

September 17, 2023
16th Sunday after Pentecost



"Hands Across the Divide," sculpture, Derry. Photo by Diego Cue.
web.archive.org/web/20161023172123/http://www.panoramio.com/photo/57846413.

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: "Praise, Praise, Praise God" (Cameroon), arr. Ralph M. Johnson

Welcome

Storytelling: Francie Domstrand

Hymn 293: “Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

Scriptures: Genesis 50:15–21; Matthew 18:15–22

Response: “God Is Still Speaking”

Time with Children

Sermon: Jane McBride

Hymn: “How Deep the Peace”

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 “Meals on Wheels” in the memo line.

Offertory: “God of Peace” Arr. Martha Shaffer

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

Prayer of Dedication

All: Reconciling God, we will learn from Jesus how to be a community of truth-telling and accountability, grace and forgiveness. Amen.

Announcements

Hymn 417: “This Is a Day of New Beginnings”

Benediction

Choral Benediction: “Grace” from *The Book of Rounds*;
Flanders / Adler / Ishiguri

Postlude

Thanks to those who serve in the following roles today:

Reader: Brad Schumann

Ushers: Ann Fate, Barb Franklin

Valet: George Domstrand

Tech Support: Teresa Dyar, Greg Hubinger

Coffee Hour: Community Kitchen

Coming up this week

Sunday, September 17

9:30a: Coffee hour

10a: Worship (hybrid)

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

11a: Coffee Hour

11:30a: Worship Team in person / on Zoom

Monday, September 18

9:30a: SE Playgroup

7p: Knitting Group @home of Chris Follett

Tuesday, September 19

7p: FCC Board

Wednesday, September 20

Noon: Elder Gathering

7p: Choir rehearsal

Articles due for October Chimes

Thursday, September 21

9:30a: SE Playgroup

1p: Finance Committee

Sunday, September 24

9:30a: Coffee hour

10a: Worship (hybrid)

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

11a: Potluck lunch/welcome to Chris Bohnhoff

11:30a: Family Gathering

New exhibit in First Gallery! Please take time to enjoy the work of painter and batik artist Kim Gordon. Kim's passion is the natural world and her years of plein air oil painting have provided a foundation for her work in batik. Kim teaches workshops at several local venues and does residencies throughout the region and in the Southwest. We will have a 2nd Hour program for this exhibit on Sunday October 29 where you can learn more about Kim and her art.

Community Group Invitation. Our community groups offer loving and confidential space to share about our lives and support each other. This fall (October to 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.

***After Jesus—Before Christianity*, First Church book discussion group.** You are invited to join a book discussion group convened by Marilyn Burns and facilitated by Melissa Harl. We will meet on four Tuesday mornings in October, 10a–11:30a, on Zoom. *After Jesus —Before Christianity* was written by scholars of early “Christianity” for a general readership. Reasons for our use of scare quotes for the word “Christianity” will be one topic of interest! The discussions will center around specific topics/chapters, so people are welcome to read the entire book, or just those chapters that interest them. We hope to have lively and fun conversations about the many varieties of groups who related somehow or other to Jesus in the first two centuries after his birth, with a special interest in tracking along less well-known paths and byways. Contact Melissa Harl melissaharl84@gmail.com or Marilyn Burns mbsnoobear@mac.com if you would like to sign up or have questions.

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.

Join the First Church Choir! Weekly rehearsal takes place on Wednesdays from 7–9p; 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. Contact Byron Almén if you are interested in joining.