



# *First United Methodist Church* *Sunday, November 17, 2024*

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

*A nursery for children ages 5 and under is on the lower level and will include a Bible lesson. Sunday School for children K-5th grade will be held in the upper-level Children's Lounge following the Children's Message. Please pick up your kids in the Lounge after worship.*

**Prelude**      *March after Hans Brimi*      Norwegian folk song, arr. Gunnar Idenstam  
                 *Gammal fäbodpsalm (Old Pastoral Hymn)*      Swedish folk song, arr. Oscar Lindberg  
                 Velda Graham Bell, organ

**Welcome and Announcements**      Pastor Jeanine Alexander

**\* Call to Worship**      Julie Moses

One: God has abundantly cast seeds of love, hope, and peace upon us.

All: **May we be fruitful soil for the planting and growing of love, hope, and peace.**

One: Come, let us praise God, who plants life within us.

All: **May we be God's loyal witness, proclaiming love to all!**

**\* Hymn**      *You are the Seed*      UM Hymnal #583

**Children's Message**      Pastor Jeanine Alexander

*Children 5th grade and under may leave for nursery and Sunday School following the Children's Message.*

**Anthem**      *Once to Every Man and Nation*      Sandra Eithun  
                 Cast in Bronze; Bill Alexander, director

**Morning Prayer**      Pastor Jeanine Alexander

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 sustains our hope and comes 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.**

**Offering Our Gifts**      Pastor Jeanine Alexander

**Anthem**      *"In Paradisum" from Requiem*  
Sanctuary Choir; Derek Bromme, director

Gabriel Fauré

Sung in Latin. English translation:

*God's holy angels lead you to paradise;  
may saints in their glory receive you at your journey's end,  
guiding your footsteps into the Holy City Jerusalem.*

*Choirs of angels sing you to your rest:  
and with Lazarus raised to eternal life,  
may you forevermore rest in peace.*

**Sermon**      *The Kingdom of Heaven is Like* \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

## Introduction

## Scripture Reading #1

## Matthew 13:31-32

Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches."

**Meditation #1**      *The Kingdom of Heaven is Like...a Small Seed*

\* Hymn

*Faith While Trees are Still in Blossom*

UM Hymnal #508; v. 1, 2, 5

## Scripture Reading #2

## Matthew 13:44

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a person found it, she hid it again, and then in her joy went and sold all she had and bought that field.

## Meditation #2     *The Kingdom of Heaven is Like...a Hidden Treasure*

\* Hymn

## You are Mine

The Faith We Sing #2218

### Scripture Reading #3

## Matthew 13:45-46

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When they found one of great value, they went away and sold everything they had and bought it.

**Meditation #3**     *The Kingdom of Heaven is Like...Fine Pearls*

\* Hymn

## Bring Forth the Kingdom

The Faith We Sing #2190

## Benediction

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Postlude      *Fanfare*

Velda Graham Bell, organ

Antonio Soler



## Announcements

*Please remember to fill out the **Connect Cards** each week. 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.*

*Join us for coffee and doughnuts in the lower-level Lakeview Social Hall following the worship service.*

***Faith Forum** is held on Sunday mornings from 9-9:45am in the Fireside Lounge. Next week, **November 24**, psychologist Charlie Orsak shares his insights on the effects of social media on kids.*

*There will be a **Bag Sale** of books after the worship service today. Each bag will be sold for \$2. Come and stock up on your winter reading!*

*A charge conference for the sole purpose of approving pastoral compensation for 2025 will take place on Tuesday, November 19 at 7:30pm as part of the church council meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend. The meeting will be held in the church library.*

*The Ardath Gibson Scholarship application forms are available on the church website. The criteria for the scholarship are: 1) be a member of Duluth's First United Methodist Church or have family who are members; 2) have a GPA of 3.0 or higher; and 3) be pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree in health care, the physical sciences, engineering, or business. Applications must be fully completed and submitted by **Friday, November 22**. Look for complete details on the church website ([fumcduluth.com](http://fumcduluth.com)).*

*The Lennon-Berini Scholarship application forms are also available on the church website ([fumcduluth.com](http://fumcduluth.com)). The criteria for the scholarship are: 1) be a member of Duluth's First United Methodist Church; 2) have completed at least two years of college; and 3) be pursuing a people-centered career. Applications must be fully completed and submitted by 4pm on **Friday, November 22**, and scholarships will be awarded in December. Look for more information in the November First Family.*



*to everyone who has turned in their estimates of giving for 2025. If you haven't yet, please mail them to the church (230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811) or bring them to the church office.*

*to all the volunteers who donated their time and talents to make last weekend's Coppertop Bazaar a success. The bakery was completely sold out of your yummy treats!*

*to Rick and Carla Egge for painting the back door of the church last week.*

*A gift to light the church for the week of November 10 was made by Laurie Burg in memory of her mother, Mary Beth Brown, whose birthday would have been November 16. The gift will also support the memorial gardens.*

*Have you moved? Dropped your landline? Please be sure to let the church office know your updated contact information!*

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

*Thank you to the Livestream Team for making the online service possible.*

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## *Ways You Can Help Your Church*

*Ways to give to support your church:* give online at [fumcduluth.com](http://fumcduluth.com) or use the QR code OR text COPPERTOP to 73256 OR mail to FUMC, 230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811.

