

July 23, 2023
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost



Swanson, John August. *The Great Catch*, 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:

Welcome

Storytelling: Maggie George

Song: "Church of the Woods"

Sermon: "Spreading the Gospel in the 21st Century," Rev. Doug Donley

Hymn 173: *You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore*

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. July's Special Offering is given to the University Area Sanctuary Coalition. You can 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 "Sanctuary" in the memo line.

Offertory

Offertory Response: "Oh a Song Must Rise" (refrain only)

Prayer of Dedication

All: You call us, O God, to spread the word of your love for creation and your passion for justice and liberation. We will be faithfulness witnesses. Amen.

Hymn 76: *Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

Benediction

Postlude

Thanks to those who serve in the following roles today:

Reader: Xan Laurence

Usher: Jean Anderson

Valet: Tom Lincoln

Coffee Hour: Community Kitchen

Coming up this week

Sunday, July 23

9:30a: Coffee hour

10a: Worship (hybrid) with UBC; Doug Donley preaching

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

11a: Coffee Hour

11:30a: Family Gathering

Monday, July 24

9:30a: SE Playgroup

Tuesday, July 25

12:30p: Building Committee

Thursday, July 27

9:30a: SE Playgroup

Sunday, July 30

9:30a: Coffee hour

10a: Worship (hybrid) with UBC; Doug Donley preaching

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

11a: Coffee Hour

Today we welcome our friends at University Baptist Church and Rev. Doug Donley, who is our guest preacher. We'll be worshipping here with UBC next Sunday as well.

Family Gathering after worship. Kids aged infant to elementary school and their caregivers are invited for fun and fellowship in the basement playroom from 11:30-1p.

Staff notes: Jane McBride is on a trip to San Lucas Tolimán in Guatemala. She will return early this week.

You're invited to an ISAIAH house meeting, August 2, 6:30–7:45p, at the home of Carey Seeley Dzierzak (in Richfield). In this meeting, we will celebrate all that we accomplished during the past legislative session, and consider how we will continue to work with others in ISAIAH to build a Minnesota in which everyone can thrive. Please RSVP to the office or add your name to the sheet in the sanctuary.

Join a ministry team! Our program year begins in August, when each of our teams holds a gathering to build relationships and plan for the year. If you'd like to work with a team this year, please join one of these gatherings (OR let the leader know if you are interested in a team but can't make it to the retreat.). The dates for the retreats are listed below. They will be in-person, though we can accommodate virtual participation for those who need it. To sign up, email the office or sign up on the sheet at church.

- Worship Team (Jane leads) Sun. August 6, noon–2p
- Hospitality and Engagement Team (Jane leads), Tues, August 22, 6–8p
- Congregational Care Team (leader TBA) Monday August 28, 6–8p
- Faith Formation Team (Sarah Almèn leads) Sun Aug 27, 11:30a–1:30p
- Justice Team (Paul Fate and Carey Seeley-Dzierzak, leaders) date TBA

Sunday on a Stick August 6. Join us after worship for sweet and savory treats! We'll block off the street and spend time in fellowship. We are still in need of a few people to help with setup and clean up. Sign up on SignupGenius or contact Sarah Tittle in the office.

We are still looking for storytellers in worship this summer and fall. If you haven't had a chance yet to tell your story, now is your chance! Our storytelling prompt is intentionally wide open, *Tell a story of your life . . .* Stories should be brief—5 minutes (or 500 words) or less. Keep in mind that worship is public (and recorded!) as you decide what to share. As you craft your story, please consider how God (as you define God) is a part of it. Finally, please take adequate time to prepare.

You can sign up in the back of the Sanctuary. For more information about what is involved, contact Sarah Almèn, Jean Anderson, Maggie George or Jane McBride—any of them will be happy to support you as you put your story together.

First Church and Friends Camping Weekend at Amnicon First Congregational UCC and University Lutheran Church of Hope are again planning for a weekend at Camp Amnicon. The dates are August 18–20.

Amnicon (<https://amnicon.org/>) is on the south shore of Lake Superior (about 20 minutes outside Duluth). Meals will be provided by the camp under their outdoor pavilion. The lodging will be a choice between platform tents (permanent tents with beds — you bring your own sleeping bag), bringing your own camping gear and camping there, or renting one of their small cabins. Please register by August 1. Registration forms are available in the back of the sanctuary or by email from the church office.