



**First United Church of Christ, Northfield**  
**An Open and Affirming, Just Peace, Creation Justice,**  
**Immigrant-Welcoming Congregation**

**Third Sunday in Easter**  
**April 14, 2024 – 10:30 a.m.**

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

**Prelude**

*We Walk by Faith But Not by Sight*

James Biery

**Welcome**

**Gathering Music**

*Love Is Flowing*

Marty Haugen

One: Love is flow-ing: All: Love is flow-ing, love is flow-ing from the foun-tain of life.

Love is flow-ing, love is flow-ing, love is flow-ing from the foun-tain of life.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The first staff is labeled 'One:' and the second 'All:'. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line, and the second staff continues the melody and lyrics.

**Call to Worship**

X

One: Though we come from different circumstances,

**Many: God will make us one in worship.**

One: Though we have traveled different paths of struggles and successes,

**Many: God will make us one in healing.**

One: Though each one of us has struggles and strife as well as joy,

**Many: God will make us one in hope.**

One: Praise be to God who blesses our diversity and our unity.

**Opening Hymn**

*Help Us Accept Each Other*

#388

**V1:** Help us accept each other  
as Christ accepted us;  
teach us as sister, brother,  
each person to embrace.  
Be present, God, among us,  
and bring us to believe  
we are ourselves accepted

and meant to love and live.

**V2:** Teach us, O God, your lessons,  
as in our daily life  
we struggle to be human  
and search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for people,  
for all, not just for some,

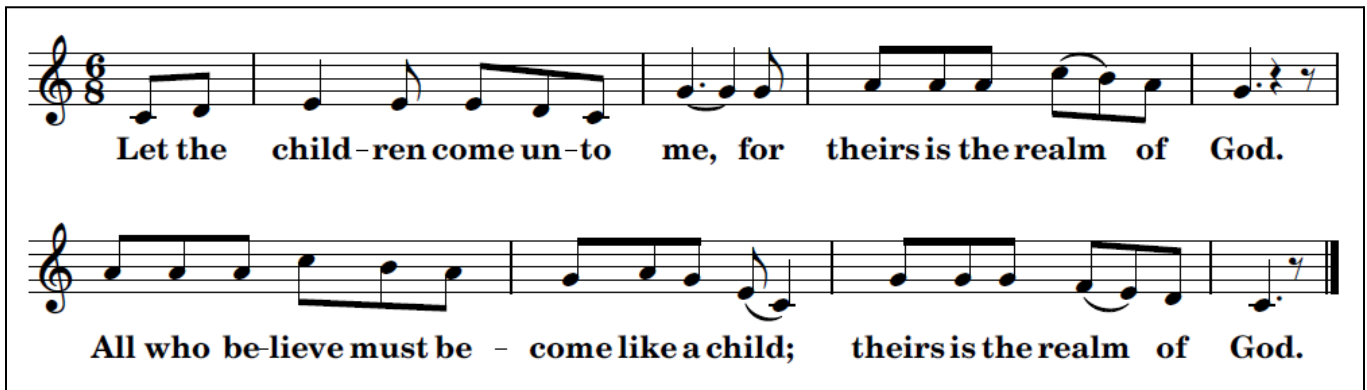
to love them as we find them,  
or as they may become.

**V3:** Let your acceptance change us,  
so that we may be moved  
in living situations  
to do the truth in love;  
To practice your acceptance,  
until we know by heart  
the table of forgiveness

and laughter's healing art.

**V4:** God, for today's encounters  
with all who are in need,  
who hunger for acceptance,  
for righteousness and bread,  
Bring us new eyes for seeing,  
new hands for holding on;  
renew us with your Spirit;  
God! Free us, make us one!

### Time with Children



Let the child-**ren** come un-to me, for theirs is the realm of God.

All who be-lieve must be - come like a child; theirs is the realm of God.

### Immigrant Welcoming Congregation Covenant

Our scriptures, our experiences, and our hearts all tell us that, as people of faith, we must commit ourselves to a just world for all. Therefore: We covenant with God and each other to seek out, welcome, and deepen relationships with our immigrant neighbors and to work together with them to see that immigrant justice is done.

