

LENT 2017

C O N T E M P L A T E



**“COME TO ME ALL YOU WHO ARE WEARY AND BURDENED,
AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST.” MATTHEW 11:28**

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

April 2, 2017

9:30 a.m.

Gathering Time

Greeting

Please complete the connect card and place it in the offering plate.

Invitation to Worship

*Opening Hymn 555

In Celebration, Clap Your Hands and Sing

*Opening Prayer

Experiencing The Sacred in Every Day Living

Tabitha DeRango

Scripture Reading

Psalm 130

Matthew 20:20-28, Angela Briggs

*Song

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

Giving and Living Out of Our Abundance

Choral Offertory

My Song In the Night (arr. P. Christiansen)

Children in grades Pre-K through 2nd grade are invited to continue worshipping in Children's Church after the Offertory. Please meet the teachers in the back of the Sanctuary.

Message

GREATNESS

Pastor Anne Vining

Passing of the Peace

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

We invite all who follow Jesus as Lord to receive and celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion with us.

*Affirmation of Faith

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

*Closing Hymn 226

What Wondrous Love

*Sending Words

Matthew 11:28

Postlude

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now (arr. Paul Manz)

Prayer Time for Health and Wholeness is offered in the Prayer Chapel following Worship.

TODAY

Welcome to Worship at First Covenant Church! *Wherever you find yourself on your journey of faith, we are glad you are here. The connect card in your bulletin provides a way to give or receive information, or to ask for prayer. Many are already part of our e-mail communication. If you would like to receive periodic church updates electronically, please indicate this on your connect card. Place your completed connect card in the offering plate.*

9:30am

Worship

Nursery Care, (birth through age 3), *Rooms 105 & 106*

Children's Church, children pre-k - 2nd grade are dismissed with leaders during Worship and will return with leaders during Communion, *Room 104*

Resource Table for children and youth, please check out this table as you enter Worship, where you will find worship bulletins, crayons and Bibles for children, and worship notes for Confirmation students.

10:30am

Fellowship Time, *Upper Fellowship Hall*

10:40am

Youth Group Music Lessons, *Graffiti Room*

11:00am

Nursery Care (birth through age 3), *Room 105*

Children's Sunday School, *(all start in Room 104 together)*

Please pick up your children at 12:00pm in the following rooms:

Pre-K - K, *Room 106*

Grades 3-4, *Room 104B*

Grades 1-2, *Room 104A*

Grades 5-6, *Room 201 (upstairs)*

Confirmation, *Game Room*

Youth Sunday School, *Graffiti Room*

Adult Spiritual Growth Hour, *Upper Fellowship Hall*

In continuation of our Lenten theme, "Contemplate", today during Spiritual Growth Hour, Jane Hutchins-Peterson will present a session on the practice of Spiritual Direction. Jane is an experienced Spiritual Director who can help open our minds and hearts to spiritual direction as a means of breaking through barriers and drawing closer to God.

Covenant World Relief in South Sudan: Vulnerable Women and Children

Covenant World Relief is responding to the violence in South Sudan by providing relief to those who have fled to refugee camps and are seeking safety in the bush. Covenant World Relief is also working with widowed and marginalized South Sudanese women by training them for sustainable livelihoods in tailoring, weaving, masonry, carpentry, and pottery.

For more information: www.covchurch.org/cwr

Remember to give to Covenant World Relief on Easter Sunday.

NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 9

Parent and Caregiver Talk-Back Session, Sunday, April 9, 12:00-12:30pm

Lower Fellowship Hall

Parents and Caregivers of infants, children and youth are invited to a talk-back session with Kate, Donovan and Pastor Anne. Bring your hopes, dreams and concerns regarding our ministry to children, youth and families for the coming year. Your input is needed as we shape ministry for the future. Childcare provided.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Sankofa registration is still open!

Our intergenerational Sankofa Trip is August 11-15, 2017. Join us for a five-day bus tour of historically significant civil rights sites in the Twin Cities, Milwaukee, and Chicago. Registration forms and brochures are available at the Welcome Center. Please return the form with your \$75 deposit to the Sankofa trip mailbox in the main office. Contact Susan Carlson with any questions: susancarlson@northcountryautobody.com.

Open Position at First Covenant Church - Bookkeeping Clerk (16 hrs/wk)

After nearly nine years, Alicia Zepeda-Cervantes is leaving this position to focus on family care. The bookkeeping clerk participates in the mission of FCC by overseeing the day-to-day financial operations in an efficient, effective and ethical manner. Basic knowledge and experience is desired with QuickBooks, accounts payable, and payroll processes. **Deadline to submit your resume is April 7, 2017.** For a complete job description and application process, go to our website, www.first-covenant.org, or contact Doug Jacobson, Financial Officer, finance@first-covenant.org.

