



First Presbyterian Church
OF LAKE FOREST

January 1, 2023
10:00 AM
Epiphany Star Sunday

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



Gathering

Improvisation on "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

The Welcome

Jesus Christ and our faith community welcome you to worship today.

We are a community that prays for and with one another. If you wish, we invite you to fill out a Joys & Concerns card (in the pew rack) to share your prayer request. If you are a visitor and would like us to get in touch with you, please provide your information on the back of the Joys & Concerns card. An usher will collect them later in the service.

During the service, you are invited to stand as you are able where an asterisk () is printed, and speak or sing in unison all passages in bold.*

Let us take a few moments of silence as we prepare our hearts to worship God.

*Call to Worship

Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Leader: Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow;

People: **The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.**

Leader: Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;

People: **Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.**

Leader: Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;

People: **Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.**

Leader: Ring in the valiant soul and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;

People: **Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.**

***Opening Song** NO. 151 (*stanza 1, 3, 5*)

We Three Kings of Orient Are

TUNE: KINGS OF ORIENT

***We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.***

Refrain:

***O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!***

***Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising gladly raising,
worshipping God Most High.*** (Refrain)

***Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
sounds through the earth and skies.*** (Refrain)

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**God of starlight,
we know that faith isn't a vending machine.
Good news can't be bought or manufactured.
It does not arrive with a push of a button.**

Instead, in this noisy world, we have to look for you in our midst.

We have to walk toward you, just as the Magi did.

We have to believe that love really can change the world.

We have to seek the stars beyond the city lights.

Forgive us for forgetting that.

Forgive us for seeking you with only part of our hearts.

We long to be more like the Magi; may we walk your way every single day. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

***Sung Response** *NO. 134 (stanza 4)*

Joy to the World

TUNE: ANTIOCH

*He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.*

***Passing the Peace**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Prayer for Illumination *(unison)*

God of starlight,
every part of us is trying to seek you:
our bodies that carried us into this space,
our heads bowed in prayer,
our hearts that keep whispering, "There is more than just this."
We are seeking you.
Like a dog looking for its owner,
who will search the whole house —
under beds, behind doors,
in every corner of every room
until their person is found —
we are turning over every rock and leaf
looking for fingerprints that belong to you.
So meet us halfway.
Find us in the maze.
Quiet the rest of the world.
Open the door to us
with rich laughter and say,
"Come on in!"
We know you're near, so know
that it's you we seek.
Find us in these words.
Gratefully we pray, amen.

Reading from Scripture

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land
of Judah,
are by no means least among
the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my
people Israel.'

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Reflection

"Hold On to the Light"

Rev. Clinton G. Roberts

Song of Response

Here I am to Worship

Tim Hughes

*Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made
This heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You
So here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
And You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me*

*King of all days
Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came
To the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor
And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross*

Offering

Improvisation on "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"



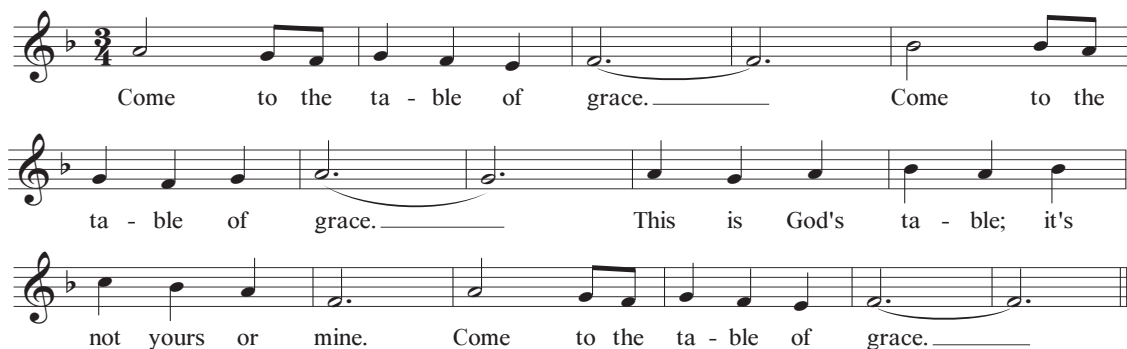
You may give online or fulfill your pledge by scanning the QR code with your mobile phone, or go to firstchurchlf.org/give. Thank you for your generosity!

