



First Presbyterian Church OF LAKE FOREST

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



December 31, 2023

Welcome!

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

Today's Service

The Season of Christmas

At Christmas, we remember and celebrate the mystery of the incarnation. Whereas during Advent we anticipate the fulfillment of the prophecies, at Christmas we celebrate the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Baptism

Receiving the sacrament of baptism today is Jay "Woody" Richard Seidel, child of Kinsey Wood Seidel and Mark Richard Seidel.

Worship Participants

Rev. Kristie W. Finley
Dr. Robert McConnell
Laura Johnson
Rick Day
Ryder Gamrath
Georgia Sottosanto-Sorenson

The flowers in the niches are given by Carla and Rich Seidel in joyful celebration of the baptism of their grandchild, Jay Richard Seidel.

Visiting First Pres?

If you would like us to get in touch with you, please provide your information on the visitors card in your pews. An usher will collect them later in the service.

Joys & Concerns

We are a community that prays for and with one another. We invite you to fill out a Joys & Concerns card to share your prayer request.

Prelude

Love Has Come

Christopher Uehlein



Give

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



Our Sanctuary sound system is equipped to broadcast directly to T-Coil-equipped hearing aids. If your hearing aid is so equipped, switch it into this mode. If you do not have this type of hearing aid, assistive listening devices are available from the ushers.

The Welcome

*Call to Worship

Leader: Today is the first Sunday after Christmas day.

People: **We remember that God sent Jesus to give hope, peace, joy and love to all people.**

All: **Our waiting has ended. May we live every day remembering God's love and care, and show that love and care to others.**

*Hymn of Praise No. 110

Love Has Come

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

(silent confession...) **Merciful God, we confess that we have not lived as your faithful children. We have kept silent in the midst of prejudice and hatred. We have been idle in the face of violence and injustice. We have not been a light to the nations, and our lives have not revealed your glory. Forgive us, merciful God. Repair the ugliness of our sin and restore us in your beautiful grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Kyrie No. 121 v. 4

O Little Town of Bethlehem

**O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!**

Assurance of Forgiveness

*Gloria Patri No. 132 v. 3

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

**Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!**

*Passing the Peace of Christ

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

Baptism

Jay “Woody” Richard Seidel
Kinsey Wood Seidel and Mark Richard Seidel

Congregational Question

Leader: Friends, do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ,
promise to guide and nurture this child by word and deed,
with love and prayer, encouraging him to know and follow Jesus,
and to be faithful member of His church?
People: **We do.**

*The Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in
Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and
buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he
ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the
Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness
of sin; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Baptism

The Welcome

**With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into Christ’s church.
We are all members of the household of God and family through Jesus Christ.**

Sung Response No. 115 v. 3

Away in a Manger

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Old Testament, page 692 in pew Bible

New Testament Reading

Luke 2:22-40
New Testament, page 59 in pew Bible

Sermon

Kristie W. Finley

“Singing Our Faith”

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.

