

September 24, 2023
17th Sunday after Pentecost



Swanson, John August. *Jonah*, 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: "Hamba Nathi" trad. South African

Welcome

Storytelling: Marilyn Burns

Hymn 313: “Like a Tree Beside the Waters”

Scriptures: Jonah 3:10–4:11; Philippians 1:21–30

Response: “God Is Still Speaking”

Time with Children

Sermon: Chris Bohnhoff

Hymn: “Spirit, Open My Heart”

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

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: “Keep Your Lamps” Arr. Andre Thomas

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

Prayer of Dedication

All: Forgiving God, we seek to be full participants in your abundant economy of grace. Bless the recipients of our gifts of time, talent, attention, and treasure. Amen.

Announcements

Hymn: "May You Run and Not Be Weary"

Benediction

Choral Benediction: "Turn" from *The Book of Rounds*;
Flanders / Adler / Ishiguri

Postlude

Thanks to those who serve in the following roles today:

Reader: Xan Laurence

Usher: Tim Danz

Valet: Tom Lincoln

Tech Support: Teresa Dyar, Greg Hubinger

Coffee Hour: Potluck

Flowers: Marilyn Burns, in celebration of Chris Bohnhoff

Coming up this week

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

Monday, September 25

9:30a: SE Playgroup

Tuesday, September 26

12:30p: Building Committee

1p: Tuesday Book Study

Wednesday, September 27

7p: Choir rehearsal

Thursday, September 28

9:30a: SE Playgroup

Sunday, October 1

9:30a: Coffee hour

10a: Worship (hybrid)

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11a: Coffee Hour (hybrid)

11:30a: 2nd Hour: ISAIAH Conversation

12:30p: Faith Formation Team (hybrid)

ISAIAH Listening Session: October 1, 11:30a. We're hosting a conversation in partnership with ISAIAH about everything we won at the state legislature this year and how we can set the agenda for what gets done next. After years of organizing we finally passed things like paid family leave, clean energy, expanded voting rights, expanding healthcare, funding childcare, and more. We're interested in hearing how these wins impact you and the people you love AND what you know still needs to be done to support our communities. By joining this conversation, you can shape the priorities ISAIAH leads on next for our community. Thousands of our neighbors will be having similar conversations this summer and fall across the state. Please sign up in the sanctuary or email the office to RSVP.

Flourish Community Conversation. As our church explores new ways to share our space, we are partnering with Flourish Placemaking Collective. After worship on November 12 they will facilitate a 90-minute listening session with our congregation. This is an opportunity for them to hear from you—the things you value about our church; the questions or concerns you may have about sharing our space in new and expanded ways; and the hopes you have for how we might better use our building as an expression of our love for our neighbors. Your voice matters greatly as together we shape the future of our church.

New Faces Gathering Oct 15, 11:15a. If you are new to First Church, we invite you to learn more about our congregation and consider becoming a member. If you are already a member of the church, we invite you to come and meet some new people and share your perspectives about First Church. We'll hold a gathering with a light lunch and a time of conversation. Sign up in the sanctuary or email the office: office@firstchurchmn.org

The Community Kitchen Cleaning Crew invites you to join us! This is a simple, approximately 2-hour time commitment, once or twice a month on Monday or Tuesday evenings, 5–7p. The cleaning crew supports the work of the Community Kitchen by cleaning the kitchen after other volunteers have prepped, cooked, and packaged meals all afternoon. This involves taking out trash, recycling, and compost; washing pots, pans and cooking utensils; cleaning the stove top; wiping down all sinks and countertops; and sweeping the floor. We work in teams of two. You do not need to have prior experience in the church kitchen—we will train you and clear instructions are posted. This is a great group of folks to work with and your efforts are appreciated every week. If you would like to learn more or are interested, please contact Lisa Hubinger at hubin006@umn.edu or text or call 612-384-2431.

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.

***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.