

January 29, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Epiphany



James, Laura. *Sermon on the Mount* 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

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.

Introit: "Grace" by Julie Flanders/Emil Adler; arr. Keiji Ishiguri

Gathering Words

Hymn: "Listening People"

Scripture: Micah 6:1-8; Matthew 5:1-12

Sermon

Hymn 293: *Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

Celebrating Lexington Commons

Sung Response: *Sweet, Sweet Spirit* refrain

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. January's Special Offering is given to ISALAH, a multi-racial, statewide, nonpartisan coalition of faith communities and other community-based constituencies fighting for racial and economic justice in Minnesota.

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 "ISIAH" in the memo line.

Offertory: "Lux Beata Trinitas" by Ola Gjeilo

Offertory Response: "Mayenziwe," sung in Xhosa and then in English.

Prayer of Dedication

All: God of blessing, we will be a people of abundance, joyfully sharing your gifts with our community. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Announcements

Hymn 459: *Come, O Fount of Every Blessing*

Benediction: "The Eighth Avenue Waltz" by Jeffrey Leonard Stone

Postlude

Thanks to those who serve in the following roles today:

Lunch Hosts: Lexington Commons Crew

Reader: Sandy Johnson

Usher: Barb Franklin

Tech Support: Teresa Dyar, Greg Hubinger

Valet: George Domstrand

Coming up this week

Sunday, Jan. 29

9:30a: Coffee Hour (in person)

10a: Worship: (hybrid)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83928727469?pwd=WFhzWkJfOjBhTlp4UEUvdWRhS2lKdz09>

11a: Lexington Commons lunch

Monday, Jan. 30

9:30a: SE Playgroup

Tuesday, Jan. 31

1p: Book Study

7p: Racial Justice working group

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82579587370?pwd=aURmUHRaSU55aFlXK241NVNvTWVMZz09>

Wednesday, Feb. 1

7p: Choir rehearsal

Thursday, Feb. 2

9:30a: SE Playgroup

Sunday, Feb. 5

9:30a: Coffee Hour (in person)

10a: Worship: (hybrid)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83928727469?pwd=WFhzWkJlFQjBhTlp4UEUvdWRhS2lKdz09>

11a: Coffee Hour

Announcements

We are invited to Night Songs, Feb. 10 at 7:30 at University Lutheran Church of Hope (601 13th Ave. SE) This beautiful concert features music presented by our First Church choir and other University area church choirs, as well as other metro area musicians, paired with poetry and images of space and our planet curated by James Flaten. Masks are recommended.

Second Covenant Day February 4, 9:30a-3:30p at Robbinsdale Parkway UCC in Minneapolis. Gather together and be the church! Covenant Days are filled with workshops, worship, food, and fellowship—a time for members, lay leaders, and clergy of local congregations to connect with one another and Conference staff. This is an opportunity to meet others who are being church in this time and to discuss what it means to be people of faith in a pandemic-informed world. Register by Feb. 1 at uccmn.org.

First Church is co-sponsoring two screenings of “Oyate” a film about Standing Rock. The screenings—and discussions following—will be on Saturday Feb. 18, 7p, at Plymouth Congregational Church (1900 Nicollet Ave., Mpls. 55403), and Sunday Feb. 19, 2p, at Nativity Lutheran Church (3312 Silver Lake Rd. NE, St. Anthony, 55418.) You can watch a trailer of the film at www.oyatefilm.com.

Mardi Gras Mini-Golf! This year we will hold our annual “tournament” on Friday February 17 at 5:30p. Enjoy Brad’s zany course, which runs all around the Gathering Hall and the Sanctuary. Enjoy yummy treats prepared by our Confirmation Class. Free will donation supports this summer’s trip to Guatemala.

Lenten Opportunities from the Faith Formation Team: “Making Space.” During the Lenten season we will be exploring this theme by setting aside time—individually and in small groups—to reflect on how we can cultivate Sabbath mindfulness and practices that foster rest and renewal. **We recommend listening to Ezra Klein’s podcast, “Sabbath and the Art of Rest,” in order to prepare.** The groups are:

- *Sabbath Practices*, facilitated by Sally Wingert. Share how you observe, or would like to observe, Sabbath; group members will do some or all of those practices together. Wednesdays in-person on March 1, 8, 15, and 22, 10:3a–noon. Location/times may change to accommodate participants’ ideas.
- *Sabbath Readings*, led by Jane McBride, Sarah Almén, & Mary Byers. Writers include Barbara Brown Taylor; Tricia Hersey (originator of the “Nap Ministry”); Benedictine nun Joan Chittister; professor of Jewish studies Susannah Heschel; and Wayne Muller, author of *Sabbath*. Thursdays on Zoom, March 2, 9, 16, & 23; time tba, (8-9p or 8:30-9:30p).
- *Exploring Native Art*, led by Carey Seeley Dzierzak. Explore the work of three Native American artists based in Minnesota, and reflect on our reparations efforts as a congregation. Resources from the Minneapolis Institute of Art (mia) will be used. Wednesdays on Zoom, March 1, 8, & 15, 7–8 p.m. For its fourth session, the group will visit mia’s permanent Native American collection on Saturday, March 25, 1–2:30p.

Also on the February calendar:

- 6: Faith on Zoom, 7p
- 7: Hospitality & Engagement team, 7p (Zoom)
- 12: Family Gathering, 11:30a
- 13: Congregational Care team, 7p (Zoom)
- 16: Climate Justice working group, 7p (Zoom)
- 17: Mardi Gras Mini-Golf Guatemala trip fundraiser, 5:30p
- 19: Worship team, 11:20 (hybrid)
- 19: 2nd Hour: Supporting Each Other in Grief Follow-up, 11:15a
- 20: Knitting Group, 7p (location tbd)
- 22: Ash Wednesday Service, 7p
- 26: Voices for Climate Song Circle, noon
- 28: Racial Justice working group, 7p (Zoom)