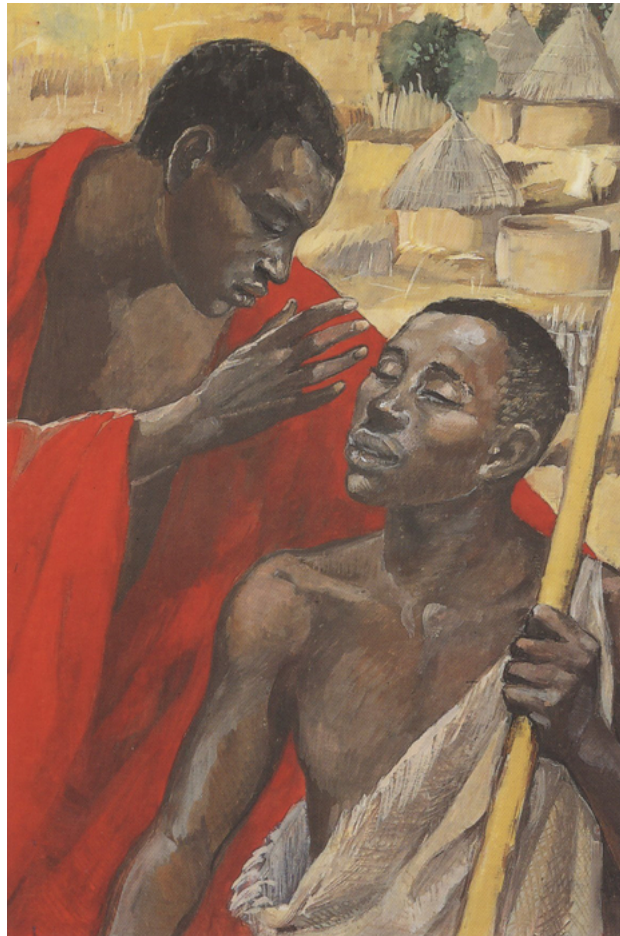


March 19, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Lent



Jesus Mafa. *Jesus Cures the Man Born Blind* 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: "Love Us into Fullness," Daniel Charles Damon

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 "I am the Light of the World," by Malcolm Guite

Hymn 85: *I Woke Up This Morning*

Scripture: John 9:1–41

Chant: "See I Am Near," Taizé

Sermon: "At the Well," Jane McBride

Hymn 554: *Out of the Depths, O God We Call*

Healing Prayer

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

Throughout Lent, we will take some time during the offering to share reflections about the practice of Sabbath. Today's question is: *Sabbath practice is about saying "no" to some activities and "yes" to others. In your Sabbath practice, what are your "no's" and "yeses"?*

We invite your financial gifts to support our ministries within and beyond First Church. March's Special Offering is given to the First Church Little Free Food Pantry. Give electronically at our website: www.firstchurchmn.org; click 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 "Pantry" in the memo line.

Offertory: Agnus Dei," from B Minor Mass, J.S. Bach

Offertory Response: "Open Hand"

Prayer of Dedication

All: Light of the world and our inner light, we entrust our lives to you. Grant us true insight. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Announcements

Hymn 547: *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

Benediction

Choral Benediction: "Dona Nobis Pacem," from B Minor Mass, J.S. Bach

Postlude

Thanks to those who serve in the following roles today:

Reader: Sarah Almén

Coffee Hour: Marilyn Burns

Tech Support: Greg Hubinger, Gabe Magby

Valet: Brad Schumann

Coming up this week

Sunday, March 19

9:30a: Coffee Hour (in person)

10a: Worship: (hybrid)

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

11a: Coffee Hour

11:30a: Worship Team (hybrid)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82579587370?pwd=aURmUHRaSU55aF1XK241NVNvTWVMZz09>

Monday, March 20

9:30a: SE Playgroup

7p: Knitting Group @home of Deb Wensman

Tuesday, March Wednesday, March 21

7p: FCC Board (Zoom)

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

Wednesday, March 22

10:30a: "Sabbath Practices" @home of Sally Wingert

7p: FCC Choir rehearsal

Thursday, March 23

9:30a: SE Playgroup

8:30p: "Sabbath Readings" group

Saturday, March 25

1p: "Exploring Native Art" Lenten group @mia

Sunday, March 26

9:30a: Coffee Hour (in person)

10a: Worship: (hybrid)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83928727469?pwd=WFhzWkJFQjBhTlp4UEUvdWRhS2IKdz09>

11a: Coffee Hour / Chat about Sabbath (hybrid: stay on Zoom worship)

Announcements

Sanctuary Network Dinner tonight. The families and congregations involved in the University Area Sanctuary Coalition are gathering for a at 5p at St. Anthony Park UCC, 2129 Commonwealth Ave. in St. Paul. Please RSVP to Jane McBride.

Coffee Hour Chat. Join members of the faith formation team on March 26 during coffee hour for a time of conversation about Sabbath. We'll gather in the Zoom room, or at tables, to share our reflections on the practice of Sabbath. What does Sabbath mean to you? How are you attempting to practice it? What are you learning about Sabbath, or what questions remain for you? We recommend listening to Ezra Klein's podcast "Sabbath and the Art of Rest" to provide a jumping off point for our conversation, but it's not required to participate. It's easily found online; copies of the transcript are also at the back of the Sanctuary.

Holy Week Schedule:

April 2, Palm Sunday, Worship 10a

April 6, Maundy Thursday, Worship 7p

April 7, Good Friday, Worship 7p

April 9, Easter Sunday, "Sunrise" worship at Stone Arch Bridge, 8a; Breakfast at church 9a; Worship 10a

We are looking for readers and ushers for all of these services. Sign up @SignUpGenius or email Sarah Tittle in the office if you would like to volunteer.

Easter Sunday breakfast. The Hospitality and Engagement Committee is hosting an Easter Continental Breakfast! Breakfast pastries, fruit, hardboiled eggs, juices, and coffee (of course!) will be available starting at 9a Easter Sunday. We hope everyone will plan to join us, either after the sunrise service or before our 10a worship service. If anyone would like to help with food or clean-up, please contact Lisa Hubinger at hubin006@umn.edu or text at 612-384-2431.

ISAIAH In District Meeting on April 16, 3 pm at University Lutheran Church of Hope. Join neighboring congregations and community members to raise our collective voice for the ISAIAH faith agenda—a democracy that honors every person's dignity and a caring economy that allows everyone to thrive. We will follow up on our powerful day at the capitol, speaking with our legislators about our priorities for the remainder of the legislative session, asking them to share their stances, and strategizing together with them about how to move forward.

Summer Day Camp—Building the Beloved Community. We are again teaming up with a dozen other congregations for a summer day camp the week of June 20–23. Camp will be held at Bethel Lutheran Church in South Minneapolis. Camp is for both elementary and middle school ages. A stipend will be provided to high school youth leaders (entering 9th grade and older). You can find more information and register at <https://www.smplsdaycamp.org/>