

FIRST CHURCH, SARASOTA  
**Traditional Worship Service**  
**Third Sunday After Epiphany**

January 22, 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.)

*Improvisation on Praise to the Lord the Almighty*  
Martin Shaw

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Donna Maynard, Director of Ministries

HYMN SING (8:30 a.m.)

CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>

Leader: No matter how far we have wandered from God:

**People: God comes to find us, and to gather us in generous love.**

Leader: No matter how broken we have become:

**People: God comes to heal us, and make us whole in hope.**

Leader: No matter how empty our spirits may be:

**People: God comes to feed us, until we are filled to the brim with grace.**

\*OPENING HYMN

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*  
Screens/Hymnal 139

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Sam Wright (8:30 a.m.)

Rev. Woody Woodward, Associate Pastor (11 a.m.)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

THE APOSTLES' CREED Ecumenical Version

**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, he 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.**

CHORAL RESPONSE (11 a.m.) **Amen.** Peter Lutkin

CHORAL ANTHEM (11 a.m.) *He Never Failed Me Yet*

Alex Zickafoose, soloist Robert Ray

*I will sing of God's mercy, every day, every hour, He gives me power. I will sing and give thanks to Thee for all the dangers, toils, and snares that He has brought me out. He is my God and I'll serve Him. Trust and never doubt, Jesus will surely bring you out, He never failed me yet. I know God is able to deliver in time of storm. I know that he'll keep you safe from all earthly harm. One day when my weary soul is at rest, I'm going home to be forever bless'd. Didn't my God deliver Moses from King Pharaoh? And didn't he cool the fiery furnace for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? What I think of what my God can do, He delivered Daniel, and I know He will deliver you. Trust and never doubt, Jesus will surely bring you out, He never failed me yet.*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

<sup>1</sup>Luke 1:1-4 (CEB)

Many people have already applied themselves to the task of compiling an account of the events that have been fulfilled among us. They used what the original eyewitnesses and servants of the word handed down to us. Now, after having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, I have also decided to write a carefully ordered account for you, most honorable Theophilus. I want you to have confidence in the soundness of the instruction you have received.

2 Peter 3:15-16 (CEB)

Consider the patience of our Lord to be salvation, just as our dear friend and brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given to him, speaking of these things in all his letters. Some of his remarks are hard to understand, and people who are ignorant and whose faith is weak twist them to their own destruction, just as they do the other scriptures.

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

MISSION MOMENT

Ann Eppinger

Zoe Empowers

\*HYMN

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*  
Screens/Hymnal 384

THE MESSAGE

**Series: The Bible: Book Divine or Misleading Myths?  
Why These Books and Not Others?**

Rev. Sam Wright, Ph.D.

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.**

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE

*Sent Forth by God's Blessing*  
Screens/Hymnal 664

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.)

*March in F Minor*  
Frederic Scotson Clark

In Memoriam

*Gwynne Strader-Ocana ~ January 6, 2023*

\*Stand as able.

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

## Church Calendar

## Upcoming Events and Reminders

### DR. SAM'S SERMON SERIES CONTINUES

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

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?

1 Timothy 2:11-15; Galatians 3:27-28

### DR. SAM'S WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays ~ 12:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. ~ Room 104/Zoom

Dr. Sam leads a Bible Study on the "Jewish" Gospel of Matthew.

No book is needed other than your Bible. Attend as you can.

### GIVING ENVELOPES

If you have not yet received your envelopes or would like giving envelopes, contact Director of Finance and Administration

Julie Miller (financial@firstsrq.com; 941-955-0935).

### IMMEDIATE NEED FOR NURSERY ATTENDANT

Care for and teach children 6 weeks to 3 years

Sundays 10:30 – 12:30 plus special services with advance notice  
\$20 per hour.

Contact Alyssa Machado (amachado@firstsrq.com; 954-376-9186).

### 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.

### DO YOU HAVE A NAME TAG?

Doesn't being recognized and called by your name make you feel good? We truly want our church family to know each other's names. If you have misplaced your name tag or have never had one, complete a Name Tag Request at one of the entrance tables and place it in an offering basket.

Your name tag will be ready for you next Sunday.

### Sunday, January 22

Online Worship Services: 8:30, 9:45, 11:00 a.m. Traditional In-Person Worship, Rm 104/Zoom

#### 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 23

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Artisans' World Marketplace (Mon-Fri)

5 p.m. ECC Board Meeting

Rm 104/Zoom

### Tuesday, January 24

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

6 p.m. Church Council, Rm 104/Zoom

6:30 p.m. - Praise Band Recording

### Wednesday, January 25

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

### Thursday, January 26

10-10:30 a.m. - ECC, Fellowship Hall

2 p.m. - Staff Meeting Rm 104/Zoom

### Friday, January 27

### Saturday, January 28

9 a.m. - 2 p.m. - Artisans' World Marketplace

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

### Sunday, January 29

Online Worship Services: 8:30, 9:45, 11:00 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

### 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

# 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

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