



*First United Methodist Church*  
**Sunday, March 30, 2025**  
*Fourth Sunday of 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.*

*A nursery for children age 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      *Prelude and Fugue in C Major*      J.S. Bach  
Kylin Hahn, organ

Welcome and Announcements      Pastor Jeanine Alexander

\* Call to Worship      Mark Whitlock

One: We gather to praise God!

**All: God is our health and our salvation. We join together in glad adoration.**

One: We praise the God who enfolds and upholds us.

**All: God's goodness and mercy daily attends us.**

One: We praise the God who nourishes our life and restores us.

**All: Praise to the Lord! We lift our song in praise!**

\* Hymn      *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*      UM Hymnal #139

Children's Message      Pastor Jeanine Alexander

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

Morning Prayer      Rev. MaryAnne Korsch

\* 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 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.

Anthem *The Prayer will Lead Us, Lord*

arr. Tom Fettke

Sanctuary Choir; Derek Bromme, director  
Shelley Gruskin, flute; Erin Wiig, oboe; Libby Gaalaas, clarinet

Scripture Reading

Mark Whitlock

Matthew 5:21-30

You know our ancestors were told, "Do not murder" and "A murderer must be brought to trial." But I promise you if you are angry with someone, you will have to stand trial. If you call someone a fool, you will be taken to court. And if you say that someone is worthless, you will be in danger of the fires of hell. So if you are about to place your gift on the altar and remember that someone is angry with you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. Make peace with that person, then come back and offer your gift to God. Before you are dragged into court, make friends with the person who has accused you of doing wrong. If you don't, you will be handed over to the judge and then to the officer who will put you in jail. I promise you will not get out until you have paid the last cent you owe. You know the commandment which says, "Be faithful in marriage." But I tell you if you look at another woman and want her, you are already unfaithful in your thoughts. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better to lose one part of your body, than for your whole body to end up in hell. If your right hand causes you to sin, chop it off and throw it away! It is better to lose one part of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

Statement of Faith – The World Methodist Social Affirmation

Mark Whitlock

One: We believe in God, creator of the world and of all people; and in Jesus Christ, incarnate among us, who died and rose again; and in the Holy Spirit, present with us to guide, strengthen, and comfort.

**All: We believe; God, help our unbelief.**

One: We rejoice in every sign of God's Kingdom; in the upholding of human dignity and community; in every expression of love, justice and reconciliation; in each act of self-giving on behalf of others; in the abundance of God's gifts entrusted to us that all may have enough; in all responsible use of the earth's resources.

**All: Glory be to God on high; and on earth, be peace .**

One: We confess our sin, individual and collective, by silence or action: through the violation of human dignity based on race, class, age, sex, nation, or faith; through the exploitation of people because of greed and indifference through the misuse of power in personal, communal, national, and international life; through the search for security by those military and economic forces that threaten human existence; through the abuse of technology which endangers the earth and all life upon it.

**All: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy .**

One: We commit ourselves individually and as a community to the way of Christ: to take up the cross; to seek abundant life for all humanity; to struggle for peace with justice and freedom; to risk ourselves in faith, hope, and love, praying that God's kingdom may come. The kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.

Amen .

\* Hymn      *Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service*      UM Hymnal # 581 (verses 1-3)

Sermon      *What will you give up for Lent?*      Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Anthem/Special Music      *Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring*      J.S. Bach  
Erin Wiig, oboe; Velda Graham Bell, organ

Offering Our Gifts      Pastor Jeanine Alexander

*We wish to thank Tommy Kishida for his years of dedication and expertise,  
and wish him well in his new adventures!*

\* Hymn      *The Summons*      Faith We Sing # 2130

Benediction      Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Postlude      *Chorale prelude on "If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee"*      J.S. Bach  
Velda Graham Bell, organ

*Happy Birthday, Bach! Much of today's music was chosen to celebrate the great church musician, Johann Sebastian Bach, who was born 340 years ago on March 31, 1685.*



## *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.*

***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.*

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

***Faith Forum Follow-up** Today after worship, anyone who is concerned about the state of the world is invited to come together in the Fireside Lounge commencing at about 11:20. For those of you who engaged in previous conversations, think about the issues we identified and which you care most deeply about. (When Pat Benson led us, many of us chose "all of the above," but we need to focus!) We will break into small groups based on areas of interest and begin to develop action plans. Feel free to bring coffee and donuts to stimulate your brain cells.*

***Fridays at NOON**, If the chaos in our world is upsetting you, or if you're not sure where to go or what to do next, you are not alone! You are invited to join others for a short time of prayer, scripture, reflection, and communion in the Three Brothers Chapel. Geoff Bell and MaryAnne Korsch will lead this time that will be designed to soothe your soul in a quiet setting. All are welcome - bring friends if you'd like to. We anticipate that this session will continue on Fridays throughout Lent, until we reach Good Friday on April 18.*

*Walking in Old Turtle's World*, Join Douglas Wood, award winning author, musician, environmental educator, outdoor guide & storyteller on **Sunday, April 6** for a special day of events. **9:00** in the Social Hall a light continental breakfast is available with Douglas reading "Old Turtle" and sharing wisdoms, During the pajama/movie Sunday school hour, a large live turtle from "The Snake Pit" will be joining the group. **10:00** Church service with Douglas sharing a Care for the Earth message, **3:00** Community Concert featuring Music and Storytelling by Douglas Wood.

**Lenten Book Study:** All are welcome at this year's Lenten book study on six consecutive Monday evenings from 6-7pm, beginning March 10 and concluding April 14, on Zoom. We will join United Methodists across the Minnesota and Dakotas Conferences as we take a deep dive into "The Third Day: Living the Resurrection" by Bishop Tom Berlin. Class will be facilitated by Dr. Maryjane Burdge and Rev. MaryAnne Korsch. Pastor Jeanine will join if her schedule allows. Sign up in the Narthex or call the church office (218-727-5021) to register. Books are available for purchase for \$13 in the church office. The book describes how the resurrection of Jesus Christ profoundly changed the lives of those who followed him and how it can transform ours as well.

**Trans Day of Visibility** A community gathering to celebrate trans and gender expansive folks in the Northland. Join us for a vendor fair, acoustic music, community resources, food from Bowlz n Thangz, and celebration! Sunday March 30, 2025; 1pm-4pm at The Depot. Free admission

### **LeAnn House Memorial Concert**

Matinee Musicale's April 1 Angela Hewitt concert is being presented in memory of LeAnn House, a longtime member of the Matinee Musicale Artist Committee. This concert will take place on

Tuesday, April 1 at 7:00pm at The College of Saint Scholastica's Mitchell Auditorium. Angela Hewitt is one of the world's leading concert pianists and a foremost interpreter of the music of J.S. Bach. Hewitt will perform Bach's Goldberg Variations in this not-to-be-missed event. Tickets may be purchased at <https://matineemusicaeinc.ticketspice.com/angela-hewitt-piano>. Student admission is FREE.

### **Join the choir for Holy Week and Easter!**

Have you ever considered singing with our Sanctuary Choir? We have some beautiful music planned for upcoming services. Next Wednesday, we start rehearsing the music for Easter Sunday, April 20. This would be a great time to give choir "a try." Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 5:10. Please contact Choir Director Derek Bromme ([dbromme@css.edu](mailto:dbromme@css.edu)) or just show up! We welcome you!

**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 and Community**

**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.