**Anthem**

*Unity*

Glorraine Moone

Behold how good and how pleasant it is for kindred to dwell together in unity.

Lord, we pray for unity.

**Scripture**

Psalm 133

Sue Evans

**Sermon**

Rev. Cindy Maddox

**V1:** We are your people:  
Spirit of grace,  
you dare to make us  
Christ to our neighbors  
of every culture and place.

**V2:** Joined in community,  
treasured and fed,  
may we discover gifts  
in each other,  
willing to lead and be led.

**V3:** Rich in diversity,  
help us to live  
closer than neighbors,  
open to strangers,  
able to clash and forgive.

**V4:** Glad of transition,  
help us to see  
in all life's changing,  
where Christ is leading,  
where our best efforts should be.

**V5:** Give, as we venture  
justice and care  
(peaceful, insisting,  
risking, resisting),  
wisdom to know when and where.

**V6:** Spirit, unite us,  
make us, by grace,  
willing and ready,  
Christ's living body,  
loving the whole human race.

### 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



Hear my cry, O God. Listen to my prayer, listen to my song,  
sing - ing praises all a - long.

### Prayer of Jesus

*You are invited to speak the words most meaningful to you, or follow with this version:*

**Our God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen.**

**Invitation to Offering**

**Lisa Sexton and Gina Washburn**

**Sharing Our Gifts**

*Today we are taking up an offering for our Immigrant Family Fund. You may give online, via check or cash. The loose offering today will also be given to this fund.*

**Offertory**

*Canto de Esperanza (Song of Hope) Ester Camac/Edwin Mora G.*

Just when our hope was defeated clear was the voice of the spirit:  
See how your brothers/sisters have not given up in their struggle to better the world.

Refrain

God is uplifting the people. God is the power within us.  
Hope is our message and freedom our song and together our voices will ring.

Just when our hope was defeated clear was the voice of the spirit:  
I will be with you and I will uplift you and give you the strength to endure.

Refrain

**Prayer of Thanks**

**Gracious God, as we give our offerings we ask that you will bless us in our differences and, through your Holy Spirit, unite us in our common desire to love and serve you. May we be united in one body through our common faith and calling, to live and work together as beacons of light and love. Amen.**

**Announcements**

**Hymn of Sending**

*De Colores*

#402

*We will sing verse 1 in Spanish and then verses 1 and 2 in English*

**V1 de español:** De colores, de colores se visten los campos en la primavera.  
De colores, de colores son los pajaritos que vienen de afuera.

De colores, de colores es el arco iris que vemos salir,  
Y por eso los grandes amores de muchos colores me gustan a mí,  
Y por eso los grandes amores de muchos colores me gustan a mí.

**V1:** Sing of colors, sing of colors that over the hill in profusion are springing;  
Sing of colors of the birds that fly outside my window their canticles singing;  
Sing of colors, in the rainbow's bright colors God's promise of hope we recall;  
Sing of colors that make up the earth and give thanks to the God who created us all.  
Sing of colors that make up the earth and give thanks to the God who created us all.

**V2:** Sing, rejoicing! Every creature that breathes raise a song to the God of creation.  
Sing, rejoicing! Sing to God who so earnestly cares, who has offered salvation.  
Sing the good news! Sing the love of the Savior reflecting the colors of all.  
Many colors that shine from God's face, many colors that tell us God's love to recall.  
Many colors that shine from God's face, many colors that tell us God's love to recall.

## Benediction

## Postlude

*Now the Green Blade Rises*

Mark Sedio

## **We're so glad you worshiped here today!**

Please join us for a coffee hour in the Assembly Room after worship!

## **Thanks to this week's leaders:**

Music: Spirit Voices

Instrumentalists: Holly Fischer, guitar; Mark Fischer, bass; David Hougen-Eitzman, mandolin;  
Annika Reister, violin

Ushers: Brad Hoff, Sarah Carlsen, Mary Savina, Linda Larson

Digital Host: Ben Reister

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## **This Week at First UCC**

### **Sunday, April 14**

9:00 a.m. Reading Aloud Connect Group  
9:15 a.m. Faith Formation  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour  
11:45 a.m. MN Conference Listening Session  
11:45 a.m. Upper Dakota Presentation  
6:00 p.m. Evening Service

