

FIRST CHURCH, SARASOTA  
**Traditional Worship Service**  
**Second Sunday After Epiphany**  
**Human Relations Day**

**January 15, 2023**

Michael Stuart, Director of Music/Organist

Rev. Sam Wright, Ph.D., Senior Pastor

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**Order of Worship**

PRELUDE (11 a.m.)

***Invocation in B flat minor***

Alexandre Guilmant

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Donna Maynard  
Director of Ministries

HYMN SING (8:30 a.m.)

CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>

Leader: We have gathered in God's holy presence,  
the One who etches grace on our hearts.

**People: This is the place where God  
will transform us into disciples.**

Leader: We glorify our God, who yearns for justice,  
not just for a favored few, but for the least of our world.

**People: This is the place where God  
will write compassion on our souls.**

Leader: We give thanks to God for unceasing grace;  
we remember God's persistence in saving us.

**People: This is the place where God  
will breathe the Word into our lives.**

\*OPENING HYMN

***Come, Christians Join to Sing***

Screens/Hymnal 157

OPENING PRAYER

Tony Kenworthy, Lay Leader (8:30 a.m.)  
Rev. Woody Woodward, Associate Pastor (11 a.m.)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

**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 (11 a.m.)

***Amen***

Peter Lutkin

CHORAL ANTHEM (11 a.m.)

***The Majesty and Glory of Your Name***

Tom Fettke

*When I gaze into the night skies and see the work of Your fingers; the moon  
and stars suspended in space. Oh, what is man, that You are mindful of  
him? You have given man a crown of glory and honor, and have made him  
a little lower than the angels. You have put him in charge of all creation:  
the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea. But what is  
man, that you are mindful of him? O Lord, our God, the majesty and glory  
of Your name transcends the earth and fills the heavens. O Lord, our God,  
little children praise you perfectly, and so would we. Alleluia, Alleluia!*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tony Kenworthy (8:30 a.m.)

Rev. Woody Woodward (11 a.m.)

John 1:1-5 (CEB)

In the beginning was the Word  
and the Word was with God  
and the Word was God.

The Word was with God in the beginning.

Everything came into being through the Word,  
and without the Word  
nothing came into being.

What came into being

through the Word was life,

and the life was the light for all people.

The light shines in the darkness,

and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.

2 Timothy 3:14-17 (CEB)

But you must continue with the things you have learned and  
found convincing. You know who taught you. Since childhood  
you have known the holy scriptures that help you to be wise in  
a way that leads to salvation through faith that is in Christ Jesus.  
Every scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching,  
for showing mistakes, for correcting, and for training character,  
so that the person who belongs to God can be equipped to do  
everything that is good.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

***Wonderful, Merciful Savior***

Dawn Rodgers and Eric Wyse

Seth Bracewell, baritone

*Wonderful, merciful Savior, Precious Redeemer and Friend. Who would have  
thought that a Lamb could rescue the souls of men. Counselor, Comforter,  
Keeper, Spirit we long to embrace, You offer hope when our hearts have  
hopelessly lost our way. Oh, we've hopelessly lost the way. Almighty, infinite  
Father, Faithfully loving Your own, Here in our weakness You find us, We're  
falling before Your throne. You are the One that we praise, You are the One  
we adore, You give the healing and grace, Our hearts always hunger for.*

THE MESSAGE

***The Bible: Is the Bible the Word of God?***

Rev. Dr. Sam Wright

HYMN OF RESPONSE

***Thy Word Is a Lamp***

Screens/Hymnal 601

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

We are grateful for your generosity to the ministries of First  
Church. Please place your offering in one of the baskets as you  
exit the service, mail a check to the church, or you may give online  
at [www.firstsrq.com](http://www.firstsrq.com); click GIVE. Thank you for your faithful  
support You are making a difference in the lives of people in need.

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

***Make Me a Channel of Your Peace***

Screens/TFWS 2171

POSTLUDE (11 a.m.)

***Trumpet Minuet***

Alfred Hollins

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**ALTAR FLOWERS**

The flowers today are given to the glory of God and in  
honor of the Women's Spiritual Growth Group  
by Tony and Sharon Kenworthy.

\*Stand as able.

<sup>1</sup>Thom Shuman, [lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com)

## Upcoming Events and Reminders

### DR. SAM'S SERMON SERIES

#### The Bible: Book Divine or Misleading Myths

January 15—Is the Bible the Word of God? 1 Timothy 3:14-17

January 22—Why These Books and Not Others? 2 Peter 3:15-16

January 29—Are There Mistakes in the Bible? 2 Samuel 24:1;

1 Chronicles 21:1

February 5—Were There Dinosaurs on the Ark? Genesis 6:5-6,11; Romans 15:4

February 12—Are Tattoos Taboo? Leviticus 19:27-28

February 19—Women Need Not Apply?

### MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY – JANUARY 29

Thank you for worshipping with First Church. Each of you is a blessing to the church family. If you are considering or know you would like to become a member, contact Director of Ministries Donna Maynard this week (dmaynard@firstsrq.com; 941-539-8560).

### GRIEFSHARE GROUP AT FIRST CHURCH

**Mondays at 10 a.m. - Noon ~ Starting January 23 ~ Room 105**

**Workbook needed so register by Thursday, January 19.**

Contact Pastor Woody (941-955-0935; wwoodward@firstsrq.com)

### SERVICE NOW LIVE STREAMING AND ONLINE

We are live streaming the 11 a.m. service. Those not in person will watch the same prayer, message, and special music as those in person. We hope to live stream the 8:30 service. Until then, those who worship online will see this week's live-streamed traditional service at 11 a.m. At 8:30 a.m. we will broadcast the previous week's live-streamed traditional service. The 9:45 a.m. contemporary service will include the scripture and message recorded from the previous week along with newly recorded music by our Celebration Praise Band. For those who worship at the same time each week, everything will always be new-- although some timely references may be off a bit.

### ALTAR FLOWERS ~ IN MEMORY OR IN HONOR

The flower calendar is in the Office Lobby. The current cost is \$100. You may take the flowers after the 11 a.m. service or leave them to be shared with others.

**Office Closed Monday, January 16**

**~ in observance of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday ~**

## Church Calendar

### Sunday, January 15

**Online Worship Services: 8:30, 9:45, 11**

**8:30 a.m. Traditional In-Person Worship, Chapel**

9:30 a.m. - Christian Fellowship, RM 105 / Zoom

9:40 a.m. - Faith Cafe, RM 104 / Zoom

**11 a.m. - Traditional In-Person Worship, Sanctuary**

11 a.m. - Children's Sunday School, Y.H.

11 a.m. - Middle School Sunday School, Y.H.

12:15 p.m. - Project Communion Y.H./Choir RM

### Monday, January 16

Church Office Closed

### Tuesday, January 17

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Artisans' World Marketplace

2:30 p.m. Women's Spiritual Growth Group, RM 104/Zoom

6:30 p.m. - Praise Band Recording

### Wednesday, January 18

12:30 and 7 p.m. Dr. Sam's Bible Study, RM 104/Zoom

### Thursday, January 19 10-10:30 a.m.

ECC, Fellowship Hall

12:30-3 p.m. - Worship Recording, Sanctuary

### Friday, January 20

### Saturday, January 21

2:30 p.m. - Ukrainian Tutoring, RM 104 / F.H.

### Sunday, January 22

**Online Worship Services: 8:30, 9:45, 11**

**8:30 a.m. - Traditional In-Person Worship, Chapel**

9:30 a.m. - Christian Fellowship, RM 105 / Zoom

9:40 a.m. - Faith Cafe, RM 104 / Zoom

**11 a.m. - Traditional In-Person Worship, Sanctuary**

11 a.m. - Children's Sunday School, Y.H.

11 a.m. - Middle School Sunday School, Y.H.

12:15 p.m. - Project Communion Y.H./Choir RM

12:15 p.m. - Project Communion, Y.H. / Choir RM

### ADULT SUNDAY CLASSES

Christian Fellowship (9:30 a.m. - Room 105/Zoom)

Faith Cafe (9:40 a.m. - Room 104/Zoom)

### FIRST CHURCH KIDS (Youth Hall)

(Use elevator or stairs in office area.)

Pre-K - 5th Grade - 11 a.m.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL (Youth Hall)

(Use elevator or stairs in office area.)

6-8th Grade - 11 a.m.

### Church Staff

**Candy Bell**, Early Care Center Director

**Eric Dudley**, Custodian

**Baron Garriott**, Director of Praise Music

**Sally Hires**, Administrative Assistant

**David Jackerson**, Church Technology Coordinator

**Joyce Johnson**, Pastoral Care Assistant/Faith Community Nurse

**Alyssa Machado**, Director of Children and Youth

**Jesse Masters**, Custodian

**Donna Maynard**, Director of Ministries

**Julie Miller**, Director of Finance/Administration

**Maria Mossbarger**, Early Care Center Office Manager

**Mike Pepe**, Tech Assistant/Sound Engineer

**Michael Stuart**, Director of Music/Organist

**Rev. Woody Woodward**, Associate Pastor

**Rev. Dr. Sam Wright**, Senior Pastor

January 15, 2023

# FIRST CHURCH

A United Methodist Congregation



# WELCOME to WORSHIP

*Love God. Love People. Make Disciples of Jesus Christ.*

**MICHAEL STUART**

Director of Music/Organist

**REV. SAM WRIGHT, PH.D.**

Senior Pastor

104 South Pineapple Avenue

Sarasota, Florida 34236

941.955.0935

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