



First Presbyterian Church OF LAKE FOREST

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



December 29, 2024

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 Revised Common Lectionary scriptures assigned for today are 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 and Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52.

Worship Participants

Rev. Kristie Finley
Dr. Robert McConnell
Dr. Jack Reeder
Rick Day
Gonzalo Zarazaga



Give

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

Nursery children up to 3 years
Opens at 9:00 AM, Room 212

Sunday School will not meet this week. All children ages 3 and up are encouraged to say in worship. Coloring pages are available.

Fellowship
10:30 AM, Great Room

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

In Dulci Jubilo
Dietrich Buxtehude



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: Praise the Lord! Praise God in the heavens.

People: Praise the Lord from the earth!

Leader: Young and old alike,

People: men and women together.

All: Praise the Lord!

*Hymn of Praise No. 143

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

(silent confession...) **God of wonder, you surround us with signs of your glory and surprise us with your presence, yet we often miss the marvels you place before us. Forgive our dullness and make us alert to the ways you make yourself known, that we might be witnesses to your good news and proclaim your extravagant love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Response No. 121 verse 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

*Response No. 132 verse 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.**

Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 148

Old Testament, page 582 in pew Bible

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Lesson

Colossians 3:12-17

New Testament, page 201 in pew Bible

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Kristie Finley

“Rejoice”

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

Leader: O God of love

People: Draw us together in peace

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

Go Tell It
Timothy Albrecht

*Christmas Doxology No. 113 verse 1

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn of Sending No. 136

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

Vom Himmel Hoch
Johann Sebastian Bach

* PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE.

Joys & Concerns

Prayers for the Country and the World

O God, into a realm of clerics and kings you sent your child to teach the wise and show the world what power there is in love. Keep us vigilant to hear the voices of those who speak your truth.

We pray that the world see your light and hear your call to comfort our brothers and sisters, no matter who they are or where they are from. That nations sit down together and discern their way forward with your love and justice guiding them. Let this Holy season be just that holy and filled with your wonder. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

We are a church that prays for each other, celebrating life's joys and supporting each other in time of need. You may email your prayer requests to pastoralcare@firstchurchlf.org or call 224.544.1967.

Prayer requests will be removed from this listing after two weeks. Please let us know if prayer continues to be requested.

Prayer Chain For confidential prayers, you may email prayerchain@firstchurchlf.org. Please know that your prayers will be held in strict confidence.

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

Sally McDonald and Laura Johnson

missionoutreach@firstchurchlf.org

Weekly Ministries

For details and schedule visit our website at firstchurchlf.org/ministries

SUNDAYS

Early Word Bible Study

8:30 AM, South Parlor

Middle School Youth Group

Most Sundays, 5:00 PM, Youth Lounge

Senior High Youth Group

Most Sundays, 7:00 PM, Youth Lounge

TUESDAYS

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

THURSDAYS

Daybreakers Men's Bible Study

6:30 AM, South Parlor/Zoom

FRIDAYS

Men of Corinth Bible Study

7:00 AM, South Parlor/Zoom

Announcements

Holiday Hours

The church office will be closed until January 2. If you need pastoral care or to get in touch with the business office, you can call the main number (847-234-6250) to leave a voicemail or send an email to pastoralcare@firstchurchlf.org.

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 5, 2025, 10:30 AM

The Session has called for an in-person congregational meeting to take place in the sanctuary following worship on Sunday, January 5, 2025 to provide an update from the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee.

New Member Classes

If you are interested in learning more about our church and membership, we will be having new member gatherings on February 9 and 23 following worship. For more information, contact Diane Quinn at engagement@firstchurchlf.org

Ice Skating at West Park

Sunday, January 19

Save the date to join us for some ice skating, fellowship, and hot cocoa! We will be at West Park at 1:00 PM. Bring your chair, blanket, and skates (but you don't have to be a skater to join!). We will bring the hot cocoa! Weather permitting.

Worship Volunteers

If you are eager to meet and welcome new people, and would like to serve on Sunday mornings, we are looking to add to our roster of ushers. To learn more, contact Sarah Seccombe at sseccombe@firstchurchlf.org.



Sign up for our newsletter!

Scan the QR code or go to firstchurchlf.org to receive news and updates from First Pres.

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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