

# LENT 2018



## Sabbath: Making Space for Encountering God

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# FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 11, 2018

9:30 a.m.

Gathering Time

Passing of the Peace

Invitation to Worship

*If you are a visitor, have a prayer request or have a change of address, please note this on a Connect Card found in the pew pockets. Place it in the offering plate.*

\*Opening Hymn 295

*Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

\*Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 56: 1-8, Louise Wilson

Galations 5: 19-24, Don Pelto

\*Songs

*Hope Will Rise*

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

Giving and Living Out of Our Abundance

Offertory

*Just As I Am* (Chicago Mass Choir)

Gospel Choir

*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.*

Sabbath Practice

*Remembering*, Addin Vang

Message

Sabbath: An Invitation to Bridge Building

Kara Stromberg, guest preacher

Prayer of the People

\*Closing Hymn 674

*Let the Words of the Lord*

\*Sending Words

Postlude

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*, (arr. Carl Schalk)

*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! Please join us for a cup of coffee and a treat during the Fellowship Time.***

**This morning we welcome our guest preacher, Kara Stromberg.** Kara serves as the Director of Children & Family Ministry for the Northwest Conference, working with ministry leaders in Covenant churches throughout Minnesota and western Wisconsin. Kara and her husband, Nate, have been members of First Covenant for 8 years and attend with their kids Ben, Greta and Juniper.

**This weekend 18 people from First Covenant Church are at Adventurous Christians, our Covenant-owned rustic retreat center near Grand Marais, MN, returning today.** Please pray for safe travels home.

**9:30am**

**Worship**

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

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

**Resource Table for children and youth:** check out this table as you enter Worship for bulletins, crayons & Bibles for children, and Confirmation worship notes.

**10:30-11:00am**

**Fellowship Time, Upper Fellowship Hall**

**11:00am-12:00pm**

**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)*

**Youth (7-12th grades)**, *Graffiti Room*

**Confirmation**, *Game Room*

**Adult Spiritual Growth Hour, 11:00am, (March 11,18), 2 options:**

1. Adult Lent Discussion Groups: Join us as we discuss Walter Brueggemann's "Sabbath as Resistance: Saying No to the Culture of Now" in small group discussions. Existing Life Groups which have met at church on Sundays will serve as discussion groups for our Lenten study. Those who are not a part of a Life Group but want to participate in this study can see Tom Cameron at the Welcome Center after Worship.
2. Adults not participating in a Lent Discussion Group are invited to join Joe and Paige Mann in Upper Fellowship Hall. All groups will cover the same material.

***If you temporarily leave the sanctuary during a Worship service, please return to your seats using the rear sanctuary doors. This will minimize disruptions. Thank you for understanding.***

## **OUR LIFE TOGETHER**

**We extend our sympathies** to Louise Schostek and family in the death of her husband Sam, who passed away this past Monday, March 5. Sam's memorial service will be held at First Covenant on Monday, March 26 at 2:00pm. God's peace to those on a journey through loss and grief.

**Congratulations to Charissa Pederson and Jake Verdoorn** who were married in Colombia this past Friday. Charissa is the daughter of Pastor Anne and Gordy; Jake is the son of Tom and Jan Verdoorn. We wish this couple God's richest blessings in their new life together!

**Pastor Anne is out of town and unavailable through March 17.** In case of a pastoral care need or emergency, please call the church office. If afterhours, please call:  
**Pastor Ted Nordlund, (covering today-Thursday evening, March 15), 651-442-3771.**  
**Pastor Roger Mollet, (covering Friday morning, March 16-Sunday morning, March 18), 651-236-0930.**

**The nursery needs your help!** We are looking for volunteers to care for the youngest of our church family in the nursery on Sunday mornings. If you can help, please see Lora Murtha, Nursery Coordinator, or sign up at the Welcome Center.

**Musical "Reach for the Stars" update:** An enormous thank you to everyone who contributed to Reach for the Stars, the fund that financially supports our musical productions. Every year, First Covenant - along with our partners Family Values for Life, Farnsworth Aerospace Schools, and Johnson High School - perform a Broadway musical. Beauty and the Beast was performed February 23-25, 2018. Last fall's Broadway Dinner Night received \$2,654 in donations, and, as of March 5, Beauty and the Beast has received \$5,432. This is a total of over \$8,000! It's not too late to donate - Reach for the Stars envelopes are in the acrylic kiosk by the east doors.

**Beauty and the Beast DVD's:** sign up at the Welcome Center to order a DVD of Beauty and the Beast. Each DVD costs \$10, which will help support future musicals. Please pay with cash or a check written out to First Covenant Church. Thanks for your support!

**Stay connected:** Weekly worship bulletins and podcasts of each week's message can be found on the church website under the Worship and Arts tab. Stop by the Welcome Center to order a CD of any Worship Service. The current Adult Spiritual Growth Hour series is not being recorded due to the format of the discussion groups.

**Youth Group Music Lessons will begin again next Sunday, March 18, 10:45am, Graffiti Room**

## **UPCOMING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Renewal Conference for NW Conference Women Ministries, at Bloomington Covenant Church Friday, March 16, 5:30pm and/or Saturday, March 17, 8:00am - 4:00pm**

All women are invited to attend part or all of this weekend. Lunch is included. Registration forms and information is available at the Welcome Center or on the FCC East Hall Women's Bulletin Board. Contact Lynn Gilmore with questions: 651-770-5566.

**Alateen Training Session, Saturday, March 24, 1:00-3:00pm**

*Uptown House, 1344 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105*

Alateen is a program for teens whose lives have been affected by someone else's drinking. Alateen is working to start a meeting at First Covenant Church. If you are interested in learning more about Alateen, or if you are interested in being an adult who presides at Alateen meetings, you are welcome to attend this training. If you have further questions, please contact Mike O'Neal at [mjloneil@gmail.com](mailto:mjloneil@gmail.com), or 651-698-0375.

