

**April 28, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Easter**



Photo by Sarah Tittle

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

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

(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

Gathering Words: "Sabbaths 2007, no. 9" by Wendell Berry

Hymn 459: "Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"

Scripture: I John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

Time with Children

Anthem "O Love" by Elaine Hagenburg words by George Matheson

Sermon: "Abide," by Jane McBride

Hymn 293: "Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

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: “Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers,” words by John Bell;
music by Calvin Hampton

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

Prayer of Dedication

Announcements

Ritual of Transition and Blessing

Introduction

Song: “Thuma Mina,” v. 1–2 (NCH 360)

Gratitude for Internship

Song: “Thuma Mina,” v. 3

Blessing Jane’s Sabbatical

Song: “Thuma Mina,” v. 4

Blessing the Congregation’s Sabbatical

Prayer

Hymn: “Take My Life That I May Be”

Benediction

Postlude

Thanks to those who serve in the following roles today:

Usher: Kris Felbeck

Reader: Carey Seeley-Dzierzak

Valet: Bill Lindberg

Coffee Hour: Community Kitchen

Flowers: Carey Seeley-Dzierzak

Tech Support: Maggie George, Greg Hubinger

Coming up this week

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

Monday, April 29

9:30a: SE Playgroup

Wednesday, May 1

11a: Crafting Group

Noon-10p: Study Hall

7p: Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 2

9:30a: SE Playgroup

Noon-10p: Study Hall

Friday, May 3

Noon-10p: Study Hall

Sunday, May 5

9:30a: Coffee hour

10a: Worship (hybrid)

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

11:15a: Coffee Hour (hybrid)

Help Spread the Word about May Study Hall this week, noon–10p on Wed.–Fri. We have a bunch of fliers in the back of the Sanctuary—please take some and spread the word around your neighborhood. You are also encouraged to post about this event on social media! Ask Sarah Tittle for an image you can upload.

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.