

May 5, 2024
Sixth Sunday of Easter



Giorgione. *A Soldier*, from wikiart.com

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

Call to Worship

Hymn 1: "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

Welcome

Scriptures: John 15:9–17; Acts 10:44–48

Time with Children

Anthem “World Peace Prayer” by Marty Haugen

Sermon: “In Praise of Ritual,” by Chris Bohnhoff

Hymn 470: “Golden Breaks the Dawn”

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 Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light (MNIPL). 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 “MNIPL” in the memo line.

Offertory: “Earth Song,” by Frank Ticheli

Offertory Response: “Draw the Circle Wide” by Light/Bloss

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: "Holy Spirit Come to Us"

Announcements

Hymn 394: "In Christ There Is No East and West"

Benediction

Postlude

Thanks to those who serve in the following roles today:

Ushers: Paul Fate, Darrick Niccum

Reader: Jean Anderson

Valet: Brad Schumann

Coffee Hour: Cynthia Hobbie

Flowers: Kris Felbeck

Tech Support: Hikaru Peterson, Soren Peterson

Coming up this week

Sunday, May 5

9:30a: Coffee hour

10a: Worship (hybrid)

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

11:15a: Coffee Hour (hybrid)

Monday, May 6

9:30a: SE Playgroup

Wednesday, May 8

7p: Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 2

9:30a: SE Playgroup

Noon-10p: Study Hall

Saturday, May 11

9a: Work Day

Sunday, May 12

9:30a: Coffee hour

10a: Worship (hybrid)

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

11:15a: Coffee Hour (hybrid)

Join us after worship for a special coffee hour to celebrate Cynthia Hobbie's 90th birthday!

You're invited to a Soren Peterson's Senior Concert! Today at 2p, Soren (violin) and his friend Grace (flute) will perform in the Sanctuary. Refreshments to follow in the Gathering Hall.

Spring Work Day Is this Sunday! We're still looking for a few people to help with a couple of light tasks—painting the handrails and de-cluttering the upstairs rooms. We'll meet from 9a–1p, with lunch included. Questions? Ask Brad!

Calling all graduates. We are planning on offering a blessing for graduates sometime in May or June. If you or someone in your life is graduating—from anything!—please let Sarah Tittle know the details (office@firstchurchmn.org) We will honor them in the service (and also let you know when that service will be).

New art exhibit now on view. Cindy Gipple's book-related artwork will be on display at throughout this spring and summer. Her one-of-a-kind artists' books, prints, shadow boxes, and paper basket vessels are inspired by found and reused materials, woods and waterways, hand techniques, architecture, memories, and stories. She uses traditional knit, knot, sew, coil, stitch, print, and hand techniques. A reception for this show and an opportunity to visit with Cindy will take place on Sunday, June 2 after worship. Meanwhile, enjoy these unique pieces!

We are also tickled to announce that Cecilia Rolando has donated one of her fiber art constructions to First Church, currently hanging over the coffee/tea center in the Gathering Hall! Cecilia is the fiber artist who most recently exhibited her work at First Gallery.

Music Sunday is May 12: In this service we'll hear special selections from Byron and the choir!

We want to plant your plants! On Sundays May 12 and 19, Family Gathering participants will be gardening in some of the raised beds in front

of the church. We are looking for donations of plants to include in these spaces—flowers, vegetables, herbs would all be most welcome! We plant and tend all sorts of green things, and we do it without any master plan, because that’s one of the joys of gardening with children! So bring whatever delights you! Plants can be dropped off on Sunday mornings, or during the week they can be left outside the church (or brought inside if someone is around) through May 19. All are also welcome to join us in planting. The more hands, the easier the work— we’ll pay you in advance with some tasty refreshments and good storytelling in the basement playroom before we plant! Contact Sarah Almén (512-809-9788 or s_almen@hotmail.com) with any questions.

Election Support Group. The stakes in the November 2024 election are high, and emotions are running even higher—those emotions sometimes need both an outlet and a job! We are starting a monthly Election Support Group to give people the opportunity to celebrate, mourn, or just vent about the election process, and also a chance to learn and practice tools for effectively participating in it. We’ll pull strategies from resources such as Braver Angels, the Minnesota Council of Churches, and Common Cause. These strategies might include storytelling techniques, suggestions for how to have meaningful conversations with people of differing political beliefs, or ways to advocate effectively for your position. Ideally, you’ll walk away with strategies you can use both now and in future elections. We are still determining whether these meetings will be in person or on Zoom, but you don’t have to commit to attend every meeting; each session will be stand-alone. If you would be interested in participating, or even helping to facilitate such a group, please contact the church office (office@firstchurchmn.org) 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, tell Cynthia Hendricks (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.