



EPIPHANY: SEASON OF LIGHT



First Presbyterian Church
OF LAKE FOREST

January 15, 2023

10:30 AM

Second Sunday after Epiphany

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

Prayer of Preparation

New life and rebirth spring forth at the sound of your voice, and your wonders cannot be contained by the world. Let us now open our mouths in praise, that we may bear fruit in every season, for you O God are the source of all growth. Amen.

Prelude

Hark! I Hear the Harps Eternal

arr. Cathy Moglebust

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.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Introit

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Thomas A. Dorsey, 1938

*Precious Lord, take my hand; lead me on, help me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.*

*Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light;
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

*When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near;
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall;
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

*Call to Worship

Leader: Rejoice and be glad!

People: For God is our salvation.

Leader: Rejoice and be glad!

People: For God is great.

*Hymn of Praise NO. 757 (stanzas 1-3)

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

TUNE: KINGSFOLD

*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.

Word for Children

Following the Word for Children, Preschool through 4th graders may leave for Children's Church. Middle Schoolers are invited to help lead Children's Church or remain in worship. Please pick up your children from room 213.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

Ever-faithful God, your word falls on hardened ground when our worldly anxiety and attachment to wealth crowd out your place in our lives. Forgive our frail and human ways, and cultivate in us a spirit of trust and faithfulness, for you are our hope for deliverance. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: Friends, when deeds of iniquity overwhelm us, God forgives our transgressions. Be at peace, for God restores and strengthens you and waters your soul in its parched and hardened places. Hear this good news:

People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.**

*Sung Response NO. 630 *(stanza 1)*

Fairest Lord Jesus

TUNE: CRUSADERS' HYMN

***Fairest Lord Jesus,
Ruler of all nature,
O thou of God to earth come down,
thee will I cherish,
thee will I honor,
thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.***

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson

Amos 5:18-24

Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is darkness, not light; as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

There Is A Balm In Gilead

William L. Dawson, 1939
Catherine Larson, soloist

*There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole,
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.*

*Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.*

*If you cannot sing like angels, if you cannot preach like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus and say, "He died for all."*

New Testament Lesson

Mark 4:1-9

Again he began to teach beside the sea. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the sea and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold." And he said, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!"

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Just Sowing"

Rev. Jim Cochrane

*Hymn of Response NO. 435

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

TUNE: IN BABILONE

Sharing of Our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayers

Choral Response

Threefold Amen

Traditional

Moment for Stewardship

Bob Karlblom

Offering

Fantasy on KINGSFOLD

arr. H. Dean Wagner



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, as we return to our lives and our world, help us be sowers of your justice and righteousness in the world. May your divine love nourish our hearts so we might walk in your ways all our lives. Amen.

***Hymn of Sending** NO. 769 *(verses 1-3)*

For Everyone Born

TUNE: FOR EVERYONE BORN

***Charge and Benediction**

***Benediction Response**

There Is A Balm In Gilead

William L. Dawson, 1939

*There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole,
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.*

***Postlude**

Improvisation on "We Shall Overcome"

Carl Haywood, 2012

Coming up...



Dinner & Trivia Night January 22, 5:00 PM, Fellowship Hall

A fun night of friendly competition for all ages and fundraising for the Senior High Youth Work Trip! Sign up today in the church lobby or online at firstchurchlf.org/dinner-and-trivia



Serve the congregation as a church leader!

The All Church Nominating Committee is assembling a slate for congregational election on February 26. We ask that you prayerfully consider yourself or nominate others you believe are ready to lead and serve our church. For details and to complete the nomination form, go to firstchurchlf.org/acnc

Nominations are due by Sunday, January 29.



Searching for an opportunity to volunteer at First Pres?

We are looking for one or two volunteers to prepare the sanctuary weekly for worship with an eagle eye to ensure sure pews are well stocked, in good order, and ready for worship. Set your own schedule and for only an hour a week. If you are interested, please contact Jan McNicholas at jmcnicholas@firstchurchlf.org or 224.544.1965.

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

8:45 AM	Nursery Open until 11:45 AM, Room 212
9:00	Worship, Sanctuary
9:15	Children's Faith Building, Rooms 215, 219 Middle School: 5-7 th grade, Stuart Room 214
10:00	Fellowship, Great Room
10:30	Worship, Sanctuary
10:45	Children's Church, Tower Room 213
11:30	Fellowship, Great Room
5:00 PM	Middle School Youth Group, Youth Lounge
6:00	Co-Pastor Nominating Cmte., South Parlor/Zoom
7:00	Senior High Youth Group, Youth Lounge

MON Church Closed, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Observed

TUE

9:30 AM	Tuesday Women's Bible Study, Parish House/Zoom Rummage Sorting, Rummage Storage Room
1:00 PM	Prayer Shawl Ministry, South Parlor Adult Bible Study, Zoom
6:00	Lakeminster Ringers, Sanctuary
6:30	Finance Meeting, South Parlor/Zoom
7:00	Women's Evening Bible Study, Zoom

WED

10:00 AM	Wed. Women's Bible Study, South Parlor/Zoom
4:15 PM	Children's Carol Choir, Music Room
5:00	Children's Cherub Choir, Music Room Confirmation Class, Stuart Room
5:30	Wednesday Night Supper, Great Room Chancel Bells, Sanctuary
6:00	Children's Faith Building, South Parlor
7:00	Worship Ensemble Rehearsal, Sanctuary Taizé, Live Stream Explorations of Faith, South Parlor/Zoom

THU

6:30 AM	Daybreakers Men's Ministry, South Parlor/Zoom
9:30	Rummage Sorting, Rummage Sorting Room
7:00 PM	Sanctuary Choir, Music Room

FRI

7:00 AM	Men of Corinth Bible Study, Great Room
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2023 Offering Booklets are now available for pick up. You can find them next to the nametag table by the church office. For any questions, please contact Lenka Vrazda at lvrazda@firstchurchlf.org.



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

Upcoming Memorials in the Sanctuary

William Miller Saturday, January 21
10:00 AM Visitation, 11:00 AM Funeral
David Cain Saturday, January 21
2:00 PM Memorial, Reception to follow
Rev. Kent Kinney Sunday, January 22
3:00 PM Memorial, Reception to follow

Worship Participants

Rev. Jim Cochrane
Rev. Kristie Finley
Dr. Tom Tropp
Dr. Susan Klotzbach
Zen Kuriyama
Susan Noble
Lakeminster Ringers
Sanctuary Choir
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
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



First Presbyterian Church
OF LAKE FOREST

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Zen Kuriyama
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