

November 20, 2022
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost



Koenig, Peter. *I Am the Gate*, 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=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 service.

Prelude

Introit: “You Are Called to Tell the Story” by Ruth Duck and David Hurd

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.

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, life, and community.

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 benefit 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

Gathering Words: “What It Looks Like to Us and the Words We Use” by Ada Limón

Hymn 11: *Bring Many Names*

Scripture: Luke 13:18–21; I Corinthians 12:4–7, 12–18

Sermon: “Sharing Faith”: Sally Wingert, Jo Anne Rohricht (read by Kris Felbeck), Paul Snyder, Joy Gullikson, Bill Lindberg, Sarah Almén, Cynthia Hobbie

Please join in the sung response to each sharing:

**Open our hearts, open our minds.
Open our lives to you O loving God.**

Community Response

Confirmation Class Blessing for Nyix Nagel, Kaia Peterson, Emila Sanchez-Shellack

Hymn 354: *God, When I Came into This Life*

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. November’s Special Offering is given to the “Good Neighbors Fund.” 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 “Good Neighbors” in the memo line.

Offertory: “Take My Life, That I May Be” by Frances Havergal and William Dexheimer Pharris

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

Prayer of Dedication

All: God of many names and many gifts, you are among us. We are listening and responding in faith. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Announcements

Hymn: "Listening People" by Ricard Bruxvoort Colligan

Benediction

Choral Benediction: "Thuma Mina (Send Me, Lord)", trad. South African

Postlude: "Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow" by Fred Bock

Thanks to those who serve in the following roles today:

Coffee Hour: Jill Griffiths, Linda Linclon

Flowers: Marilyn Burns

Reader: Xan Laurence

Usher: Barb Franklin

Tech Support: Teresa Dyar, Hikaru Peterson

Valet: Robert Payne

Coming up this week

Sunday, Nov. 20

9:30a: Coffee Hour (in person)

10a: Worship (hybrid)

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

11a: Coffee Hour (hybrid)

11:30a: Youth Gathering

Monday, Nov. 21

9:30a: SE Playgroup

7p: Knitting Group @home of Kris Felbeck

Wednesday, Nov. 23

7p: Choir rehearsal

Thursday, Nov. 24

Thanksgiving Day, Office Closed

Sunday, Nov. 27

9:30a: Coffee Hour (in person)

10a: Worship: Advent 1 (hybrid)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83928727469?pwd=WFhzWkJFOjBhTlp4UEUvdWRhS2lKdz09>

11a: Coffee Hour / Art reception (hybrid—stay on worship Zoom meeting)

Announcements

Staff Note: Jane McBride will be on vacation and out of town November 22–28. If you are in need of pastoral care during this time, please contact Doug Donley, pastor at University Baptist Church, at 763-242-6553. Many thanks to Sandy Johnson for serving as our preacher next week while Jane is away!

Congregational Meeting After worship on December 4, we will gather for our annual meeting, to approve the 2023 budget, receive the annual report, elect board members and officers and vote on two resolutions.

Advent begins next Sunday, November 27. Our theme for the season is “Rest in God.” We invite you to sink into the beauty, vision, and comfort of our Advent texts, to let our God who is at work renewing the world also renew you. Advent will be full of music—special music from the choir, soloists and small ensembles. We will begin by lighting the Advent candles each week and conclude by passing the light to each other. We are in need of ushers, readers and candlelighters for each Advent Sunday and for Christmas Eve. Please sign up using SignUp Genius or by emailing the church office.

A home devotional for lighting the Advent candles is available in the back of the sanctuary. Beginning next week, the faith formation team will also be sharing a brief article on rest and sabbath for us to reflect on at the beginning of each week (these will come by email).

The Advent Marketplace is back! It will take place Sunday, December 11, during coffee hour until 12:30p. Vendors will offer a variety of items, perfect for gift shopping: jewelry, ornaments, note cards, aprons and more! The youth will be offering baked goods to raise funds for the next trip to Guatemala. Vendors will be donating a portion of their proceeds to a cause or charity of their choice. Please be aware that not all vendors are able to take credit cards, so be sure to bring cash or your checkbook. We appreciate it! If

you are interested in participating as a vendor contact Xan Laurence:
xanlaurence@comcast.net

Advent Community Journal. Many of you participated in last year's Advent community journal, generously sharing beautiful reflections on the Advent season and what it means to you. This Advent, we are again going to share the community journal.

Similar to Las Posadas, the journal will "travel" from household to household. All you have to do is sign up to receive and deliver the journal (a sign-up sheet will be available in the sanctuary—you can also email Sarah Tittle at office@firstchurchmn.org to sign up). When you receive it, you can include a personal reflection, a short poem, a favorite quotation, or a drawing or picture, then deliver it to the next household on the schedule. Some guidelines and suggestions for your messages will be included, but there will be ample room for creativity.

To make scheduling easier, you won't have to be home to receive or deliver the journal; it can be left inside a porch or mailbox. If you aren't able to drop off the journal yourself, there will be a place on the sign-up sheet to indicate that you'd like help with delivery.

After Advent, the journal will be available in the church library (or by special delivery) for all to appreciate. We want this to be something everyone can enjoy!

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