept 18**

9:30a: Coffee Hour (in person)

10a: Worship (hybrid)

11a: Coffee Hour (hybrid)

11:20: Faith Formation team

## **Announcements**

**Staff Note.** Next week Jane will be out of the office on study leave. If you have a need for pastoral care, please contact her on her cell phone: 612-598-2432.

**“Sharing Faith” 2<sup>nd</sup> Hour today.** After worship the Faith Formation team will kick off this project about how we think and talk about faith, and which we will explore through small groups in October and November.

Be sure to sign up for one of the times below (see sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary or email your preference to [office@firstchurchmn.org](mailto:office@firstchurchmn.org).) We will offer the optional opportunity to participants to share some tangible outcome of their pondering—a statement, a poem, some visual art, a short story, something else unique to you.

- **Sundays** Oct. 9, 16 & 23, at 11:30a, in person at church, led by Sandy Johnson
- **Mondays** Oct. 10, 17, & 24, at 8:30p, on Zoom, led by Jane McBride
- **Thursdays** Oct. 13, 20 & 27 at 7pm, in person at Eagle Crest (in Roseville), led by Clyde Steckel
- **Fridays** Oct. 14, 21, & 28 at 10a, on Zoom, led by Melissa Harl

**Fossil Fuel Divestment Session.** The Climate Justice Working Group is hosting an important session on ways to divest from fossil fuels on Tuesday, Sept. 27, 7–8:30 p. Buff Grace, Director of Faith Networks at Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light, will provide an enlightening presentation, and this will be followed by active discussion. Buff will frame this discussion from a faith perspective and describe how faith communities can impact climate change and help heal the world. He will focus on ways we might divest from fossil fuels especially at a personal level but will provide an institutional context as well. We plan to meet in person and encourage that for the best experience, however we will also make participation available via Zoom.

**Take our survey.** Last week, we sent out an email message from church leaders about our Covid procedures. This message included a request for

members of the congregation to take a survey giving your input. You can take the survey [here](#). Copies of the message and survey questions are available in the back of the sanctuary as well.

**Seeking your nominations.** For 2023, we have an opening on the board, and we are seeking to fill the Treasurer position. At their December meeting, the board will also be appointing members to serve on board committees and fill leadership positions. The nominating group working on behalf of the board (Melissa Harl, Hikaru Peterson, and Jane McBride) requests your help with the process of identifying potential officers, board, and committee members. If you are interested in nominating someone, including yourself, please let Melissa, Jane or Hikaru know. You can also reach out if you have any questions about what is involved.