

September 8, 2024

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Hochhalter, Cara B. *Even the Dogs*, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

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

Welcome

Introit: “How Strong” by Richard Bruxvoort

Gathering Words by David Whyte

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hymn 67: “Let Me Enter God’s Own Dwelling” (verses 1–3, 5)

Scriptures: Isaiah 35:4–7a; Mark 7:24–37

Time with Children

Anthem: “Song of Kabir”

Sermon: “Be Opened” by Jane McBride

Hymn: “Draw the Circle Wide”

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.

Ministry Moment: Meals on Wheels, Ann Fate

Offering

We invite your financial gifts to support our ministries within and beyond First Church. August's special offering is given to Eastside Meals on Wheels. 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 "Meals on Wheels" in the memo line.

Offertory: "Joy" from *The Book of Rounds*

Offertory Response: "For Such a Times as This"

Prayer of Dedication

Announcements

Hymn 575: "O For a World"

Benediction

Sung Benediction: "Deep Peace" Celtic trad., arr. Makeever
Please join in singing the second time through.

Postlude

Thanks to those who serve in the following roles today:

Valet: Robert Payne

Reader: Xan Laurence

Usher: Mary Jean Korsmo

Tech Support: Greg Hubinger, Hikaru Peterson, Jeff Peterson

Coffee Hour: Christyann Ranck

Coming up this week

Sunday, Sept. 8

9:30a: Coffee hour

10a: Worship/Communion (hybrid)

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

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

11:30a: Election Support Group (hybrid)

11:30a: Family Gathering

Monday, September 9

9:30a: SE Playgroup

Tuesday, September 10

noon: Bible Study

1p: Staff meeting

Wednesday, September 11

5:30p: Community Night

7p: Choir rehearsal

Thursday, September 12

9:30a: SE Playgroup

Sunday, Sept. 15

9:30a: Coffee hour

10a: Worship/Communion (hybrid)

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

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

11:30a: 2nd Hour: Faith in Democracy

Election Support Group meets today after worship in the Parlor. All are welcome to join this ongoing conversation about the upcoming election. We'll share our thoughts, frustrations, hopes, fears, and strategies for having difficult discussions.

Community Night is this Wednesday, 5:30–7:30p! Please plan to attend and help out if you can! See sign up on the sheet in the back of the Sanctuary or let Lisa Hubinger know if you can help.

Join a ministry team! Sign up in the back of the sanctuary. At our retreat gatherings at the end of September we will meet to build relationships and make plans for the year. The retreats will be in-person, though we can accommodate virtual participation. The dates are: Faith Formation and Worship Teams Retreat: Sun. Sept. 22, 11:30a–2p; Hospitality & Engagement, Congregational Care, and Justice Teams Retreat: Sun. Sept. 29, 11:30a–2p

Sharing Our Congregational Goals. Over the past several months, the Board has been listening to our members, ministry teams, and task forces. We've been reflecting on where we've been and where the Spirit is leading us. We've been conversing about how to distill that sense of direction into

concrete goals to focus our work in the coming program year. We are excited to share the goals we have developed out of this process—they are available on the back table.

Faith in Democracy 2nd Hour, September 15. In the existential fight between White Christian Nationalism and Multiracial Democracy, it is easy to feel like politics happens TO us, and we as people of faith must simply hope and pray for the best. Please join us on the 15th for a conversation about how, in the face of all of this, WE can make our future. This session will be co-led by Carey Seeley Dzierzak and Ben Whalen from the ISAIAH staff.

Pot Luck Sanctuary Dinner September 22. The University of Minnesota Area Sanctuary Coalition of Churches Invites you to a Pot Luck Dinner on Sunday, Sept. 22 at 5p at St. Anthony Park UCC, 2129 Commonwealth Avenue, St. Paul. There will be spaghetti with or without meat balls and beverages. We ask participants to bring a dish of your choice to share. RSVP to: Bobkessler45@gmail.com by September 20.

A celebration of the life of Jerry Clark, who died on August 12, will take place on Saturday Sept. 28 at 1p. All are invited to attend.