



Easter Sunday 2017

"Come to me all who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28

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EASTER SUNDAY

April 16, 2017

10:30 a.m.

Gathering Time

Call to Worship

Prelude on "O Sacred Head Now Wounded"

Chamber Ensemble and Handbell Choir

Greeting

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

Passing of the Peace

*Opening Hymn 258

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Entry of the Christ Candle

The return of the light from Good Friday to Easter Sunday symbolizes the resurrection of Jesus from the grave and the light of salvation and hope God brought into the world through His resurrection.

*Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading

Matthew 28: 1-20, Sam David, Jack Quarles

Children's Message

Donovan DeGaetano

*Song

The Anthem

Giving and Living Out of Our Abundance

Choral Offertory

CREDO - I Believe in God, from GOSPEL MASS, by Robert Ray

Easter Choir and Band, Soloist: Jada Jones

Message

RECLAIM

Pastor Anne Vining

Prayer of the People

*Closing Hymn 249

Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

You are invited to sing the Hallelujah Chorus with the choir. Please come forward during the closing hymn in preparation for the Sending Proclamation.

Music is available in the Choir Loft.

*Sending Words

*Sending Proclamation
Postlude

*Hallelujah Chorus (G.F. Handel), Easter Choir & Orchestra
Jesus Shall Reign (arr. Wilbur Held)*

TODAY

Welcome to Worship at First Covenant Church as we celebrate the Risen Christ this Easter Sunday! Whether you are a long-time member of our congregation or this is your first time worshipping with us, we are so glad you have included this worship service into your own personal Easter tradition this year. If you would like to know more about our life together beyond Easter Sunday, make sure you leave today with a “How Much is Enough” Spring Guidebook. All are cordially invited to stay after Worship for coffee and treats.

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.

10:30am

Worship

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

Children ages 4 and above will be celebrating Easter with us during the entire worship service. There is no Children’s Church today.

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.

11:30am

Fellowship Time, *Upper Fellowship Hall*

Artwork on the south wall of the sanctuary

“Lamb of God” by Janet Cameron, Oil on Canvas

Please notice this beautiful canvas, a depiction of the crucifixion of Christ, done in a style reminiscent of renaissance sacred art, and painted on an imperfect canvas made of old repurposed mailbags.

Easter Memorial Flowers

Thank you to all who donated toward the beautiful Easter flowers in memory of loved ones. Following Worship, you are invited to take a flower home. However, please wait until the Visitation Team has taken the smaller flowers designated for the homebound.

Note to the Visitation Team members: please meet in the Conference Room following Worship to pick up your assignments and visitation packages to be delivered to our homebound friends this week.

Covenant World Relief Easter Offering

Give today to the work of Covenant World Relief in meeting the needs of the most vulnerable people in the world. Soup can banks and other offerings will be received today as you leave Worship, all of which will go to this work: helping those who suffer in today’s world from extreme poverty, hunger, disease, disaster and injustice.

For more information: www.covchurch.org/cwr.

“How Much is Enough?” Spring Guidebooks will be handed out as you leave Worship today.

NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 23

Join us as we return to our regular Spring schedule:

9:30am: Worship

10:40am: Youth Group Music Lessons

11:00am: Spiritual Growth Hour for all ages

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

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 church office and building will be closed tomorrow, April 17.

Visit the summer camp table in Upper Fellowship Hall! Here you will find all you need to know about 2017 summer camp opportunities for children and youth. There are also envelopes available if you would like to donate to our Every Kid To Camp fund (EKTC). At First Covenant, we believe that every kid, no matter the family's financial situation, should be able to have a camp experience at Covenant Pines Bible Camp each summer. Questions? See Kate or Donovan.

Sankofa Trip Reminder: 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 forms, along with your \$75 deposit to the Sankofa Trip mailbox in the main office. Questions? Contact Susan Carlson, susancarlson@northcountryautobody.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesdays, April 19 - May 17

After having a few weeks off, we are excited to get back into our regular Wednesday night programs and finish strong before we head into the summer months!

Gospel Choir Rehearsal, Thursday, April 20, 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 Sunday, April 23.

Covenant Pines Ministries Annual 2017 Meeting, Thursday, April 20, 6:00pm

Salem Covenant Church (New Brighton, MN)

Everyone is invited to share a meal, connect, and hear updates about Covenant Pines Ministries. Make your reservation at: <https://covenantpines.org/annual-meeting>.

Casting Our Nets, Saving our Community, Wednesday, April 26, 7:00-8:30am

Keller Golf course, 2166 Maplewood Drive, Maplewood

As the fishing season begins soon, our partner Family Values for Life (FVFL) is ready to cast it's nets and raise funds to continue supporting families on the East Side of St. Paul. Please join FVFL's efforts at their Spring Breakfast fundraiser. For more information or to sign up: www.familyvaluesforlife.org.