A young Liberian man, James, takes bullet casings and hand-cuts them into crosses.

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

Welcome

Storytelling: Jerry Clark

Hymn: “Spirit, Open My Heart”

Response: “God Is Still Speaking”

Time with Children

Sermon: “Get Behind Me!” Jane McBride

Hymnn437: We Shall Not Give up the Fight

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 Eastside Meals on Wheels. 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 “Marcy” in the memo line.

Offertory

Offertory Response: “I Thank You, Thank You Jesus”

Prayer of Dedication
All: God of liberation and life, we will take up the cross and follow Jesus. We will confront the forces that diminish life, deny freedom and destroy community. Amen.
Communion
Invitation
Communion Prayer
Retelling the Story
Sung during communion: “God Bless to Us Our Bread”

Announcements

Hymn 76: Sent Forth by God’s Blessing

Benediction

Postlude

Thanks to those who serve in the following roles today:
Reader: Xan Laurence
Usher: Kathy O’Connor
Valet: Bill Lindberg
Tech Support: Maggie George, Hikaru Peterson
Coffee Hour: Kris Felbeck

Coming up this week

Sunday, September 3
9:30a: Coffee hour
10a: Worship (hybrid)
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83928727469?pwd=WFhzWkIFQjBhTlp4UEUvdWRhS2lKd209
11a: Coffee Hour

Monday, September 4
9:30a: SE Playgroup

Wednesday, September 6
11a: Knitting, Etc. group
7p: Choir rehearsal

Thursday, September 7
9:30a: SE Playgroup
5:30p: Community Night
Sunday, September 10
9:30a: Coffee hour
10a: Worship (hybrid)
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83928727469?pwd=WFlhWkFQjBhTlp4UEVvdWRhS21Kdz09
11a: Coffee Hour
11:30a: Family Gathering
11:45a: Guatemala Presentation @ULCH

Save the Date (and sign up)! Community Night is Thursday, September 7, from 5:30–7:30p. We’ll again partner with the Community Kitchen to welcome our neighbors, including students moving into the neighborhood. We’ll have a baked potato bar, sweet treats and plants and time to connect and enjoy each other’s company. Please plan to attend and help out if you can!

- We are asking for volunteers to assist with set-up, bringing cookies/bars for dessert, and clean-up.
- We are looking for healthy houseplants and empty pot donations for this event. Mid-sized plants and pots are most needed; please bring them to church any time between now and September 6. Contact Kathy Hoaglund if you have plant-related questions: hoagr008@umn.edu.

There are sign-up sheets in the back of the church. Please help make this a successful event!

Guatemala Presentation, Sunday Sept. 10. Join us at 11:45a at University Lutheran Church of Hope (601 13th Ave. SE) for photos and stories from this summer’s Guatemala trip. Cynthia Hendricks, Greg Hubinger, Nyix Nagel, and Jane will be presenting about their experiences along with participants from ULCH. Snacks and drinks will be served.

Community Group Update and Invitation. Over the summer, three community groups met regularly to listen to each other’s lives. Again and again, members of these groups have expressed gratitude for this confidential and loving space in which to share and be supported. These summer groups will soon be deciding whether to continue meeting on their own (and how often they will meet). This fall (October—early December) we will start two more groups. One will be led by Jane and the other by our intern Chris Bohnhoff. Meetings will happen approximately every other week, for a total of 6 meetings. Please let Jane know (or sign up in the sanctuary) if you are interested.

Join the First Church Choir! The first weekly rehearsal is this Wednesday, September 6 from 7–9p, to prepare for worship on Sunday, September 10, (Sunday rehearsals start at 9a.) We have many wonderful pieces planned for
the year ahead! Please also consider inviting others to join us in choir this year. As our choir members can attest, the choir is a wonderful and supportive community, and the practice of making music together is a very rewarding one. You do not need to be, or feel like, an expert to be able to find a home with our choir. Please come and give us a try! Masking is optional, and we look forward to resuming this enriching and irreplaceable part of our worship experience.

Fall Family Updates. Our families will be gathering for an hour after worship (11:30a–12:30p) on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. We’ll share lunch and playtimes, as well as Bible stories and activities. During worship, whenever children are present, we will have a Time for Children in the service. We are also seeking a person to provide childcare during the worship service. The pay is $20 hour, for 2 hours a week (9:30–11:30). The person must be at least 18 years old and pass a background check. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please ask them to contact Jane.

Book Study Coming in the Fall. Melissa Harl will be leading a study of After Jesus Before Christianity: A Historical Exploration of the First Two Centuries of Jesus Movements. The book, a series of essays, was published by the Westar Institute, which is associated with the Jesus Seminar and follows that work into the first two centuries of the Jesus Movements. We are looking at midweek, mid-day scheduling and suggest participants read the book prior to the October start date. If you think you might be interested in participating, please let Marilyn Burns know: mbsnoobear@mac.com