



# PROCLAIM

the good news of easter

**April 28, 2024**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**11:00AM**

**[fccsaintpaul.org](http://fccsaintpaul.org)**

*An inclusive family of God, creating and inspiring Christian discipleship through fellowship, community mission and love of Jesus.*

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

April 28, 2024

## GATHERING

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of St. Paul! We are glad to have you worship with us. If you are joining in online, please like the live stream or respond in the comments to let us know you are following along.

### GATHERING HYMN

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna, #222 Chalice Hymnal (verse 1)

### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Like spring breaking through winter's power,

Many: God's resurrecting power breaks into our lives in surprising ways.

One: Like the vine that supports blossoms and fruit,

Many: God's Word upholds the church in strength.

One: Let us worship God who makes all things new.

Many: We will praise God who brings growth and renewal to all life.

### OPENING SONG

Take Time to be Holy, #572 Chalice Hymnal

### INVOCATION

One: Holy Spirit, move in us and among us as we listen to the Scriptures read and interpreted. Open our minds and hearts to receive the Living Word so that we may be transformed to live as your Easter people. Amen.

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

One: When we come before God, we remember and proclaim who God is: merciful, just, holy, and loving. We must also remember who we are, and we are a people who have not always been the people God has called us to be. We have not always been merciful, just, holy or loving. So let us confess our sin, trusting in God's goodness to forgive us and create us anew for our lives ahead.

*Silence*

Many: Gracious God, our hearts are restless until they find their home in you. Forgive our pursuit of things that separate us from you. We pursue success, realizing it will never be enough. We desire more possessions, knowing they are empty. We turn toward the world and hope we will find peace, knowing the world cannot provide it. Forgive us, we pray, and may our wandering hearts find their rest in you alone. Amen.

One: Hear the good news! In Christ, we are new creations. The old life is gone, thank God! A new life has begun. Know you are forgiven, and be at peace.

Many: Thanks be to God! Amen.

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's Peace.

*Please greet each other with a sign of Christ's peace.*

**SERVICE OF THE WORD**

**SCRIPTURE: Acts 8:26-40**

*26Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) 27So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship 28and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." 30So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" 31He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 32Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. 33In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." 34The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" 35Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. 36As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" 38He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. 39When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. 40But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.*

**SCRIPTURE: John 15:1-8**

*"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. 2He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. 3You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 4Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. 5I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. 6Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.*

One: The word of God for the People of God.

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

Rev. Rob Hamilton

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

*If you have a prayer request, you can share it at this time. You can also send it by email to [prayer@fccsaintpaul.org](mailto:prayer@fccsaintpaul.org), by phone at 651-316-4035 or filling out the prayer request form at [fccsaintpaul.org/pray](http://fccsaintpaul.org/pray).*

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**All: Our Father, 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**HYMN OF THE DAY** In Water We Grow ,#375Chalice Hymnal

## **COMMUNION**

### **INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

*All who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior welcome to share in this holy meal.*

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER**

*The communion packet will be distributed, please open the wafer first and then open the grape juice portion.*

**COMMUNION HYMN** Blest Be the Tie That Binds #433 Chalice Hymnal

## **OFFERING**

### **INVITATION TO STEWARDSHIP AND OFFERING PRAYER**

*Please come forward to place your offering in the offering plate. You can also give online by going to our website, [fccsaintpaul.org/give](http://fccsaintpaul.org/give) or use the QR to your right.*



**OFFERING HYMN** Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee, #2 Chalice Hymnal

**DOXOLOGY** #46 Chalice Hymnal

**ALL:** Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise God all creatures here below, praise God above ye heavenly host; praise Father\*, Son\* and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*\*Or Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost*

## **CHARGE AND BLESSING**

One: May you leave this place to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ in the world, offering love and grace to all you meet. And may you be blessed by the triune God, Father, Son and Spirit. Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN** Down to the River to Pray *see insert*

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**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:** Sue Rengstorf (worship leader), Momoko Tanno ( musician), Luke Swanger (accompanist), Rev. Rob Hamilton (preacher), Rev. Dennis Sanders (assisting minister)

## WELCOME

### GREETINGS

If this is your first time at First, welcome! We are so glad you came to worship with us. To learn more about our faith community, please go to [fccsaintpaul.org](http://fccsaintpaul.org). If you are a first time visitor, want to speak to the pastor or have a prayer request, be sure to fill out our online welcome card at [fccsaintpaul.org/welcome](http://fccsaintpaul.org/welcome).

### MEET THE DISCIPLES

First Christian-St. Paul is affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), a "movement for wholeness in a fragmented world." You can find out more about our tradition by going to [disciples.org](http://disciples.org).

