

**December 10, 2023
Third Sunday of Advent**



JESUS MAFA, *John the Baptist Preaching in the Desert*, 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: "Zion Hears the Watchmen's Voices," J.S. Bach, ed. John Rutter

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

Welcome

Gathering Words: "John the Baptist" by Kelly Chripczuk

Hymn 101: "Comfort, Comfort O My People"

Scriptures: Isaiah 61:1–4, 8-11; John 1:6-8, 19–28

Time with Children

Song: “Advent Song”

Sermon: Chris Bohnhoff

Advent Prayer

Chant: “Wait for Our God” from Taizé

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. December’s Special Offering divided between the UCC Christmas fund and the Friends of the Mission at San Lucas. 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 “Christmas” in the memo line.

Offertory: “People, Look East,” Tom Mitchell

Offertory Response: “In God Alone My Soul,” Taizé

Prayer of Dedication

Announcements

Hymn 122: “Come, O Long Expected Jesus”

Benediction

Choral Benediction: “Glory Now to God We Render,” J.S. Bach

Postlude

Thanks to those who serve in the following roles today:

Valet: Robert Payne

Reader: Barb Franklin

Tech Support: Hikaru Peterson, Soren Peterson

Coffee Hour: Mary Jean Korsmo

Coming up this week

Sunday, December 10

9:30a: Coffee hour

10a: Worship (hybrid)

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

11:15a: Advent Marketplace

Monday, Dec. 11

9:30a: SE Playgroup

Tuesday, Dec. 12

1p: Staff Meeting

Wednesday, Dec. 13

noon: Elder Gathering

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82579587370?pwd=aURmUHRaSU55aFlXK241NVNvTWVMZz09>

7p: Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Dec. 14

9:30a: SE Playgroup

Saturday, December 16

9a: Volunteer Morning @CES

Sunday, December 17

9:30a: Coffee hour

10a: Worship (hybrid)

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

11:15a: All Ages Activity

Advent Marketplace today after worship. Vendors will offer a variety of items, perfect for gift shopping, and will be donating a portion of their proceeds to a cause or charity of their choice.

All Ages Advent Activity December 17, 11:15a. Join us in the gathering hall to sing carols, decorate cookies, and make cards. Please RSVP to the office; and let us know if a ride would be helpful.

New art exhibit: “Piecing It Together.” Please take time to admire Cecilia Rolando/Ely’s gorgeous fabric collage show, which will be hanging in the Gathering Hall and the Parlor through February. These affordably-priced works are also for sale—contact Cynthia Hobbie if you are interested in purchasing any. There will be a reception for the show some time in January.

Advent Journal. Sign up in the Sanctuary to receive and deliver the journal—sharing a personal reflection, short poem, favorite quotation, drawing or picture—then deliver it to the next household on the schedule. You don’t have to be home to receive or deliver the journal; it can be left inside a doorway. If you aren’t able to drop off the journal yourself, there’s space on the sign-up sheet to indicate that. **This year we are also sharing an online journal for those who aren’t in town or not mobile.** If you would like the link to that journal, email Sarah Tittle (office@firstchurchmn.org) and she will share it with you. After Advent, both journals will be available in the church library (or by special delivery) for all to appreciate.

Longest Night Service December 18. Join us at 7p in the Sanctuary for this contemplative service that combines poetry, scripture, and music.

Staff Gifts. From Moderator Melissa Harl, “It’s that time of year when we in the First Church family show our deep appreciation for our staff by giving generously to a Holiday Fund to be shared by Jane, Byron, Sarah, Brad and this year, Chris Bohnhoff. You can give checks or cash directly to me or place an envelope in the moderator’s mailbox in the church office. Checks should be made out First Church with “Staff” in the memo line. Thank you to our wonderful staff, and to all of you for your generosity!”

Christmas Eve cookies/cocoa hour. Linda Lincoln is organizing again this year. She is looking for donations of easily handled treats (that do not need utensils). Please bring your donations to church on Dec. 23, or drop them off at her house earlier if need be (hellolindalincoln@gmail.com). We are also looking for people to clean up If you can help, please let Jane know.

Save the Dates! Camp Amnicon weekend will be August 16–18 2024. Think swimming, campfires, s'mores, songs, prayers, and lots of time to catch up with friends! **Building Beloved Community Day Camp** will be August 19–23, 9a–4p. This year, our ecumenical day camp will take place later in the summer and at a new location: Diamond Lake Lutheran Church (5760 Portland Ave., Mpls.). Our program will be Mon.–Thurs. with a family celebration on Thursday night. Friday is a bonus fun day. We are excited to welcome children between the ages of entering Kindergarten through middle school, and we hope to have a wonderful crew of high school leaders to support the elementary kiddos. More information to come in the new year.