

April 21, 2024
Earth Sunday
Fourth Sunday of Easter



Pissarro, Camille. *Shepherds and Sheep* from WikiArt

To join worship this morning via zoom app, click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83928727469?pwd=WFhzWkJFOjBhTlp4UEUvdWRhS2lKdz09>

(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: "Sheep May Safely Graze," Bach/Fox

Welcome

Introit: Minnesota Frogs in the Spring

Gathering Words: "Hymn," by Marie Howe

Hymn 28: "For the Beauty of the Earth"

Scripture: Psalm 23; John 10:11–18

Time with Children

Sermon: “Climate Resurrection Stories”: Jim and Joy Gullikson: installing solar panels; Ann Isaacs: rescuing food through the Community Kitchen; Carolyn Bernemann: working on the Minneapolis Climate and Equity plan with Unidos

Hymn: “Called by Earth and Sky”

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

You are welcome to answer the following questions, and type it into the chat, as part of your offering: *What actions have you taken to address climate change that you’d like to celebrate, and what actions do you plan or hope to take in the future?*

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: Minnesota Bird Calls, produced by the Headwaters Science Center

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

Prayer of Dedication

Hymn 247: “My Shepherd Is the Living God”

Benediction

Postlude

Thanks to those who serve in the following roles today:

Usher: Kathy Hansen

Reader: Lisa Hubinger

Valet: Brad Schumann

Coffee Hour: Lisa Hubinger

Flowers: Mary Jean Korsmo

Tech Support: Greg Hubinger, Hikaru Peterson

Coming up this week

Sunday, April 21

9:30a: Coffee hour

10a: Worship (hybrid)/Earth Day

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

11:15a: Coffee Hour (hybrid)

11:30a: 2nd Hour: Introducing the Vinery (stay on Zoom call)

Monday, April 22

9:30a: SE Playgroup

Tuesday, April 23

1p: Building Committee

Wednesday, April 24

7p: Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 25

9:30a: SE Playgroup

Sunday, April 28

9:30a: Coffee hour

10a: Worship (hybrid)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83928727469?pwd=WFhzWkJfQjBhTlp4UEUvdWRhS2lKdz09>

11:15a: Coffee Hour (hybrid)

11:30a: Family Gathering

2nd Hour today: The Vinery. We are participating in a two-year process designed to help us be better neighbors to the campus community—building new relationships with students, staff, and faculty of the U of M. Today after worship, our Vinery team will offer an introduction to this program. They also look forward to hearing about your hopes and dreams as we begin this work.

May Study Hall! On three days in May (May 1, 2 and 3) we will open Gathering Hall from noon—10p to any student in the area who needs a quiet, safe, welcoming place to study for exams. As an additional enticement, we offer free snacks and beverages. 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.

Spring Work Day Is Coming! For those who enjoy helping to spruce up the physical parts of the church, your day is coming! On Saturday, May 11 we will gather from 9a–1p to share cleaning tasks, to have a chance to visit with church friends, and to enjoy a lunch together. We will be doing things ranging from cleaning the upholstery on our Gathering Hall chairs, to decluttering the upstairs rooms, to painting assorted spots indoors and out. Brad is our fearless leader, and he's created a sign up on the white board in the Gathering Hall. Even if you only have an hour, we sure can use you! Questions? Ask Brad!

Landscape Advice Sought. We are calling out for those with experience landscaping their yard in an eco-friendly manner. Any level of expertise is welcome. The Building Committee wants to explore ways to maintain the landscape around our church in a more eco-friendly fashion. This is a planning committee, not the group that would actually do the physical work. One bonus: A free, all-expense paid trip to our partner church, University Baptist Church, to tour their extensive rain gardens that were installed a couple of years ago. If you are willing to share your insights, please contact Paul Snyder at psnyder@umn.edu, or 612-799-7821, or Greg Hubinger at hubinger5@comcast.net or 612-384-2631. Thanks!

Election Support Group. As the November election moves closer, emotions are running high! We're considering starting a monthly Election Support Group which would meet over the next several months, in person or on Zoom. Ideally, at each meeting participants would have both an opportunity to celebrate and/or mourn the election process, and learn and practice strategies for effectively participating: storytelling techniques; how to have meaningful conversations with those of differing political beliefs; how to advocate for your position. If you are interested in participating in such a group, or even helping facilitate, please contact the church office or Sarah Almén (s_almen@hotmail.com or 512-809-9788).

Doors Open 2024! Once again this year First Church is a stop on the Doors Open Minneapolis architectural tour! The church will be open for self-guided tours on Saturday and Sunday, May 18 and 19. If you'd like to be a greeter at the church that weekend, let Cynthia Hendricks know (cyndenton@gmail.com). If you'd like to volunteer for the organization at another venue or in general, go to www.doorsopenminneapolis.org. You can learn more about the program there as well.

The MN Conference of the UCC Annual Meeting takes place on June 7–8 at St. Benedict's College. If you would like to serve as a delegate representing First Church, please let Chris Bohnhoff know. The church will cover the cost of your participation.