Team World Vision Update - Last Sunday we heard about Team World Vision and were invited to join the Marathon running team, training for the Twin Cities Marathon on October 1, 2017. You have the incredible opportunity to change lives forever by providing clean drinking water to those who need it in Africa. Team World Vision needs you! If you are at all interested or want to learn more about the process of training and how it all works, please talk to Team Captain Nate Stromberg as soon as possible, as training begins this week, (strombergnate@gmail.com) Following Worship today, Nate will be at the Welcome Center if you have questions.

Easter Memorial Gifts are used to purchase flowering plants to decorate our sanctuary for worship on Easter Sunday, and after, are delivered to our homebound friends. To honor the memory of a loved one, please provide their name(s) along with a financial gift (cash or check written to First Covenant Church). Forms and envelopes are available at the Welcome Center. Place your gift in the offering plate or in the Financial Secretary's mailbox in the office. All names received by April 9th will be listed in the bulletin on April 16, Easter Sunday.

Stay connected: Stop by the Welcome Center to order a CD of any worship service. Weekly worship bulletins and podcasts can be found on the church website under the Worship and Arts tab. Podcasts of our recent Spiritual Growth Hours can also be found on our website under Life Together - Spiritual Growth Hour.

The new April, May and June Server Schedule is now available at the Welcome Center and on our website. We are grateful to all of our volunteers who serve in many different areas!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday Evenings at First Covenant Church, April 5 and 12

Due to Saint Paul Public School's Spring Break, and Holy Week, we will have no regular Wednesday night programs on April 5 or 12. There will be no After School Program, dinner, children or youth programs, Adult Bible Study or Jump Start on these two nights. Exception: there WILL BE music rehearsals for handbells and Easter Choir.

Gospel Choir Rehearsals, Thursdays, April 6, 13, 6:00pm, Choir Room **Invitation from Steve Pittman, Director:**

- *Do you love to sing or play an instrument?
- *Do you find yourself singing and praising God without even realizing it?
- *Does it bring you joy to share those expressions with others in the congregation?

All are welcome for Gospel Choir practice! We will be singing on April 9 (Palm Sunday), and April 16 (Easter Sunday). CD's and schedules are available at the Welcome Center.

Special Invitation from our partner church, Haitian Christian Fellowship: **Saturday, April 8, 5:00-8:00pm**

"Haitian Christian Fellowship Church is having an upcoming church fundraiser and you are all invited! The purpose of this event is to move closer towards our goal of finding a building for the church body. We have been grateful and fortunate to be worshipping at First Covenant Church for over 20 years. Now we feel it is time for us to move forward into more that God has in store for us. There will be music, a silent auction, and of course food will be served. Cost: \$20 dollars per adult, \$10 dollars for children 10 years old and under, children under 3 years old are free. Purchase tickets at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fundraiser-dinner-and-silent-auction-tickets-18416095036>. Thank you for your support throughout the years and now as we prepare for this event. We hope to see you there!"

Good Friday Concert, Friday, April 14, 7:00pm

First Covenant Church Sanctuary

Free admission; a freewill offering will be taken. Childcare provided.
Postcards are at the Welcome Center to use to invite your family and friends.

LOOKING AHEAD

Covenant Pines Ministries Annual 2017 Meeting, Thursday, April 20, 6:00pm *Salem Covenant Church (New Brighton, MN)*

You are cordially invited to attend this session. All in attendance will share a meal together, connect with others who love Covenant Pines, hear stories and updates from the staff, and praise God for what He continues to do through all 4 ministries of Covenant Pines. To sign up and let them know you will be attending please go to: <https://covenantpines.org/annual-meeting/> Hope to see you there!

HOLY WEEK 2017

First Covenant Church of Saint Paul



PALM SUNDAY - ACCLAIM

Sunday, April 9, 9:30am

Join us for a celebrative worship experience!
Labyrinth hosted from 11:00am - 12:00pm.



Wednesday, April 12, 6:00-9:00pm

There is no regular children or youth programming this evening but guides will be on hand for individuals and families to experience the Labyrinth.

Gospel Mass dress rehearsal begins at 6:30pm.



MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 13, 12:00pm

Holy Communion, served in Upper Fellowship Hall, representing the Last Supper of Jesus and his disciples.

Labyrinth hosted from 1:00-3:00pm.



GOOD FRIDAY CONCERT

Friday, April 14, 7:00pm

Good Friday Ethnic Mass Concert Series
The journey of becoming a multicultural church.

Join us as the Easter Choir performs
GOSPEL MASS by Robert Ray, and the Handbell Choir
with the Chamber Ensemble.

Labyrinth hosted from 4:30-6:30pm & 8:00-9:00pm.



EASTER SUNDAY - RECLAIM

Sunday, April 16, 10:30am

Join us as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ in worship with the Easter, Handbell and Gospel Choirs. Covenant World Relief offering received this morning.



ROBERT RAY'S
GOSPEL
MASS

EASTER CHOIR, HANDBELL CHOIR
& CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

Good Friday Concert
April 14 at 7:00pm

First Covenant Church of Saint Paul
childcare provided