

October 1, 2023  
18th Sunday after Pentecost



Pilgrim with staff, 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:** “Come Ye that Love the Lord,” arr. Byron Almén

**Welcome**

**Gathering Words:** “St. Francis and the Birds” by Seamus Heaney

**Hymn 85:** “I Woke Up This Morning”

**Scriptures:** Psalm 25:1–9; Philippians 2:1–13

**Response:** “God Is Still Speaking”

**Time with Children**

**Sermon:** “Be Like Jesus,” Jane McBride

**Hymn 507:** “Jesus—The Very Thought to Me”

**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 Neighbors in Need, one of four special offerings of the United Church of Christ. You can give electronically at our website: [www.firstchurchmn.org](http://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 “NIN” in the memo line.

**Offertory:** “If You Love Me” by Thomas Tallis

*During this time, we will offer the gifts of our responses to the challenge, “You can’t be both Christian and progressive!” You are welcome to write your response in the chatbox.*

**Offertory Response: "I Thank You, Thank You Jesus"**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Communion**

Please have bread / crackers and wine / juice by your side to join in Communion.

**Invitation**

**Communion Prayer**

**Retelling the Story**

**Sung during communion: "God Bless to Us Our Bread"**

**Sharing of the bread and cup**

**Announcements**

**Hymn 436: "God of Grace and God of Glory"**

**Benediction**

**Choral Benediction: "Come Ye That Love the Lord," arr. Alice Parker**

**Postlude**

**Thanks to those who serve in the following roles today:**

**Reader: Brad Schumann**

**Usher: Marilyn Burns**

**Valet: Brad Schumann**

**Tech Support: Teresa Dyar, Hikaru Peterson**

**Coffee Hour: Kathy Haskins, Christyann Maxfield**

***Coming up this week***

**Sunday, October 1**

9:30a: Coffee hour

10a: Worship (hybrid)

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

11a: Coffee Hour

11:15a: ISALAH Conversation

12:15a: Faith Formation Team

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81884329952?pwd=MWdnbXRYc1JHNm5WcXE3N3NqSGh0Zz09>

**Monday, October 2**

9:30a: SE Playgroup

**Wednesday, October 4**

11a: Knitting, Etc. Group

7p: Choir rehearsal

**Thursday, October 5**

9:30a: SE Playgroup

**Sunday, October 8**

9:30a: Coffee hour

10a: Worship (hybrid)

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

11a: Coffee Hour (hybrid)

11:30a: Family Gathering

**Listening Session today 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.

**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](mailto:office@firstchurchmn.org)

**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.

*After Jesus—Before Christianity.* All are invited to join a discussion group on this book, facilitated by Melissa Harl. We'll meet 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. 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 lesser-known paths and byways. Contact Melissa Harl ([melissaharl84@gmail.com](mailto:melissaharl84@gmail.com)) or Marilyn Burns ([mbsnoobear@mac.com](mailto:mbsnoobear@mac.com)) if you would like to sign up or have questions.