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer

**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.**

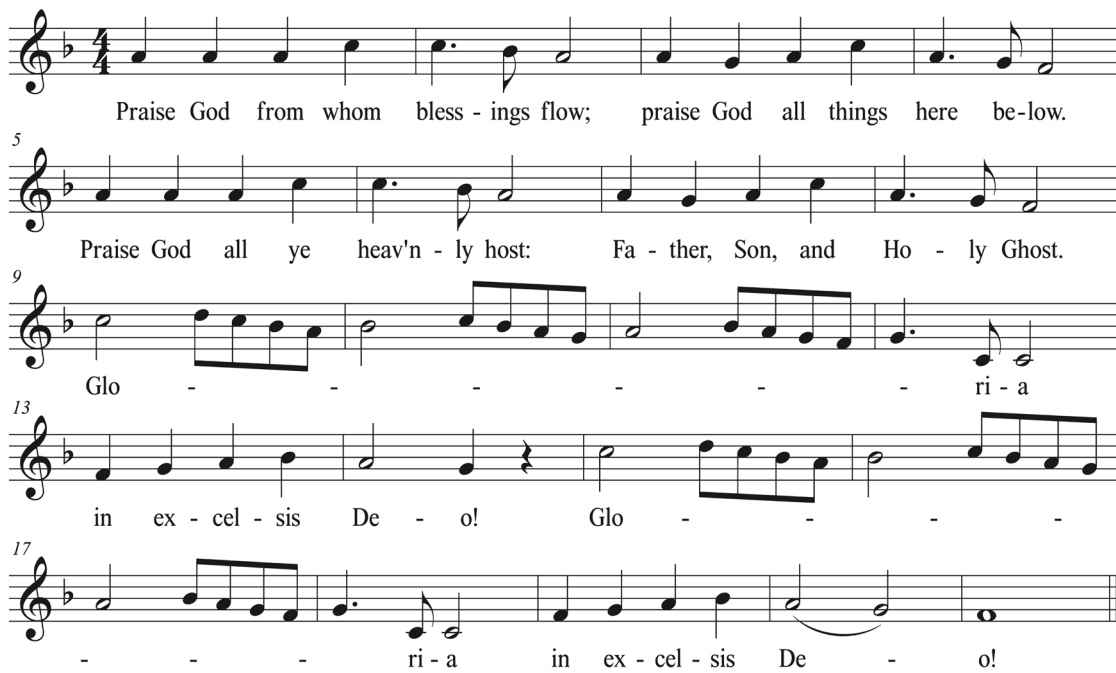
Invitation to the Offering



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!

Offertory

*Christmas Doxology



Musical score for Christmas Doxology, 4/4 time, B-flat major. The score consists of five staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Praise God from whom bless - ings flow; praise God all things here be-low. Praise God all ye heav'n - ly host: Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!"

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

*Hymn of Sending No. 147 v. 1-4

The First Nowell

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

In Dulci Jubilo
Dietrich Buxtehude

Joys & Concerns

Joys

Gathering together for Christmas!

Concerns

Jim Richter for continued healing.

Don Dempsey is recovering from a broken shoulder.

The family of Mia Spooner who passed away on December 14. Her memorial service will be on Thursday, January 4 at 4:00 PM.

Gretchen Seymour recovering from shoulder surgery.

Allison Martinat recovering from surgery.

Prayer Chain We are a church that prays for each other, celebrating life's joys and supporting each other in time of need. You may submit your prayers to prayerchain@firstchurchlf.org. Please know that your prayers will be held in strict confidence.

Pastoral care

224.544.1967 or pastoralcare@firstchurchlf.org

Serve, Learn, & Connect

Engagement & Membership

Diane Quinn

engagement@firstchurchlf.org

Arrange a Wedding or Baptism

Sarah Seccombe

sseccombe@firstchurchlf.org

Join our Music Ministry

Robert McConnell

rmcconnell@firstchurchlf.org

Mission & Outreach

Stewart Kerr

skerr@firstchurchlf.org

Weekly Ministries

For details or to join our small groups, contact Sarah Seccombe at sseccombe@firstchurchlf.org.

SUNDAYS

Middle School Youth Group

5:00 PM, Youth Lounge

Senior High Youth Group

7:00 PM, Youth Lounge

TUESDAYS

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

9:30 AM, Parish House

Prayer Shawl Ministry

1:00 PM, South Parlor

Adult Bible Study

1:00 PM, Zoom

WEDNESDAYS

Wednesday Women's Bible Study

10:00 AM, South Parlor/Zoom

Wednesday Night Supper

5:30 PM, Great Room

THURSDAYS

Daybreakers Men's Bible Study

6:30 AM, Great Room/Zoom

Mom's Small Group

7:00 PM, Youth Lounge

FRIDAYS

Men of Corinth Bible Study

7:00 AM, South Parlor/Zoom

Announcements

The Installation of Rev. Jon Wasson Sunday, January 28

You are invited to the installation of Rev. Jon Wasson as Senior Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest at our 9:30 AM worship service. Reception to follow in the Great Room.

Dinner & Trivia Sunday, February 4

Join us for a fun night of friendly competition and fundraising for our Senior High Work Trip. All ages are welcome! 5:30 – 7:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. Serving Paul Roeck's award winning chili, Heather Strong's almost famous Corn Bread, salad and dessert!
firstchurchlf.org/trivia

Pledge your support for the church in 2024

We are still receiving pledges for this year's Stewardship campaign. Every gift you make to First Pres supports our church's life through faith formation, mission, caring for each other, and tending to our historic campus. You can pledge online, by submitting a pledge card, or by calling the church office. Your generosity makes our mission of sending well-equipped disciples of Jesus into the world possible! We hope that you will prayerfully consider your financial commitment for 2024.

Congregational Meeting

Session has called a congregational meeting for the election of the members of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. The meeting will take place in the Sanctuary after worship next Sunday, January 7.

Membership Classes

Interested in learning more about our church and membership at First Pres? Upcoming classes are on Sundays, January 14 and 21. Contact Diane Quinn for more info at engagement@firstchurchlf.org.

Holiday Hours

The church will be closed tomorrow, January 1, and will reopen on Tuesday, January 2.

For the full church calendar, schedule of ministries, and more: www.firstchurchlf.org
Find us on Facebook and Instagram: [@firstchurchlf](https://www.facebook.com/firstchurchlf)



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OF LAKE FOREST

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