### **Tuesday, April 16**

10:00 a.m. Enneagram Book Discussion  
6:00 p.m. Trustees' Meeting

### **Wednesday, April 17**

5:30 p.m. WFFF  
6:30 p.m. Enneagram Book Discussion

6:30 p.m. OWL (7-8th Grade)  
6:30 p.m. OWL (11-12th Grade)  
7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal

### **Thursday, April 18**

2:00 p.m. Creation Justice Meeting

### **Saturday, April 20**

11:00 a.m. Stanley Schuette Memorial Service & Reception

### **Sunday, April 21**

9:00 a.m. Reading Aloud Connect Group  
9:15 a.m. Faith Formation  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour  
11:45 a.m. ONA Forum  
6:00 p.m. Evening Service

## **Learn About Dakota Way of Life & Work of Dakota Wičohaŋ**

If you would like to help us move beyond our land acknowledgement statement, please plan to attend a forum after church **today**, at noon in the sanctuary. The Beyond Land Acknowledgement (BLA) Team is hosting representatives from Dakota Wičohaŋ. The mission of this non-profit organization "is to preserve Dakota as a living language, and through it, transmit Dakota life ways to future generations." Dakota Wičohaŋ has many active leadership and outreach programs.

## **Renewing Our Immigrant Welcoming Commitment**

**Today** the Congregation will be asked to renew its financial support for our family from Peru - Ademir, Eileen, and Kendrick. The generosity of 2023 paid for an asylum attorney, food, and essentials, but the funds expire this June. Free housing has been offered until September 1st. Work permits may arrive by June with the hope of employment this summer to graduate the family into independence. The Council has approved establishing an Immigrant Families Fund to help current and future families. Donations can begin immediately via Breeze or via check sent to the church, and again during service this coming Sunday.

## **Earth Day Clean Up! April 21**

Everyone is invited to join the First UCC children and youth on April 21st as we clean up the downtown riverfront and nearby areas in honor of Earth Day! We will meet in the Assembly Room at 9:15 to eat a light breakfast before starting our work. Please bring gloves if you have

them. If you're interested in providing breakfast for our clean-up crew, please sign up via the link in the Chronicle.

### **ONA Poetry & Stories - April 21**

Following Church Services and a cup of coffee, please join us in a conversation featuring stories and poetry focused on the LGBTQ+ community. You are welcome to bring your story or just come and listen to stories of fellow UCC members. We look forward to seeing you!

### **Meals on Wheels - May**

If you are available and willing to volunteer for this important ministry, please sign up on the First UCC website or email Annie Kramer at [anniekramer@charter.net](mailto:anniekramer@charter.net). You will be given complete instructions and have all your questions answered by Annie. Thank you!

### **Creation Justice Eco-Info**

Five well-positioned trees can reduce home AC needs by 25% and heating needs by 10%. Street trees in CA provide cooling benefits equivalent to the needs of half a million (500,000) homes (Carlsen, 2020).

### **A Note from ISAIAH**

ISAIAH MN continues to work hard to get bills passed on housing, climate, childcare, and healthcare - all part of making life better for all God's children. Legislators need to continue to hear from us about how important it is that they make progress on addressing these issues. When you write to them, consider acknowledging that most of these programs will cost money, and that raising the necessary revenue must be part of the debate. See the Chronicle for links and info on the bills and events in the next couple of weeks. Questions about legislation or voicing your views? Email [isaiah@firstucc.org](mailto:isaiah@firstucc.org).



# 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're 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](http://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](http://firstucc.org), and find First UCC on Facebook and Instagram. Past issues of The Chronicle are available at [firstucc.org](http://firstucc.org).

## First UCC Leadership & Staff

**Ministers:** All the people

**Moderator:** Anne Meyer Ruppel

**Senior Minister:** Rev. Cindy Maddox

**Associate Minister:** Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

**Director of Music:** Chris Brunelle

**Organist:** Catherine Rodland

**Spirit Voices Director & Arts Coordinator:** Bob Gregory-Bjorklund

**Office Manager & Director of Communications:** Kate Kvasnak

**Finance Manager:** Derek Melby

**Sexton:** Mark Fischer

**Audio Visual Technician:** Brynn Artley