



First Presbyterian Church
OF LAKE FOREST

December 25, 2022
10:30 AM
Christmas Day

Sending well-equipped disciples of Jesus into the world—compassionate, generous, resilient and wise



Cover by Sanctified Art: "The Golden Pilgrimage" by Carmelle Beaugelin, inspired by Matthew 2:1-12

Preparation for Worship

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

Prelude

Tableaux for Christmas

Gordon Young

The Welcome

*Call To Worship

Leader: I have good news!

People: I have good news!

Leader: Hope is alive!

People: Peace is alive!

Leader: Joy is alive!

People: Love is alive!

Leader: I have good news!

People: Christ is born!

Leader: God is here.

People: Thanks be to God.

*Hymn of Praise NO. 132

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

TUNE: IN DULCI JUBILO

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Holy God, too often we feel as if change is hopeless. The problems of this world feel too big, the path forward unclear, and we are not confident that we can truly make a difference. We give up hope. Together we pray:

People: Forgive us for extinguishing hope.

Leader: Holy God, too often we believe that peace is a thing of fairy tales. Our spirits are anxious. Our bodies are weary. Our world is fractured. Instead of praying for peace—both in ourselves and in our society—we assume that peace is no longer on the table. We give it up. Together we pray:

People: Forgive us for extinguishing peace.

Leader: Holy God, too often we paint joy as naïve—a luxury reserved for children and pets. We forget that you ate with friends, that you went to weddings, that you laughed and rested and hiked mountains. We forget that you knew joy, and that you want joy for us in this fractured world. Forgive us for turning away from your light. Together we pray:

People: Forgive us for extinguishing joy.

Leader: Holy God, too often we treat love like a vending machine. We put some coins in and assume that we'll get something back. However, in our wisest moments, we know that love is not meant for keeping score. Love is meant to overflow, to spill out to our neighbors, to transform our world. Forgive us for holding love so tightly. Together we pray:

People: Forgive us for extinguishing love. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: Sin has a way of separating ourselves from the great gifts of God: hope, peace, joy, and love for all things and all people. Fortunately, God had other plans. God sent God's only son here to our world so that we could see another way. So friends, hear this good news: no matter how often we give up hope, or turn away from peace, or extinguish joy, or allow love to dissipate, God continues to light our way. We are forgiven. We are seen. We are loved. Hope, peace, joy, and love exist and abound with us. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Passing the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

*Hymn of Response *NO. 110*

Love Has Come

TUNE: BRING A TORCH

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:15-20

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Meditation

"After the Angels Have Left"

Rev. Jim Cochrane

Carol Sing

Please choose and request your favorite Christmas Carol to be sung by the congregation. The Christmas section of the hymnal spans numbers 108 through 156.

Sharing of our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer and 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Offering

Sing We Now of Christmas

Sherrill Kelsey



You may give online or fulfill your pledge by scanning the QR code with your mobile phone, or go to firstchurchlf.org/give. Thank you for your generosity!

*Doxology *(unison)*

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.***

*Closing Prayer *(unison)*

Loving God, we praise your name on this morning when we celebrate the birth of your son, our Lord Jesus Christ. With singing angels and shepherds, let us go out and tell the earth his story, that all might know your love. Amen.

*Hymn of Sending *NO. 136*

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

TUNE: GO TELL IT

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

The Snow Lay on the Ground

David Gehrenbeck

Parts of today's worship liturgy are created by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Coming up...



Epiphany Star Sunday
Sunday, January 1, 10:00 AM

Pick up your personal "Star Word" for 2023 in worship on New Year's Day, January 1. During the months ahead, see how God uses your Star Word to speak into your life and share your Star Story next year!



Welcoming new Sunday School volunteers!

The Children's Faith Formation Committee is welcoming new volunteers to help teach and assist during Sunday school during both services. No previous experience required, and training is provided. For more information, please contact Susan Noble, snoble@firstchurchlf.org, or Kendall Severson, kendallvseverson@gmail.com.

Church Office Holiday Schedule

Monday, December 26: closed in observance of Christmas Day

New Year's Eve: closed

New Year's Day: Epiphany Star Sunday Worship with Communion, 10:00 AM

Monday, January 2: closed in observance of New Year's Day

View our Weekly Schedule of ministries, and find details and Zoom links on our church website: www.firstchurchlf.org/ministries

Church Website: www.firstchurchlf.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/firstchurchlf
Instagram, Twitter, YouTube: [@firstchurchlf](https://www.instagram.com/firstchurchlf)

This Week's Calendar

TODAY

10:00 AM Worship, Sanctuary

11:30 Fellowship, Great Room

MON Church Closed: Christmas Day Observed

TUE

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry, South Parlor

WED

7:00 PM Worship Ensemble Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Taize Service - Pre-recorded/Online

THU

FRI Church Closes at 12:00PM

7:00 AM Men of Corinth Bible Study, Great Room/Zoom

MON Church Closed: New Year's Day Observed

Rummage Dropoff closed until January 4 for the holidays.

An Update on the the Bride's Room

Starting January 7, the remodeling work will begin revamping the Bride's Room. Church member and architect Diana Melichar will supervise the construction renovation. New furniture, carpet, and paint have been ordered by our decorator, Tina Dann-Fenwick, who also led us on decorating the Great Room.

The work is expected to take 12 weeks with the new space reopening on April 1, 2023. During construction access to the Chapel will require exiting the North Narthex door and entering the Chapel through the outside doors. Although this is an inconvenience, we are excited about this makeover for our Bride's Room.



Give

Give online or fulfill your pledge:
scan the QR code
or go to FirstChurchLF.org/give.

Pastor on call: Pastor Clint 630.220.7814

Pastor Clint's day off is on Friday.

Pastor Kristie's day off is on Friday.

Pastor Jim's day off is on Friday.

Worship Participants

Rev. Jim Cochrane

Dr. Tom Tropp

Dr. Susan Klotzbach

Rick Day, AV Support Lead

Henry Thomas, AV Support

Georgia Sottosanto-Sorenson, AV Support

Ryder Gamrath, AV Support

Serve, Learn & Connect

For our weekly ministries and Zoom links

firstchurchlf.org/ministries

Share Joys & Concerns

Kristie Finley 224.544.1967

Home Communion

Kristie Finley 224.544.1967

Arrange a Wedding or Baptism

Sarah Seccombe 224.544.1958

Engagement & Membership

Diane Quinn dianequinn@mac.com

Mission

Stewart Kerr 224.544.1968

Elders

Paul Bergmann
Renee Borkowski
Donna Coffin
Scott Crawford
Paul Darling
John Gescheidle
Lynnette Hinch
John Johnson
Laura Johnson
Sally McDonald

Mary Gould Moorhead
Brian O'Keane
Diane Quinn
Kendall Severson
Nina Strnad
David Strong
Sadie Strong
Mary Watanabe *Clerk*
Anne Winebrenner

Deacons

Bill Allen
Nancy Anderson
Carol Bagan
Dorothy Chantler
Mallory Ciarrocchi
Susan Daly
Wendy Darling
Peg Gronau
Nancy Hamming
Jeff Hinch
Cindy Johnson
Dick Johnson
Susan McDowell

John McNicholas
Susan Milanak
Lisa Murray
John Noble
Tiffany Notz
Tricia Sweet
Sherry Trenchard
Bert Tucker
Joan Vie
Gale Strenger Wayne
Moderator
Scott Weston

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