## **LENT OPPORTUNITIES**

**Lent is the Christian season of preparation before Easter.** Ash Wednesday marks the first day, or the start of the season of Lent, which begins 40 days prior to Easter (not including Sundays). Lent is a time for reflection on Jesus Christ - his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, death, burial and resurrection.

**Stop by the Lent Resource Table** in Upper Fellowship Hall to pick up Lent devotionals, our new Lent Guidebook and other resources to use as we are in this season of Lent.

### **Covenant World Relief Update: Microloans**

Covenant World Relief provides microloans to assist people in poverty around the world. Relatively small amounts of money for start-up businesses can result in major impacts on people's lives. A man in India was able to create a business making farm tools with a small loan from CWR which helped him buy the tools and initial products that he needed. A woman in Colombia began a street cart business to sell food with a loan from CWR. This kind of giving provides the potential for lifelong sustenance for people who otherwise have little or nothing. Give to Covenant World Relief on Easter Sunday, April 1 or use the envelopes on the Lent Resource Table to give on any Sunday.

**Easter Memorials gifts** are used to purchase flowering plants that beautify our sanctuary for Worship on Easter Sunday. The smaller flowers will be delivered to bless our homebound friends following Easter. If you would like to honor the memory of a loved one, please provide their name(s) along with a financial gift (cash or a check written out to First Covenant Church) in an envelope. Place your envelope in the offering plate or bring to the church office by Sunday, March 25. Envelopes are available at the Welcome Center. All names received by March 25 will be listed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday.

**Adopt-a-Cop participants:** We have the opportunity to send our St. Paul police officers an Easter greeting in March. Please have your note of encouragement in the Adopt-a-Cop mailbox in the church office by March 18. Thanks for your continued prayers!  
For more information: Jan Mollet, Coordinator, [rjmollet@gmail.com](mailto:rjmollet@gmail.com), 651-329-1221.

### **Palm Sunday Brunch, March 25, 11:00am, Lower Fellowship Hall**

From Pastor Lidovick Pierre, Haitian Christian Fellowship:

"We are also so excited about worshiping on Palm Sunday together. In the last 22 years, the Lord rescued us from Haiti as refugees to this land called Minnesota and led us to you as dear loving brothers and sisters of First Covenant Church in Saint Paul. You opened your hearts, you received and welcomed us with compassion and great joy and hospitality. You make us feel home. In the last three years HCF, sensed together to move the church services to the morning. This is the main reason we started raising money to move to a new place. You are all invited to our fundraiser brunch. All the money we receive will go toward that church building. We will receive donations as well. Merci beaucoup! Thank you very much!" All are invited!  
Cost: \$10.00 for adults; \$5.00 for children 5-12 years; free for children 4 and younger. Due to the brunch, we will not be having Spiritual Growth Hour on this day.

### **Good Friday Concert, Friday, March 30, 7:00pm, FCC Sanctuary**

The Ethnic Mass Concert Series will continue with the Misa Criolla, written by Ariel Ramirez, an Argentine composer who used the melodies and rhythms of traditional Hispanic music. As we live in this journey of becoming a multicultural church we continue experiencing the various cultures through their own musical styles. Featured in this free concert will be the Easter Choir, the Vena Family from Argentina, the Handbell Choir and Chamber Ensemble.

# HOLY WEEK 2018

## First Covenant Church of Saint Paul



### **PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP - March 25, 9:30am**

Join with brothers and sisters from the Haitian Christian Fellowship on the journey from the Hosannas of the Triumphant entry into Jerusalem to the shouts of "crucify him!"

### **11:00am: Brunch Supporting Haitian Christian Fellowship**

*Lower Fellowship Hall*

Gather with old and new friends over delicious food as we support our brothers and sisters as they continue to raise funds for their new building.



### **STATIONS OF THE CROSS - March 28, 5:30pm - 7:30pm**

*Throughout the Main Floor*

Experience a guided journey retracing the final days of Jesus Christ with interactive stations for reflection. Experiences for families and contemplatives alike will help us consider anew God's great love, and the enormity of our salvation. No regular programming this afternoon + evening.



### **MAUNDY THURSDAY - March 29, 12:00pm**

*Upper Fellowship Hall*

Join us for the sacrament of Holy Communion, representing the Last Supper Jesus shared with his disciples.

Stations of the Cross open (unhosted): 9:00am-5:00pm

Misa Criolla Dress Rehearsal from 6:00pm-9:00pm



### **GOOD FRIDAY CONCERT - March 30, 7:00pm**

The journey of becoming a multicultural church, second in a series. "Misa Criolla" (Hispanic Mass) by Ariel Ramirez is performed by First Covenant's Easter Choir, featuring the Vena Family from Argentina with indigenous instruments, as well as the Handbell Choir, and Chamber Ensemble.

Stations of the Cross open (unhosted): 5:30pm-7:00pm



### **EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP - April 1, 10:30am**

Celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ in worship with the Easter and Handbell Choirs, as well as the Chamber and Brass Ensembles. Covenant World Relief offering received this morning.

# MISA CRIOLLA



**GOOD FRIDAY CONCERT**  
**March 30, 2018 at 7:00pm**  
**Free Admission**

**Featuring:**  
**Easter Choir, Handbell Choir, Chamber**  
**Ensemble, and the Vena Family from**  
**Argentina with indigenous instruments**

**First Covenant Church**  
**1280 Arcade Street**  
**Saint Paul, MN 55106**

**childcare provided**