



*God said, "Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"
The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate."
Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?"
The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate."
Genesis 3:11-13*

First Sunday in Lent
First United Church of Christ, Northfield
**An Open and Affirming, Just Peace,
Immigrant Welcoming Congregation**

February 26, 2023 – 10:30 a.m.

Welcome to worship! Are you visiting us today? We invite you to fill out our [Virtual Visitor Card](#).

Prelude

Chaconne

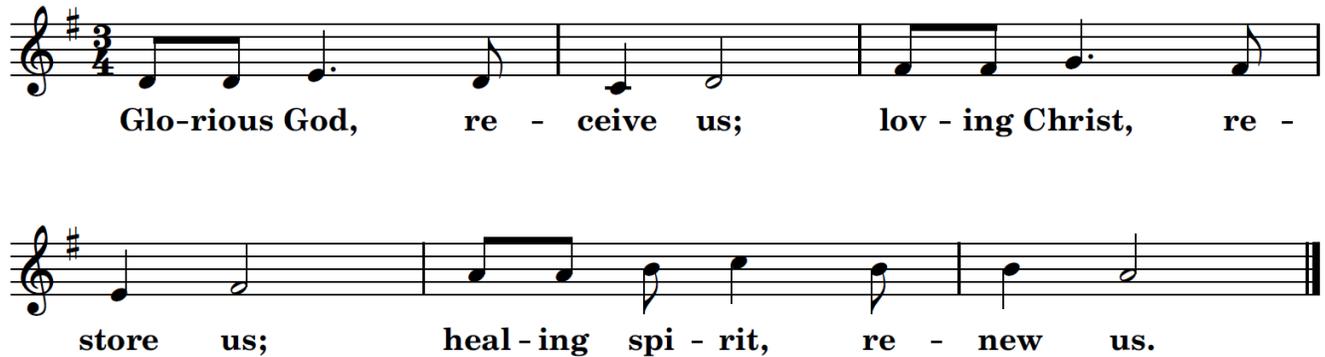
Hugo Distler (1908-1942)

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering Music

Glorious God

Alice Parker (1925-)



Glo-rious God, re - ceive us; lov - ing Christ, re -
store us; heal - ing spi - rit, re - new us.

Call to Worship

One: We gather together at the edge of a new season.

Many: We stand together on the cusp of something new.

One: Will we wade into self-reflection?

Many: Will we invite honesty to dance?

One: Will we listen for God's invitation?

Many: Will we seek deeper faith?

One: Will we listen to God or to other voices demanding our attention?

Many: We gather together at the edge of a new season.

One: Listen, God is speaking.

Opening Hymn

All Things of Dust to Dust Return

Colin Britt

(see page 10)

Time with Children

Let the children come unto me, for theirs is the realm of God.

All who believe must become like a child; theirs is the realm of God.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Holy God, Too often we treat your Word like a radio station—something we can tune in and out of when it’s convenient. Our minds are full of ads, emails, news updates, and notifications. In the midst of this clutter, we tend to gravitate toward the voices that think like us—easily ignoring the voices being silenced, easily ignoring your voice. Forgive us for failing to listen. Forgive us for getting caught in distractions. Forgive us for forgetting what your voice sounds like. Drain the distractions from our minds and help us turn once again toward you. With earnest hearts we pray, amen.

Words of Assurance

I am loved! I am held in grace! I belong to God!

Imposition of Ashes

Anthem

Times Without Number

Alice Parker

Times without number have I prayed
“This only once forgive”;
Relapsing, when thy hand was stayed,
And suffered me to live.

Yet now the kingdom of thy peace,
Lord, to my heart restore;
Forgive my vain repentances,
And bid me sin no more.

—Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Scripture

Genesis 3

Sarah Entenmann, Mandy Everhart,
Matt Forster, Cyrus Kirby

Sermon

Who will you listen to?

Rev. Cindy Maddox

Prayer Hymn

We Are Not Our Own

#564 (Yarnton)
(verses 1, 2, 3, and 6)

Verse 1: We are not our own.

