

January 28, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Epiphany



Wesley, Frank, 1923–2002. *Healing of the Possessed at Gadarene*, 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=WFhzWkJEQjBhTlp4UEUvdWRhS2lKdz09>

(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: Trio Sonata No. 6 in G Major; Vivace by J. S. Bach

Welcome

Gathering Words: from *The Fire Next Time* by James Baldwin

Prayer of Confession and Renewal

Hymn 172: “Jesus Calls Us, o’er the Tumult”

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:15–20; Mark 1:21–28

Time with Children

Sermon: “Unclean Spirits” by Chris Bohnhoff

Chant: “See I Am Near” Taizé

Prayers of the People from *Black Liturgies* by Cole Arthur Riley
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. January’s Special Offering is given to ISALAH. 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 “ISALAH” in the memo line.

Offertory: Trio Sonata; Lento by J.S. Bach

Offertory Response: “Take, O Take Me as I Am” by John L. Bell

Prayer of Dedication

Announcements

Hymn 416: “I Will Trust in the Lord”

Benediction

Postlude: Trio Sonata; Allegro by J.S. Bach

Thanks to those who serve in the following roles today:

Valet: Robert Payne

Special Music: Anthony Titus

Usher: Brad Schumann

Reader: Xan Laurence

Tech Support: Cynthia Hendricks, Soren Peterson

Coffee Hour: Mary Jean Korsmo

Coming up this week

Sunday, Jan. 28

9:30a: Coffee hour

10a: Worship (hybrid)

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

11:15a: Coffee Hour

11:30a: Family Gathering

Monday, Jan. 29

9:30a: SE Playgroup

1p: Board Listening session

Wednesday, Jan. 31

7p: Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Feb. 1

9:30a: SE Playgroup

7p: Board Listening session

Friday, Feb. 2

4:30a: Mardi Gras!

Sunday, Feb. 4

9:30a: Coffee hour

10a: Worship/Communion (hybrid)

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

11:15a: Coffee Hour

11:30a: Board Listening session

1p: Worship team

Staff Note: Jane McBride is away until Feb 1 for the initial gathering of Vinery congregations in Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX. Please contact Chris Bohnhoff with pastoral care concerns during this time.

Mardi Gras Mini Golf will be Friday Feb 2, 4:30–8p. Come play our 9-hole mini-golf course (that runs through the Gathering Hall and the Sanctuary), and enjoy fresh homemade donuts, tacos, and live music by *The Roasters* band, featuring friends from University Lutheran Church of Hope. The first hour (4:30–5:30) is geared toward COVID cautious folks and masks are required. Food will be served starting at 5:30. A free will offering supports youth trips to Guatemala. If you are able to help with set up, food preparation or cleanup, please sign up in the back of the sanctuary or by emailing the office.

New Member Sunday. We look forward to receiving new members of First Church in February, on the 11th or 25th! Please let Jane McBride know if you are interested in joining our congregation.

Board Listening Sessions. The First Church Board invites the congregation into dialogue about the war in Gaza as well as questions about how we approach taking public stances as a congregation. Listening sessions with space available are Thursday Feb. 1, 7p (Zoom only) and Sunday Feb. 4, 11:30a. Please sign up for one of these sessions in the back of the Sanctuary.

Lenten small groups. During Lent this year we will again offer the opportunity to gather in small groups to learn, grow and build community. There will be three groups: “Sitting with our First Church Ancestors”; “The Conflict in Gaza”; and “Stories of Belovedness.” More details and sign-up sheets are in the back of the sanctuary.

Join us for Night Songs on Friday Feb. 9 at 7:30p at University Lutheran Church of Hope (601 13th Ave. SE). This event includes music, poetry, and stunning projections of the night sky, and features area choirs (including our First Church Choir).

Join our Carbon Club! The Justice Team is interested in leading a group within First Church in which we work together on lowering our carbon diet. This effort can take many forms. We might begin by listening to each other’s stories about what we are already doing and then move into finding and developing practical resources and strategies. We don’t want to be overly prescriptive about a structure; we will learn from what other congregations and nonprofits are doing and together we can develop an ongoing format. Please let Jane McBride or Paul Fate know if you are interested in learning more and/or participating. We are excited about the

possibility to lower our carbon footprint and build community in the process.

Anishinabe Academy Supplies Needed. Anishinabe Academy, our First Church partner school in south Minneapolis, has asked if in the next few weeks we might be able to donate some items for their High 5 (pre-kindergarten) classrooms: snow pants for ages 5 years and up; metal pots and pans; muffin tins; Bundt pans; bread pans; metal serving and mixing spoons; metal strainers; metal whisks; empty kitty litter tubs or other strong buckets. Please bring all items to church as soon as you are able, and leave in the large box underneath the coat rack in the Gathering Hall. Contact Zib Hinz if you have questions—and thanks!