

March 3, 2024
Third Sunday of Lent



"Ten Commandments" by Marc Chagall. Source: wikiart

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

Welcome

Gathering Words “The Place Where We Are Right” by Yehuda Amichai

Song: “Beautiful Things”

Scripture: Exodus 20:1-17; I Cor 1:18-25

Sung Psalm: Psalm 19:1-14

Chanting the Psalms

During this Lenten season, as we explore the theme of ancestors, we will also investigate the ancient practice of chanting the psalms.

The psalms come from the Hebrew Bible; there are 150 ancient, poetic songs that express a full range of human experience and emotion.

The psalms have been central in Jewish and Christian worship for the last 3,000 years. We know that the psalms were sung even in biblical times, but there’s no record of what that sounded like.

Beginning with the early Christian church, a rhythm developed of observing seven daily times of prayer, known as the daily office. At the heart of this rhythm is the chanting of the psalms.

Chanting is a kind of speech that uses musical tones while following the rhythms of ordinary speech. The practice of chanting psalms has a prayerful, contemplative dimension that goes beyond the literal, surface-level meaning of the words.

Episcopal priest and contemplative teacher Cynthia Bourgeault describes the psalmody as “a system of spiritual transformation.” In chanting

psalms, she says, we encounter “helpful psychological tools to integrate the shadow, to instruct the heart, and to stir the imagination.”

Time with Children

Anthem:

Sermon: *Idols and Lies*. Jane McBride

Hymn: “Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”

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. March’s special offering is dedicated to the First Church Little Free Pantry. 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 “Pantry” in the memo line.

Offertory:

Offertory Response

Prayer of Dedication

Communion

Communion Prayer
Retelling the Story

Sharing of the Bread and Cup: *Please have crackers/bread and juice/wine nearby so that you may share in Communion.*
Sung During Communion: "Eat this Bread, Drink this Cup"

Announcements

Hymn: "O My Soul, Bless My Creator"

Benediction

Postlude

Thanks to those who serve in the following roles today:

Valet: Paul Snyder

Usher: Marilyn Burns

Reader: Paul Snyder

Tech Support: Greg Hubinger, Hikaru Peterson

Coffee Hour: Brad Schumann

Coming up this week

Sunday, March 3

9:30a: Coffee hour

10a: Worship / Lent 3 / Communion (hybrid)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83928727469?pwd=WFhzWkJlFQjBhTlp4UEUvdWRhS2lKdz09>

11:15a: Coffee hour (hybrid—stay on Zoom call)

11:30a: Faith Formation team (hybrid-stay on Zoom call)

12:30 Worship Team (Zoom only- stay on Zoom call)

Monday, March 4

9:30a: SE Playgroup

8p: Stories of Belovedness small group

Tuesday, March 5

10a: Conflict in Gaza small group

7p: Conflict in Gaza small group

Wednesday, March 6

11a: Crafts Group

7p: Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 7

9:30a: SE Playgroup

Sunday, March 10

9:30a: Coffee hour

10a: Worship/ Lent 4 (hybrid)

11:15a: Coffee hour (hybrid—stay on Zoom call)

11:30a: 2nd Hour: Indian Recovery Act (hybrid)

11:30a: Family Gathering

2nd Hour: Indian Recovery Act. After worship on March 10, we will welcome guest presenters Tom Houle and Helen Pohlig to share with us about the Indian Recovery Act. This legislation stands to benefit all Native communities in the state—including Anishinaabe, Dakota, Ho Chunk and urban communities. By attaching a small surtax to all real estate transactions in Minnesota, the cumulative benefit for Indigenous communities will be between \$25 million and \$35 million annually. That's substantial! The funds would be used for Native programs as determined by Native people. Possible uses include language and culture revitalization, health services, education, purchase of land, and community and heritage centers.

New Member Sunday. We look forward to receiving new members of First Church on March 17. Please let Jane McBride know if you are interested in joining our congregation then, or on another date.

Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage. This Lent, a global movement is walking in prayerful solidarity with the people of Gaza. (Find out more about it at gazaceasefirepilgrimage.com) Twin Cities plans are in progress for an event on March 23. Jane McBride is planning to walk. Please let her know if you would like to join her and/or support with a donation. She can also send you the link to a Google form to receive updates about the event.

A memorial service for Jane Hangar Seeley will take place at First Church on Saturday March 16 at 11a. All are welcome to attend.

Holy Week events at First Church

Palm Sunday, March 24, 10a; 2nd Hour: all ages walk through Holy Week

Maundy Thursday, March 28, 6p: potluck meal and worship

Good Friday, March 29, 7p worship

Easter Sunday, March 31: 8a worship at the Stone Arch Bridge; 8:45 Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt; 10a worship in the sanctuary

Stories @ First: A Story Slam Event April 13, 7-9p. The theme is “wonder.” This event is being planned by the Faith Formation and Hospitality and Engagement Teams as a way to share with our neighbors our congregation’s love of creating community through storytelling. Please help us spread the word – fliers will be available soon!

Study Hall May 1-3. We look forward to once again providing space for our student neighbors to study during finals! Please let Candy Matzke know if you are interesting in helping host, or getting the word out.