### OFFERING

Help support the mission and ministry of First Christian Church. Your gifts help us to be an inclusive presence in Roseville and online. You can support the congregation by giving online: [fccsaintpaul.org/give](http://fccsaintpaul.org/give).

If you would like to mail a check, send it the

## CALENDAR

### April 28, 2024

- 11:00 AM - Worship

### May 1, 2024

- 7:00 PM- Silence and Solitude
- 7:30 PM- Bible Study

### May 5, 2024

- 11:00 AM - Worship

### May 8, 2024

- 7:00 PM- Bible Study

### May 12, 2024

- 11:00 AM - Worship

following address:

First Christian Church of St. Paul  
PO Box 131702  
Roseville, MN 55113

### PRAYER

If you have a concern you'd like the church to pray for, please contact the church either by phone (651-316-4035) Or by email at [prayer@fccsaintpaul.org](mailto:prayer@fccsaintpaul.org).

If you have a prayer request, please feel free to write it down using the prayer request sheets on the cart at the entrance to the Great Hall. You can either give it to Pastor Dennis or place it in the offering plate during the offering.

### TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Thanks for joining us in worship. If you would like to learn more about First Christian or have questions on faith, please fill out our welcome form on our website [fccsaintpaul.org/welcome](http://fccsaintpaul.org/welcome).

### May 15, 2024

- 7:00 PM- Silence and Solitude
- 7:30 PM- Bible Study

### May 18, 2024

- 11:30 AM - Decorate Sanctuary

### May 19, 2024 (Pentecost)

- 11:00 AM - Worship

### May 20, 2024

- 7:00 PM - Church Council Meeting

### May 22, 2024

- 7:00 PM- Bible Study

### May 26, 2024

- 11:00 AM - Worship

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Midweek Bible Study and Silence and Solitude**

Join us this coming Wednesday, May 1 for Midweek Bible Study and Silence and Solitude on Zoom at 7:00 PM. Silence and Solitude (a time of prayer) starts at 7 and Bible Study starts around 7:30 PM. You can join us online by using the following web address: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2103585623>.

### **Feed My Starving Children**

Thanks to all who took part in Feed My Starving Children yesterday.

### **Decorate Sanctuary for Pentecost**

We are in need of volunteers to help get the sanctuary ready for Pentecost. Join us at the church on Saturday, May 18 at 11:30 AM. If you are interested in attending, please let Pastor Dennis know.

### **Donate Paper Bags**

All of us go grocery shopping. Many of us pack our groceries in paper bags provided by the grocery store. We get our groceries unpacked and we end up saving the paper bags to recycle. But now rather than recycle them, you can save them and bring them to Open Hands Midway for use at their food shelf. Drop them off in the box in the sanctuary.

### **Candle Fundraiser**

We have candles available for purchase that you can use for your own prayer time or just because. The price is \$10 and will go to support First Christian. If you would like to buy one, see Lisa Smith Winn.

## **IN OUR PRAYERS**

- Mary Decker ( family issues)
- Levinson Smith (elderly issues, addiction)
- Lucinda Moody's father (health issues)
- Laura Winn (mental health)
- Michael LeBuhn (work situation)
- Mars, the child of Momoko Tanno (health issues)
- Jan Paulson (health issues)

**Do you have a prayer request? You can send it to us three ways:**

- **fill out a prayer request form during worship**
- **By email: [prayer@fccsaintpaul.org](mailto:prayer@fccsaintpaul.org)**
- **by phone: 612-316-4035**

## **WORSHIP NOTES**

*Was there something in the sermon, the reading of scripture or the music that made you think? Use this space to write (or even draw) your thoughts.*



## STATEMENT OF WELCOME

You Are Welcome Here.

*“The First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of St. Paul, Minnesota, is an open and affirming ministry, openly welcoming persons of all gender expressions, sexual orientations, races, ethnicities, creeds, classes, ages, marital status and physical and mental abilities, to join us in following in the footsteps of Jesus Christ our Lord and in a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.”*

*-Open and Affirming Statement of First Christian Church of St. Paul*

## OUR VALUES

*First Christian Church is a suburban congregation, united in Christ and grounded in the values of diversity, fellowship and witness.*

*-First Christian Values Statement*

## OUR VISION

*“Gathered for worship. Scattered for service.”*

## STAFF, HOURS

Lead Pastor: Dennis Sanders

Cantor/Music Director: Momoko Tanno

Adjunct Pastor: Robert Hamilton

Accompanist: Luke Swanger

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Wednesdays & Fridays: 2:00-5:00 PM



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