

FIRST CHURCH, SARASOTA
Traditional Worship Service
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
JANUARY 24, 2021

Rev. Dr. Sam Wright, Senior Pastor
Michael Stuart, Director of Music/Organist

ORDER OF WORSHIP

CHORAL INTROIT	<i>Behold Now, Praise the Lord</i>	Everett Titcomb
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS		Donna Maynard, Director of Ministries
OPENING HYMN	<i>Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven</i>	Hymnal 66 ¹
CHILDREN'S MOMENT		Susan Quigley, Director of Children and Youth Ministries
PASTORAL PRAYER		
LORD'S PRAYER		
CHORAL RESPONSE	<i>Amen</i>	John Rutter
OFFERING OUR GIFTS		
SPECIAL MUSIC	<i>Eternal Life</i> Daniel Espinal, tenor	Olive Dungan
SCRIPTURE READING		Acts 15:1-5; 36-41 ²
SPECIAL MUSIC	<i>The Lord Is My Light</i> Catherine Stuart, soloist	Francis Allisten
THE MESSAGE	Series: Seeking the Truth: If the Church Splits, Who Wins?	Rev. Dr. Sam Wright
HYMN OF RESPONSE	<i>Help Us Accept Each Other</i>	Hymnal 560 ³
BENEDICTION		
THE CHORAL BENEDICTION	<i>A Gaelic Blessing</i> Lauren Nielsen, soprano	John Rutter
<i>Deep peace of the running wave to you, deep peace of the flowing air to you, deep peace of the quiet earth to you, deep peace of the shining stars to you, deep peace of the gentle night to you. Moon and stars pour their healing light on you. Deep peace of Christ the Light of the world to you. Deep peace of Christ to you.</i>		
PASSING THE PEACE		

¹PRAISE, MY SOUL, THE KING OF HEAVEN

1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven, to the throne thy tribute bring; ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore God's praises sing. Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.
2. Praise the Lord for grace and favor to all people in distress; praise God, still the same as ever, slow to chide, and quick to bless. Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious now God's faithfulness.
3. Fatherlike, God tends and spares us; well our feeble frame God knows; motherlike, God gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes. Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely yet God's mercy flows.
4. Angels in the heights, adoring, you behold God face to face; saints triumphant, now adoring, gathered in from every race. Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.

²Acts 15:1-5; 36-41

Acts 15:1-5

Some people came down from Judea teaching the family of believers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom we've received from Moses, you can't be saved."

Paul and Barnabas took sides against these Judeans and argued strongly against their position.

The church at Antioch appointed Paul, Barnabas, and several others from Antioch to go up to Jerusalem to set this question before the apostles and the elders.

The church sent this delegation on their way. They traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, telling stories about the conversion of the Gentiles to everyone. Their reports thrilled the brothers and sisters. When they arrived in Jerusalem, the church, the apostles, and the elders all welcomed them. They gave a full report of what God had accomplished through their activity. Some believers from among the Pharisees stood up and claimed, "The Gentiles must be circumcised. They must be required to keep the Law from Moses."

Acts 15:36-41

Some time later, Paul said to Barnabas, "Let's go back and visit all the brothers and sisters in every city where we preached the Lord's word. Let's see how they are doing." Barnabas wanted to take John Mark with them. Paul insisted that they shouldn't take him along, since he had deserted them in Pamphylia and hadn't continued with them in their work. Their argument became so intense that they went their separate ways. Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus. Paul chose Silas and left, entrusted by the brothers and sisters to the Lord's grace. He traveled through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

³HELP US ACCEPT EACH OTHER

1. Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us; teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace. Be present, Lord, among us, and bring us to believe we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.
2. Teach us, O Lord, 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.
3. 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.
4. Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need, who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread, we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on; renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

Immediate Volunteer Opportunity

Can you help distribute food at the Caritas Food Pantry in downtown Sarasota on a Monday from 10 – 12? The schedule will be made to fit your schedule. You and clients are required to wear masks with the food distributed from a window. Caritas is an outreach ministry of First Church. **Contact member David Quigley for more information (401-965-9141; davidquigley28@gmail.com).**

Sign Up to Volunteer

Where: Emma Booker School Pantry (2350 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Way)

When: 2/2, 2/16, 3/2, 4/6, 4/20, 5/4, 5/18, 6/1

Time: 3:45 - 6:30 p.m.

Instructions:

1. www.allfaithsfoodbank.org/volunteer
1. Click “Create Your Profile” at the bottom
3. Complete and submit

Follow-up email with instructions will be sent upon submission. For more volunteer opportunities, contact Victoria Hasselbring (vhasselbring@allfaithsfoodbank.org; 941-549-8156).

Music Fine Arts Series - DUO-B Concert

Cellist Philip Borter and Violinist Hirono Borter in an Encore Performance!

Sunday, January 31 - 4 p.m.

ONLY ONLINE (<https://www.firstsrq.com> OR [facebook.com/fumcsarasota](https://www.facebook.com/fumcsarasota))

Passionate about performing the small, but growing, body of cello and violin works, they present their fresh interpretation of classical favorites such as Bach’s *Chaconne*, their fiery artistry of Piazzolla’s *Libertango*, and their whimsical performance of Marc O’Conner’s *Limerock* to immediately connect with the audience and receive fervent praise. Enjoy the concert online! Invite others!

8-Week Online Book Study with Woody Woodward, Assistant Pastor for Outreach

Adam Hamilton’s *Making Sense of the Bible*

Mondays at 7 p.m. beginning January 25

Books available at cokesbury.com / amazon.com.