

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**

first covenant church of saint paul ~ 1280 arcade street ~ saint paul, mn 55106
(651)774-0344 ~ www.first-covenant.org ~ prayer line: (651)772-9212
office@first-covenant.org

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 26, 2017

9:30 a.m.

Gathering Time

Passing of the Peace

Greeting

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

Invitation to Worship

*Opening Hymn 223

I Will Sing of My Redeemer

*Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Holy Sacrament of Baptism

*The Blessing

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Ministry Highlight

Bradley Hofbauer of Team World Vision

Scripture Reading

Psalm 23, Nate Stromberg

Matthew 18:21-35, Sharla Scullen

Experiencing the Sacred in Every Day Living

Paige Mann

*Song

Rescue

Prayer of the People

Giving and Living Out of Our Abundance

Choral Offertory

Make My Life a Living Prayer (A.D. Miller)

Michelle Fure, mezzo solo

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

FORGIVE

Pastor Anne Vining

*Closing Song

I Come to the Cross

*Sending Words

Postlude

The Lord's My Shepherd, (arr. Michael Burkhardt)

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.*

This morning Steve and Tammy Benson bring their daughter, Kisa Faith Benson, to the Lord in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. The Godparents for Kisa are Jill and Barrett Connolly.

Today we welcome Bradley Hofbauer, of Team World Vision, who will be inviting us to participate in providing clean water to children in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Immediately following Worship, there will be a brief meeting in the sanctuary for all those interested in forming a First Covenant Church running team for Team World Vision this year.

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 the final song of Worship, 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", we invite you to walk the Stations of the Cross in Upper Fellowship Hall during Spiritual Growth Hour this morning. This is an opportunity to engage in a spiritual practice observed by Christians for centuries to commemorate the final hours of Jesus' earthly life, and to enter into contemplative prayer as we shut out all distractions and focus on what He sacrificed for us.

Covenant World Relief: Immediate Disaster Relief

Covenant World Relief (CWR), working alongside other relief organizations, is equipped to be on the ground immediately after a natural disaster. Disaster relief has been provided by CWR in countries around the world including: Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Japan, India, Ecuador, Philippines, United States, Yemen, Greece and others—when disaster happens.

For more information: www.covchurch.org/cwr

Remember to give to Covenant World Relief on Easter Sunday.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

First Covenant practices both infant baptism and infant dedication. If you would like to know more about the biblical and theological basis for these practices, there is a resource sheet available at the Welcome Center.

Adopt-A-Cop: Easter is coming soon, so for those who are praying for St. Paul East Side police officers, please have an Easter card or greeting in the Adopt-A-Cop mailbox in the church office by TODAY, so the greeting can be delivered on time. This is a great opportunity to encourage your officer with the message of hope. There are two police officers who are in need of a prayer partner to send a note of encouragement each quarter and commit to pray for them. Any questions, please contact Jan Mollet, Adopt-A-Cop Coordinator, 651-329-1221, rjmollet@gmail.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.

Easter Memorial Gifts are used to purchase flowering plants to decorate our sanctuary for worship on Easter Sunday. 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. *Oliver!* DVD's can be ordered for \$10 each, with the proceeds going toward the musical. 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.

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!"

UPCOMING EVENTS

"Liturgy of the Ordinary" Book Discussion, Tuesday, March 28, 6:30pm

Joel and Kate Peck's Home, 2706 Riviera Drive S, White Bear Lake, MN

Join us as we accept author Tish Harrison Warren's invitation to connect the sacred with the ordinary activities of our lives in her book, "Liturgy of the Ordinary", led by Kate Peck. Please sign up at the Lenten Resource Table if you are planning to attend.

Sankofa Trip Reminder: Registration deadline is Friday, March 31!

Our intergenerational Sankofa trip is August 11-15, 2017. Make sure your registration forms are in for this intentional, immersive road trip of reconciliation this summer.

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, susancarlon@northcountryautobody.com.

Men's Prayer Breakfast, Saturday, April 1, 8:00-9:30am

Upper Fellowship Hall

All men are invited to join us for a time of study, prayer, food and fellowship.

Contact Roger Carlson for more information: hilljumper2@gmail.com.

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 or Adult Bible Study on these two nights.

Exception: there WILL BE music rehearsals as usual: handbells, choir 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 and 16.

LOOKING AHEAD

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

First Covenant Church Sanctuary

Do not miss the first annual concert in our Good Friday Ethnic Mass Concert Series: GOSPEL MASS by Robert Ray, including the Easter Choir, Handbell Choir, and Chamber Orchestra. Free admission; a freewill offering will be taken. Childcare provided. Postcards are at the welcome center. Invite your family and friends!

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!