— The Lord's Supper — (and Giving of Star Words)

Gathering Song NO. 507

Come to the Table of Grace

TUNE: TABLE OF GRACE



Come to the ta - ble of grace. _____ Come to the
ta - ble of grace. _____ This is God's ta - ble; it's
not yours or mine. Come to the ta - ble of grace. _____

The Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and Cup

As you come forward to receive the elements, we invite you to draw a star from the Table.

So that all feel welcome at the table, the bread is gluten-free, and the cups contain grape juice. Partake of the bread upon receiving it, and hold the cup to drink together.

Communion Music

Improvisation on "2020 February 01"

Nathan Fivecoate

A Poem of Sending

"Star Giving"

Rev. Deborah C. Roberts

Ann Weems

***Sending Song NO. 192**

Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining

TUNE: SHINE, JESUS, SHINE

***Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us;
set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me; shine on me.***

Refrain:

***Shine, Jesus, shine;
fill this land with the Father's glory.
Blaze, Spirit, blaze;
set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow;
flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth your word, Lord,
and let there be light.***

***Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
from the shadows into your radiance;
by the blood I may enter your brightness.
Search me; try me; consume all my darkness.
Shine on me; shine on me. (Refrain)***

***As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
so our faces display your likeness;
ever changing from glory to glory,
mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me; shine on me. (Refrain)***

***A Blessing for the Seekers**

***Sending**

Christmas Vamp

Jeff Carlson

Christmas Medley (Carol of the Bells / What Child Is This)

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

WORSHIP NOTES



As you attend worship, use this sheet to help you pay attention and learn. We want you to worship with us by singing to God and listening to the message.

Write or draw something you heard in the sermon

Favorite song today was:

What are we learning about God from this passage?

Words you heard but don't know...

Coming up...



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.

Sign up at firstchurchlf.org/sunday-school-volunteer



Save the Date: Women's Retreat February 24-25

We will gather for dinner on Friday evening, and come together on Saturday morning for art and contemplation. More details and registration coming soon!



Wednesday Night Suppers

Come by church anytime between 5:30 - 6:45 PM for a catered supper and fellowship. Bring your family and friends, and come and go as you please! If you would like to volunteer for suppers, please sign up on the church website, www.firstchurchlf.org.

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

This Week's Calendar

TODAY

10:00 AM Worship, Sanctuary
11:00 Fellowship, Great Room

MON Church Closed

TUE

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry, South Parlor
Adult Bible Study, Zoom
6:00 Lakeminstler Ringers, Sanctuary
7:00 Women's Evening Bible Study, Zoom

WED

10:00 AM Wed. Women's Bible Study, South Parlor/Zoom
5:00 PM Confirmation Class, Stuart Room
5:30 Wednesday Night Supper, Great Room
Chancel Bells, Sanctuary
6:00 Children's Faith Building, South Parlor
7:00 Taize Service, Chapel
Explorations of Faith, South Parlor/Zoom
Worship Ensemble Rehearsal, Sanctuary

THU

6:00 AM Daybreakers Men's Ministry, South Parlor/Zoom
6:30 PM Choir Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Music Room

FRI

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



Give

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

Pastor on call: Pastor Kristie 847.942.4057
Pastor Clint's day off is on Friday.
Pastor Kristie's day off is on Friday.
Pastor Jim Cochrane's day off is Friday.

Worship Participants

Rev. Clinton G. Roberts
Rev. Deborah Roberts
9AM Worship Ensemble
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

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.

Elders

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

Sally McDonald
Mary Gould Moorhead
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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