



*First United Methodist Church*  
**Sunday, March 26, 2023**  
***Fifth Sunday in Lent***

*Please be aware that our services are livestreamed, and any adults and/or children participating in musical groups, children's messages and liturgist roles will appear on camera.*

Prelude     *Dearest Jesus, We Are Here*     J.S. Bach  
Velda Graham Bell, organ

Welcome and Announcements     Pastor Jeanine Alexander

\* Call to Worship     Maks Vidovic

One: Come, ye thankful people, come!  
All: **We are all safely gathered in.**  
One: All the world is God's own field.  
All: **Wheat and weeds grow together.**  
One: All people live and grow together.  
All: **God brings the harvest home.**

\* Hymn     *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*     UM Hymnal #694

Anthem     *Ionian Columns*     Kathleen Wissinger  
Ringtones; Bill Alexander, director

Children's Message     Jojo Coffin-Langdon, Director of Family Ministries

*Children may leave for Sunday School after the Children's Message.*

Morning Prayer     Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Prayer Song     *Spirit of the Living God*     UM Hymnal 393  
*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*  
*Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

**Unison Prayer of Confession:**

God of all goodness and grace, you call us to live like Christ, doing nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regarding others as precious and worthy. You ask us to look not only to our own interests, but also to the interests of others. There are times we do this well, and there are times when we are selfish, when we don't treat others as your beloved children, and when we put ourselves first, not even seeing the needs of others. Forgive us, we pray. Give us a new mindset, the mindset of Christ who served others and gave himself in love. Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon:**

In the name of Christ, we are forgiven, freed and loved! May God grant us the mindset of Christ and may we love and serve others in Christ's name. Amen.

Prayers of Joy and Concern

Jesus' Prayer – from the New Zealand Prayer Book  
Eternal Spirit, Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all. Loving God, in whom is heaven. The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the earth! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

Anthem      *You Do Not Walk Alone*      Elaine Hagenberg  
Sanctuary Choir; Derek Bromme, director

Scripture Reading      Maks Vidovic

**Matthew 13: 24-30**

One: Jesus then told them this story: The kingdom of heaven is like what happened when a farmer scattered good seed in a field. But while everyone was sleeping, an enemy came and scattered weed seeds in the field and then left. When the plants came up and began to ripen, the farmer's servants could see the weeds. The servants came and asked,

All: **"Sir, didn't you scatter good seed in your field? Where did these weeds come from?"**

One: "An enemy did this," he replied. His servants then asked,

All: **"Do you want us to go out and pull up the weeds?"**

One: "No!" he answered. "You might also pull up the wheat. Leave the weeds alone until harvest time. Then I'll tell my workers to gather the weeds and tie them up and burn them. But I'll have them store the wheat in my barn."

\* Hymn      *Bring Forth the Kingdom*      The Faith We Sing #2190; v. 1-2

Sermon      *Jesus Taught Us ... Don't Overreact*      Pastor Jeanine Alexander

\* Hymn      *Bring Forth the Kingdom*      The Faith We Sing #2190; v. 3-4

Offering      Easter Offering      Pastor Jeanine Alexander and Jana Picotte

\* Hymn      *For the Fruits of This Creation*      attachment

Benediction      Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Choral Blessing      *The Blessing of Aaron*      Norman Ramsey

Postlude      *Prelude and Fugue in E Minor ("Cathedral")*      J.S. Bach  
Velda Graham Bell, organ

\* Please stand as you are comfortable.



## *Announcements*

*Please remember to fill out the Connect Cards each week. They are replacing the attendance pads formerly found in the pews. Keeping attendance and making sure the church has your current contact information is an important part of church records. **On the back of the card**, is a list of ministry opportunities, where your help can make a difference! These will change often, so check them each week and please sign up where you can.*

*Guests: Welcome to First United Methodist Church. We are so glad you are worshipping with us today! Please stop by the Welcome Desk in the Narthex; we have a packet and small gift for first-time visitors.*

### *Sustainability News*

- *Kitchen compost bags will be available for sale today at the table in the Narthex.*
- *The Sustainability meeting will meet today at 11:15 in the Library.*

*Something New for Lent: You've always heard it said, "What are you giving up for Lent?" but this year, do something different: **try something new for Lent!** Our Sanctuary Choir Director, Derek Bromme, invites you to join the choir for Lent. You don't have to be a trained singer - in fact, if you sing in the shower, you're our kind of person! We've got great people who are able and more than willing to help you "learn the ropes," and we always have a lot of fun! Our choir rehearses on Wednesdays from 5:10-6:10 pm and before Sunday worship from 9:00-9:30 am. If you're interested, contact Derek at [dbromme@css.edu](mailto:dbromme@css.edu) or 218-590-0087 (phone or text).*

*A devotional booklet for each day in Lent (Ash Wednesday – Easter) is available electronically. Email the church office ([info@fumcduluth.com](mailto:info@fumcduluth.com)) and ask for it.*

*March is Minnesota FoodShare Month. Please help feed our hungry neighbors with your donations of food or financial gifts to the CHUM Food Shelf.*

*Lent/Easter Mission Project. This year our Easter financial offering will be split two ways: 50% to the ministry and mission of our congregation, and 50% to the ministry and mission of the Union Gospel Mission. Please mark "Easter Offering" on your check or giving envelope. We will also be collecting items for the Union Gospel Mission to give to people in need: hand and foot warmers; toiletries such as shampoo, conditioner, body wash, shaving gel and razors; deodorant (both men's and women's); menstrual products (tampons, pads, PH-safe wipes); reusable shopping bags.*

*Guest WIFI Network: FirstUnitedPublic. Password: Public2022.*

*Thank you to Alex Flinner, Tommy Kishida and the Livestream Team for making the online service possible.*

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