

FIRST CHURCH, SARASOTA
Traditional Worship Service
Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 21, 2023

Michael Stuart, Director of Music/Organist

Rev. Woody Woodward, Associate Pastor

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

Order of Service

PRELUDE (11 a.m.)

Cantabile Symphonique

Camile Saint-Saëns

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Donna Maynard
Director of Ministries

HYMN SING (8:30 a.m.)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We weep when we lose a loved one,

People: As Christ wept when He heard his friend was dead.

Leader: God, through you, Jesus brought His friend back from the dead.

People: As humans we cannot do such miracles and cannot revive those whom we have lost

Leader: But through Christ's redeeming love, we will one day be with you and with those we love.

People: Together we will one day gather in your kingdom and will share our eternal lives in your grace and mercy.

*OPENING HYMN

When Morning Gilds the Skies

Screens/Hymnal 185

PASTORAL PRAYER

Tony Kenworthy, Lay Leader
(8:30 a.m.)

Joyce Johnson, Pastoral Care Assistant/Faith Community Nurse
(11:00 a.m.)

CHORAL RESPONSE (11 a.m.)

Amen

John Rutter

Chancel Choir

CHORAL ANTHEM (11 a.m.)

This Is the Day

Gerald Near

Chancel Choir

This is the day the Lord hath made: Let us rejoice and be glad therein. O give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious: and his mercy endureth for ever...

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (CEB)

Brothers and sisters, we want you to know about people who have died so that you won't mourn like others who don't have any hope. Since we believe that Jesus died and rose, so we also believe that God will bring with him those who have died in Jesus. What we are saying is a message from the Lord: we who are alive and still around at the Lord's coming definitely won't go ahead of those who have died. This is because the Lord himself will come down from heaven with the signal of a shout by the head angel and a blast on God's trumpet. First, those who are dead in Christ will rise. Then, we who are living and still around will be taken up together with them in the clouds to meet with the Lord in the air. That way we will always be with the Lord. So encourage each other with these words.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

The Lord Is My Light

Frances Allisten

Melinda Balla, soprano

The Lord is my light and my salvation, Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom then, shall I be afraid? Though a host of men were laid against me, yet shall not my heart be afraid; and though there rose up war against me, yet will I put my trust in Him. For in the time of trouble, He shall hide me in His tabernacle. Yea, in the secret places of His dwelling shall He hide me, and set me up upon a rock of stone. The Lord is my light and my salvation. Whom then shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom, then, shall I be afraid?

THE MESSAGE

Grief as a Gift from God?

Rev. Woody Woodward, Associate Pastor

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

To God be the Glory

Screens/Hymnal 98

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; click GIVE. Thank you for your faithful support.

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Screens/TFWS 2171

POSTLUDE (11 a.m.)

March

Richard Purvis

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Allen VanOverbeke by Bonnie VanOverbeke.

*Please stand as you are able.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND REMINDERS

8TH ANNUAL DAY4HOPE ~ SATURDAY, JULY 29

It's that time of year again! First Church will provide backpacks, gift cards, and back-to-school items for students of Emma E. Booker Elementary School. Donations should indicate "Day4Hope" on checks or when giving online. **Contact Jane Barnett (ajaneb11071941@gmail.com) for more information.**

LET'S WEAR RED ON PENTECOST - SUNDAY, MAY 28

First Church's longstanding tradition is to wear RED (or touch of RED) to celebrate Pentecost, the birthday of the Christian church. For those worshipping online, send a photo of you in red to dmaynard@firstsrq.com. We will take some photos of in-person worshippers. You will enjoy photos in the Tuesday, May 30, e-newsletter and on Facebook. First Church loves to celebrate!

FIRST CHURCH HONORS GRADUATES

We want to celebrate your family's graduates in the June 6 e-newsletter. Submit: photograph, school or college, and plans to dmaynard@firstsrq.com by Wednesday, May 31. Congratulations!

FAITH CAFÉ SUNDAY STUDY GROUP

9:40 A.M. - IN ROOM 104/ZOOM

New Study Delayed Until June 11

Help Is Here by Max Lucado

This study reminds us that God keeps us on track and that we find strength and purpose in the power of the Holy Spirit. Enjoy learning while you fellowship and make new church friends. Contact Leader Luis Montes (lmontes@altez.com; 323-640-6769) for more information.

HELP US SPREAD THE WORD!

Let family and friends know that both the 8:30 and 11 a.m. traditional services are live streamed on Facebook and www.firstsrq.com. For those who cannot worship on Sunday morning, let them know that the services are available on www.firstsrq.com an hour after live streaming. (The 9:45 a.m. contemporary online service is the previous week's service.) How blessed we are to be able to share worship with those who cannot attend in person!

Church Calendar

Sunday, May 21

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 p.m. - TeamTreble - Choir Rm

Monday, May 22

10 a.m. First Book Club Rm 104/Zoom

6 p.m. - ECC Board Rm 104

Tuesday, May 23

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

World Marketplace (Tues-Fri)

2:30 p.m. Women's Spiritual

Growth Group Rm 104/Zoom

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

Wednesday, May 24

6 p.m. Choir Practice, Sanctuary

6:30 p.m. - Praise Band Recording

Thursday, May 25

2:30 p.m. Marketing Committee
Rm 104/Zoom

Friday, May 26

Saturday, May 27

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

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

Sunday, May 28

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 p.m. - TeamTreble - 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.

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

May 21, 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

www.firstsrq.com

**This service is being live-streamed and recorded
so others can worship with us online.**