

March 29, 2024
Easter Sunday



O'Keefe, Georgia. *Spring Tree No. II*. 1945. 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

Bell Ringing

Song: "Celtic Alleluia"

Easter Gospel

Anthem: "Easter Morning" by Paul Christiansen

Welcome

Hymn 233: "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

Reading: Song of Solomon 2:10-12

Reading: "spring song" by Lucille Clifton

Response: Celtic Alleluia

Time with Children

Sermon

Hymn: "O Great Lover Who Pursues Us" by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

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. This morning's offering is given to One Great Hour of Sharing, one of four offerings of the United Church of Christ. 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 "OGHS" in the memo line.

Offertory: “O Sifuni Mungu”

Offertory Response: “Never Ending Joy” by Daniel Charles Damon

Prayer of Dedication

Hymn 238: “Now the Green Blade Rises”

Benediction

Choral Benediction: “Easter Fanfare” by Paul Fetler

Postlude

Thanks to those who serve in the following roles today:

Easter Breakfast: Coordinated by Mary Byers and Jean Cagnon, with thanks to many helpers!

Easter Egg Hunt: Jess Karas, in memory of her grandma, Doris Strong

Ushers: Tim Danz, Sandy Johnson, Darrick Niccum, Tom von Sternberg

Acolytes: Antonia Almén, Theodore Almén

Readers: Kris Felbeck, Lisa Hubinger

Valet: Brad Schumann

Tech Support: Greg Hubinger, Maggie George

Thank you to everyone who brought flowers and plants for the Sanctuary!

Coming up this week

Sunday, March 31

8a: Early service @Stone Arch Bridge

8:45: Easter Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt

10a: Worship / Easter Sunday: (hybrid)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83928727469?pwd=WFhzWkJFQjBhTlp4UEUvdWRhS2IKdz09>

Monday, April 1

9:30a: SE Playgroup

Wednesday, April 3

11a: Crafting Group

7p: FCC Choir rehearsal

Thursday, April 4

9:30a: SE Playgroup

Sunday, April 7

9:30a: Coffee hour

10a: (hybrid)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83928727469?pwd=WFhzWkJFQjBhTlp4UEUvdWRhS2IKdz09>

11a: Coffee Hour (hybrid)

11:30a: Hospitality & Engagement Team

Stories @First: A Story Slam Event, Saturday 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. If you would like to be a story-teller or help out with hosting the event, please sign up in the back of the sanctuary. Please invite friends using email or social media, or take printed fliers to share.

May Study Hall Event Is Coming! Returning to an earlier tradition, First Church will be hosting a multi-day hospitality event for our student neighbors. On three days in May (May 1, 2 and 3) we will open Gathering Hall from noon to 10p to any student in the area who needs a quiet, safe, welcoming place to study for their final exams. As an additional enticement, we offer free snacks and beverages. This is yet another example of how we can creatively use our space to serve the larger community. We are soliciting two volunteers each for our two-and-a-half-hour time slots. Additionally, we can use donations of snacks and beverages. If you wish to volunteer, go to Signup Genius, and if you wish to donate food, see the clipboard in the back of the Sanctuary. For further information, contact Candy Matzke (952-999-0987 or candymatzke@netscape.net).

Chimes returns in May! If you would like to contribute an article to the May issue Chimes, please send it to Sarah Tittle (office@firstchurchmn.org) no later than April 15. The issue after May will be published in September 2024.

Renewing our covenant to be a Just Peace church. In 1985, The General Synod (the national gathering of the United Church of Christ) passed a Just Peace resolution. General Synod resolutions serve as a witness to the whole church, rather than a mandate that is binding for people or congregations. In 1987, First Church passed our own resolution declaring ourselves a Just Peace church. In the small groups about Gaza, we read the Just Peace resolution and discussed what it might mean to renew our covenant as a just peace church in the present day. One idea we’d like to implement right away is to encourage members to join in praying the “world peace prayer” at noon each day (a longstanding tradition begun by Benedictine nuns and referenced in the resolution). We anticipate that doing it together at the same time will be a very meaningful yet simple way to connect with each other and also to remind ourselves of our commitments to be peace-makers. You can find laminated cards printed with the prayer in the back of the Sanctuary.

Here is the prayer (which is based on a verse from the Upanishads):

Lead me/us from death to life, from falsehood to truth.

Lead me/us from despair to hope, from fear to trust.

Lead me/us from hate to love, from war to peace.

Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe.

Volunteer opportunities. Please consider making the gift of your time and talents to any of these organizations that we partner with. Thank you!

- Community Kitchen needs kitchen cleaners (contact Lisa Hubinger at hubin006@umn.edu). Meets at First Church on Monday and Tuesday from 5–7p.
- Meals on Wheels needs drivers (contact Kathy Hoaglund hoag1008@umn.edu and to get schedules)
- Marcy Schools Weekend Meals needs folks to pack food into elementary school kids' backpacks (contact Eve Parker at eparker604@comcast.net). Meets Fridays at Marcy School at noon.