

FIRST CHURCH, SARASOTA
Traditional Worship Service

First Sunday in Lent

February 26, 2023

Michael Stuart, Director of Music/Organist

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

Order of Worship

PRELUDE (11 a.m.) *Rhosymedre* Ralph Vaughn Williams

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Donna Maynard
Director of Ministries

HYMN SING (8:30 a.m.)

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Leader: We come to this place because we want to know God,

People: who helps us set aside the past, to walk the path to new life.

Leader: We come in these moments because we want to know Jesus,

People: who anoints us with the resurrection, who shares our lives with us.

Leader: We come with these people because we want to know the Spirit,

People: who shapes us for life with God, so we may praise God forever!

*OPENING HYMN *Lift High the Cross* Screens/Hymnal 159

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

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH² (unison)

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the church: to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, and death, and life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE (11 a.m.) *Amen* George Oldroyd

CHORAL ANTHEM (11 a.m.)

Take My Life, and Let It Be

Kevin Memley

Chancel Choir

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee. Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love. Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee. Take my voice and let me sing, always only for my King. Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee. Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold. Take my moments and my days; let them flow in endless praise. Take my intellect and use ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose. Take my will, and make it thine; it no longer shall be mine. Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne. Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store. Take myself and I will be ever, only, all for Thee!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Text: Luke 16:19-26 (CEB)

“There was a certain rich man who clothed himself in purple and fine linen, and who feasted luxuriously every day. At his gate lay a certain poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. Lazarus longed to eat the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table. Instead, dogs would come and lick his sores.

“The poor man died and was carried by angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. While being tormented in the place of the dead, he looked up and saw Abraham at a distance with Lazarus at his side. He shouted, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I'm suffering in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received good things, whereas Lazarus received terrible things. Now Lazarus is being comforted and you are in great pain. Moreover, a great crevasse has been fixed between us and you. Those who wish to cross over from here to you cannot. Neither can anyone cross from there to us.’”

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

People: Thanks be to God

SPECIAL MUSIC

Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace Jonathan Willcocks

Laura McKenna, soprano

THE MESSAGE

Rev. Sam Wright, Ph.D.

Series: Embracing Grace: *A World Without Grace*

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

Grace Greater than Our Sin

Screens/Hymnal 365

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Thank you for your financial support of the ministries of First Church. If you would like to give today, 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; click GIVE. 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.)

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Diane Wight by Children, Grandchildren, and Great-Grandchildren

*Please stand as you are able.

¹Thom Shuman, lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com.

²A Statement the Faith of The United Church of Canada, The United Methodist Hymnal, 883.

Upcoming Events and Reminders

FIRST CHURCH LOVES GOD, LOVES PEOPLE

Your loving, generous hearts continue to help others. You donated \$3,524 to assist with the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. In the last year you donated \$13,180.13 to help in Ukraine, \$3,416.25 of that at our February 23 Ukraine Night. God blesses you, and you bless others. Thank you.

MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY – MARCH 19

If you know you would like to be a member of First Church or would like membership information, contact Director of Ministries Donna Maynard (dmaynard@firstsrq.com).

INVITATION FOR BIRDWATCHING AND MAKING CHURCH FRIENDS

THE AUDUBON NATURE CENTER, 999 CENTER ROAD
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 ~ 8:30 – 10 a.m.

Helen King, member of First Church and Audubon Society, invites you for a morning of bird and wildlife watching – maximum 12 per group. Bring binoculars or borrow from the Nature Center. Reservations with Helen (thekingsom@gmail.com) by tomorrow. She will answer your questions also. Enjoy this unique experience in Sarasota!

SAVE THE DATE – EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA

Sunday, March 26 ~ 12-2 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Children's Event – Everyone Invited! Lunch, Easter Story, Crafts, Games, Egg Hunt

UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONAL BOOKS - MARCH/APRIL

Copies are available at both entrances or contact the church office for us to mail you one – our pleasure (941-955-0935 or office @firstsrq.com)

REMINDER - FIRST'S BOOK CLUB

TOMORROW 10 A.M. – ROOM 104 AND ZOOM

THE STRANGER IN THE LIFEBOAT

All Welcome – even if haven't read

Contact Leah Pittard (rockpitt38@gmail.com)

LENTEN SERMON SERIES: EMBRACING GRACE

March 5 - God, Have Mercy, Luke 18:9-14

March 12 - Lost Sheep, Luke 15:1-7

March 19 - The Father's Embrace, Luke 15:11-24

March 26 - An Enemy's Act of Grace, Luke 10:25-37

Church Calendar

Sunday, February 26

Online Worship Services:

8:30, 9:45, 11 a.m.

8:30 a.m. **Worship Chapel**

9:30 a.m. - Christian Fellowship

Rm 105 / Zoom

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

11 a.m. - **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, February 27

10 a.m. - First's Book Club

10 a.m. - 12 p.m. GriefShare
Rm 105

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

Tuesday, February 28

2:30 p.m. Women's Spiritual

Growth Group

Rm 104/Zoom

Wednesday, March 1

12:30 p.m. - Pastor's Bible Study

Room 104

6 p.m. Choir Practice, Sanctuary

6:30 p.m. - Praise Band Recording

7 p.m. - Pastor's Bible Study, Room 104

Thursday, March 2

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

Friday, March 3

Saturday, March 4

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

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

Sunday, March 5

Online Worship Services:

8:30, 9:45, 11

8:30 a.m. - **Worship Chapel**

9:30 a.m. - Christian Fellowship

Rm 105 / Zoom

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

11 a.m. - **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.)

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

February 26, 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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