

FIRST CHURCH, SARASOTA
Love God. Love People. Make Disciples of Jesus Christ.

Traditional Worship Service
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

INTROIT

Rene Clausen

All that hath life and breath Praise ye the Lord. Shout to the Lord Alleluia. Praise Him! Alleluia!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Donna Maynard, Director of Ministries

OPENING HYMN

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Hymnal 327¹

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Sam Wright

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen.

John Rutter

SPECIAL MUSIC

Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit

Andrew Nason, *tenor*

Harry T. Burliegh²

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

We are grateful for your generosity to the ministries of First Church. You may give online at www.firstsrq.com; click GIVE. Thank you for your faithful support. You are making a difference in the lives of those in need.

SCRIPTURE READING

Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:13-17³

THE MESSAGE

Look Up and Live!

Rev. Dr. Sam Wright

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed, (Ecumenical Version) (unison)

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

HYMN OF RESPONSE

To God Be the Glory

Hymnal 98⁴

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

TFWS 2171⁵

PASSING THE PEACE

¹*Crown Him with Many Crowns*, Hymnal 327

1. Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne. Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own. Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee, and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

2. Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave, and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save. His glories now we sing, who died, and rose on high, who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

3. Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scepter sways from pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise. His reign shall know no end, and round his pierced feet fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

4. Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side, those wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified. All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me; thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.

²*Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit*

Ev'ry time I feel de Spirit movin' in ma heart, I will pray.... Upon de mountun ma Lord spoke, Out 'o His mouth came fier an' smoke. Jerdan Ribber chilly an' col', Chill de body but not de soul....All aroun' me look so shine Ask ma Lord if all was mine. Ain't but one train runs dis track, It runs to Heaven an'runs right back...

³Numbers 21:4-9 (NRSV)

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died.

The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us."

So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

John 3:13-17 (NRSV)

No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

⁴*To God Be the Glory*, Hymnal 98

1. To God be the glory, great things he hath done! So loved he the world that he gave us his Son, who yielded his life an atonement for sin, and opened the life-gate that all may go in. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice! O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son, and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood, to every believer the promise of God; the vilest offender who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice! O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son, and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

3. Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done, and great our rejoicing thru Jesus the Son; but purer, and higher, and greater will be our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice! O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son, and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

⁵*Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*, TFWS 2171

1. Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me bring your love. Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

2. Make me a channel of your peace. Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope. Where there is darkness, only light, and where there's sadness, ever joy.

3. Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love with all my soul.

4. Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, in giving of ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

Today as you greet First Church new members in the narthex, pause at the vertical screen to enjoy glorious nature photographs submitted by members Ron Baldrige and Janet Shapiro. Send your magnificent nature photographs to Donna (dmaynard@firstsrq.com).

DR. SAM'S FALL BIBLE STUDY LET MY PEOPLE GO - THE BOOK OF EXODUS

**WEDNESDAYS – 12:30 AND 7 P.M.
IN PERSON (ROOM 104) AND ZOOM**

Begins September 21 for 9 Weeks
NO Registration Needed

How many versions of the Ten Commandments are in the Bible? Why do Jews still follow regulations more than 3,000 years old? What is God's fundamental nature? Learn the answer to many questions. Invite others!

SOUTH WEST DISTRICT OFFICE NOW AT FUMC FAMILY LIFE CENTER (AT THE END OF THE HALL)

**OPEN HOUSE – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
9:30 – 10:45 A.M. AND 12 -12:30 P.M.**

First Church family, you are invited to visit with District Superintendent Rev. Debbie Allen and enjoy refreshments.

FAMILY PROMISE'S FRANCIS HOUSE

Francis House of Sarasota is a shelter for single mothers with a newborn and up to two children under 3. To help these mothers when they depart Francis House, you are invited to donate a gift card in any amount you choose. If worshipping in person, place the gift card in an offering basket. Gifts can also be made at www.firstsrq.com/give/missions. Thank you for your love and generosity!

ALL WOMEN INVITED – UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Who Can We Be Together?

Saturday, September 24 ~ 9-12:30

Coral Gables UMC and Zoom

Contact Leah Pittard (rockpitt38@gmail.com; 941-586-0185).

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (PREVIOUSLY UNITED METHODIST WOMEN)

United Women in Faith **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4 ~10 – 11:30 A.M.
ROOM 104 AND ZOOM**

Program – *The New Name, The "New" Membership, The New Logo*

Contact Leah Pittard (rockpitt38@gmail.com; 941-586-0185).