Earth forms us,
human leaves on nature's growing vine,
Fruit of many generations,
seeds of life divine.

Verse 3: Through a human life God finds us;
dying, living, love is fully known,
and in bread and wine reminds us:
we are not our own.

Verse 2: We are not alone.

Earth names us: past and present,
peoples near and far,
family and friends and strangers show us
who we are.

Verse 6: Let us be a house of welcome,
living stone upholding living stone,
Gladly showing all our neighbors
we are not our own!

The Prayers *(All joining worship online are invited to share prayers with the congregation by using the chat function at any point during this time.)*

Prayer Response

Kyrie Eleison

#751

The melody of this chant, now associated with the Russian Orthodox tradition, has been traced to tenth-century Ukraine.

Prayer of Jesus *(You are invited to speak the words most meaningful to you, or follow with this version here:)*

Our Parent, who is among us, blessed be your Creation. May your reign be a reality here on earth. May we become more interested in building your kin-dom here and now than in waiting for it to come down from above. Let us share our bread with those who hunger. Let us learn to forgive as well as to receive forgiveness. Help us through the time of temptation, delivering us from all evil. For ours are the eternal blessings that you pour upon the earth. Amen.

Sharing Our Gifts

Offertory

Sing, My Tongue, the Savior's Glory Charles Wood (1866-1926)

Sing, my tongue, the savior's glory;
Tell his triumph far and wide;
Tell aloud the famous story
Of his body crucified;
How upon the cross a victim,
Vanquishing in death, he died.

Eating of the tree forbidden,
Man had sunk in Satan's snare,
When our pitying creator
Did this second tree prepare;
Destined, many ages later,
That first evil to repair.

Such the order God appointed
When for sin he would atone;
To the serpent thus opposing
Schemes yet deeper than his own;
Thence the remedy procuring,
When the fatal wound had come.

Blessing, honor, everlasting,
To the immortal Deity;
To the Father, Son, and Spirit,
Equal praises ever be;
Glory through the earth and heaven
To Trinity in Unity. Amen.

Prayer of Thanks

**Still-speaking God, we hear your voice calling us to generous and abundant living.
Help us to live with open hands and hearts, that we will be ready both to give and
to receive. Amen.**

Hymn of Sending

Forty Days and Forty Nights

#205 (Heinlein)

(verses 1, 4, and 5)

Verse 1: Forty days and forty nights
you were fasting in the wild;
Forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled.

Verse 4: So shall we have peace divine:
holier gladness ours shall be;
'Round us, too, shall angels shine,
such as served you faithfully.

Verse 5: Keep, O keep us, Savior dear,
ever constant by your side;
That with you we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide.

Benediction

Voice 1: In a world full of noise, we believe that God is speaking.

Voice 2: In a world full of chaos, we believe that God is singing.

Voice 1: In a world full of temptation, we believe that God is healing.

Voice 2: Church, who will you listen to?

All: We will listen to God—our Creator, Friend, and Guide.

Voice 1: Church, what will you listen for?

All: We will listen for water in the desert, for the wind of the Spirit, for the laughter of children, for the sound of open doors, and for God’s voice, who calls us Beloved. Amen.

Postlude

Two Short Pieces (Slow and Swift)

Hugo Distler

We’re so glad you worshiped here today!

Please join us for coffee and conversation in the Assembly Room after worship.

Thanks to this week’s leaders:

Ushers: Jeffery Latterell, Muriel Hachfeld, Cyrus Kirby, Mandy Everhart, Gina Washburn

Digital Greeter: Shawn Nuebel

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Lord’s Prayer © by Manny Santiago

This Week at First UCC

Sunday, February 26

9:15 a.m. Faith Formation

10:30 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)

11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

11:45 a.m. BLA Discussion

6:00 p.m. Evening Gathering

Worship

Tuesday, February 28

6:30 p.m. Bells Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 1

5:30 p.m. WFFF

7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 2

10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Knitting
Group

Saturday, March 4

1:00 p.m. CVRO Performance

Sunday, March 5

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

11:45 a.m. BLA Discussion

6:00 p.m. Evening Gathering
Worship

Exploring the History of Our Church on Dakota Land

All are invited to join with the Beyond Land Acknowledgment group in the Big Room today from 11:45-12:45 to explore the history of our church on Dakota Land. We ask that you read the small booklet prepared by Dick Crouter as a stimulus toward discussion. A few print copies will be available on top of the piano in the Assembly Room.

Lenten Bible Study Beginning Wed. March 1 @ 6:15 p.m.

Join Pastor Cindy or Pastor Lauren each Wednesday evening during Lent at 6:15 p.m. in the library, for our Lenten Bible Study. We will explore the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday as a group.

A Note from ISAIAH

Join Northfielders of all faiths on a trip to the state capitol on Wednesday, March 8th from 8am-12pm. We'll talk to our legislators about ISAIAH's agenda of caring for all. Please see The Chronicle to register and learn more.

Coffee Hour Volunteers and Coordinator Needed

Volunteer hosts are needed for Coffee Hour! Volunteering is easy to do, and orientation will be provided for those who are new to Coffee Hour hosting. First UCC is also looking for a volunteer to serve as the Coffee Hour coordinator. If you are interested, please contact church@firstucc.org.

Celebrating the life of Rev. Betty Clark

Rev. Betty Clark died on February 4th. A celebration of her life will be held at First Congregational Church of MN (500 8th Ave. SE, Minneapolis, 55414) on March 4th

at 11:00 a.m. For those wishing to join online, the service will be available on YouTube (see The Chronicle).

Betty graduated from United Theological Seminary. She specialized as an interim minister, serving First UCC in the late '80s and in 2011, as well as congregations in Wisconsin, New Hampshire, Hawaii, and Minnesota (Northfield, Hazel Park, and Wayzata), and as interim Conference Minister in the Minnesota and Northern California Nevada Conferences. Memorials can be sent to First Congregational Church in Betty's honor. An additional obituary was published in the StarTribune on February 19th.

Welcome to Worship at First UCC!

We are an Open and Affirming, Just Peace, Immigrant Welcoming Congregation.

Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here!

We especially welcome all who are visiting this morning. Please let us know you're here by sharing your information in a welcome pad.

Worship Information

First UCC worships at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays. Worship is also live streamed each week on Zoom and YouTube. Whether you are joining us in person or online, we are glad to have you here!

Giving to the Church

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of First UCC's ministry. You may give online by visiting firstucc.org and clicking on the "Give" button, or you may place your gift in the offering plate, or send in your gifts via mail.

News & Announcements

Keep up to date with all of the latest news and upcoming events! Subscribe to The Chronicle, First UCC's weekly e-newsletter, at firstucc.org, and find First UCC on Facebook and Instagram. Past issues of The Chronicle are available at firstucc.org.

First UCC Leadership & Staff

Ministers: All the people

Moderator: Gary Carlson

Senior Minister: Rev. Cindy Maddox

Associate Minister: Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

Director of Music: Chris Brunelle

Organist: Theo Wee

Spirit Voices Director & Arts Coordinator: Bob Gregory-Bjorklund

Office Manager & Director of Communications: Kate Kvasnak

Finance Manager: Pippa Younger

Sexton: Mark Fischer

Audio Visual Technician: Brynn Artley

"All Things of Dust to Dust Return"

Text: Thomas Troeger, Music: Colin Britt

1. All things of dust to dust re - turn on earth and in the sky.
2. Lord, mark with dust and ash my brow so I may com - pre - hend
3. Lord, mark up - on my brow this sign: a stark and bar - ren cross

The hot - test, bright - est suns that burn in time grow dim and die.
that ev - ery mo - ment here and now links me to that same end
re - mind - ing me that though di - vine you know my pain and loss,

The fish that leap, the birds that soar, the new - born young that play,
I share with all that breathe and burn, that flare and fade and tire
and at the touch of dust and ash a - wake my heart to view

the leaves that fill the for - est floor re - vert to dust and clay.
yet by their wan - ing light dis - cern your own un - dy - ing fire.
how death it - self is but a flash that dies a - way in you.