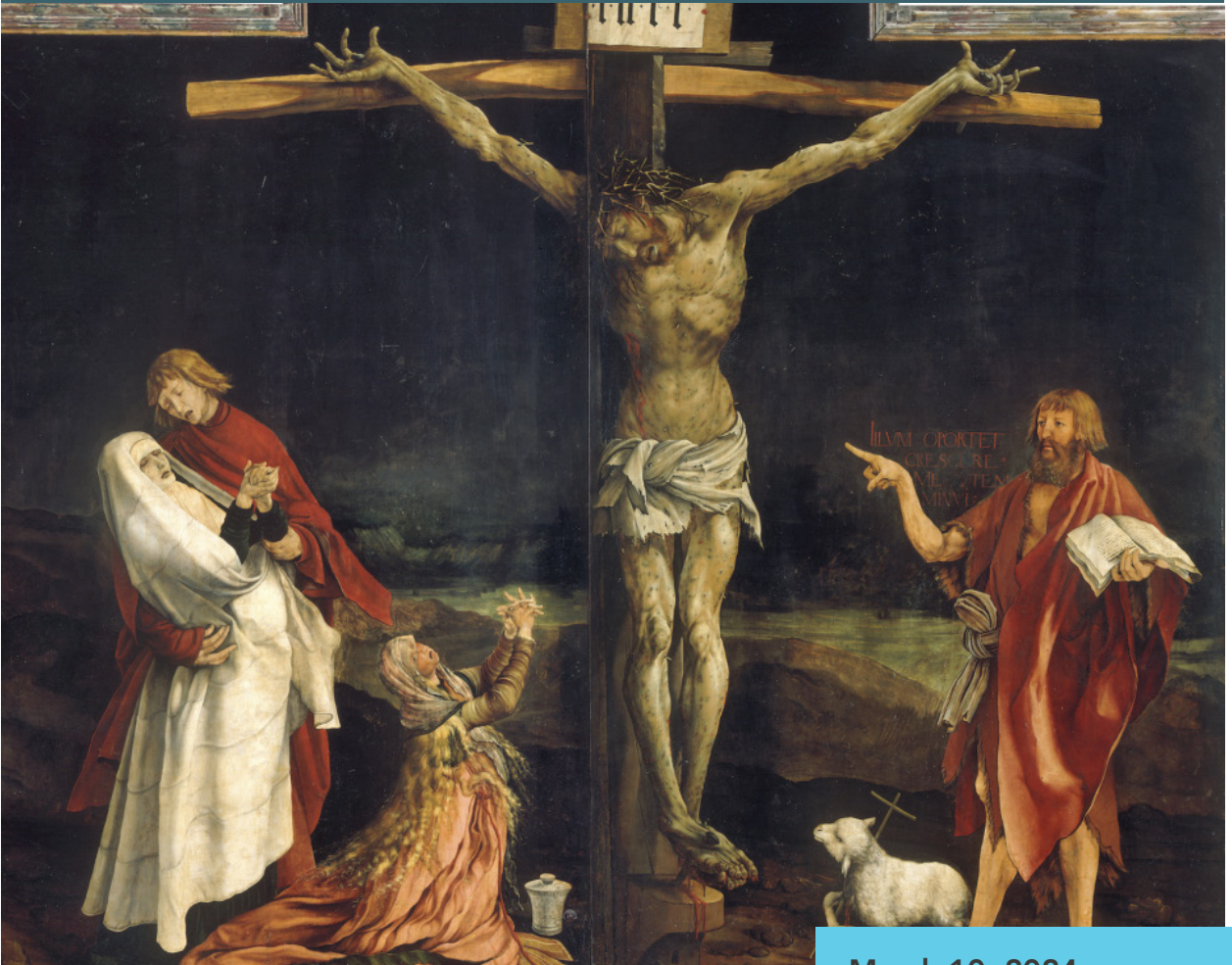




First Presbyterian Church OF LAKE FOREST

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



March 10, 2024

Welcome!

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

Today's Service

4th Sunday In Lent

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are at the heart of the Christian gospel, and Good Friday and Easter are two of the most significant celebrations of the Christian year. Lent is a season of preparation and repentance during which we anticipate these important events. The season invites us to make our hearts and minds ready for remembering Jesus' passion and celebrating Jesus' resurrection.

The Revised Common Lectionary scriptures assigned for today are Numbers 21:4-9 and Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21.

*Cover: Isenheim Altarpiece, 1515,
painting by Matthias Grünewald*

Worship Participants

Rev. Jon Wasson
Owen Scheuer
Tricia Sweet
Dr. Robert McConnell
Jack Reeder
Christina Maldonado
Worship Ensemble
Rick Day
Ryder Gamrath
Georgia Sottosanto-Sorenson



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 ages 3 and up
During worship, Rooms 213, 214, 215, 219
On Communion Sundays, children will go to the Chapel and return for Communion.

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



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

Introit

Trinity Song

Sandra McCracken

Holy Father, Son and Spirit,
Holy communion, three in one,
Come with your peace, with your invitation,
Bind us together in holy love.

*Call to Worship

Leader: Today, the community of faith is reminded of the promise:

People: God's love endures forever!

Leader: In spite of our impatient grumbling, despite our attraction to the shadows:

People: Christ's light shines in us!

Leader: When we think our hands are empty, when we have no music in our souls:

People: the Spirit fills us with glad songs, and creates us for good works!

All: Let us worship God together!

*Hymn of Praise No. 645

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

(silent confession...) **Holy God, we humbly acknowledge our need for grace and forgiveness. We confess that we do not always walk faithfully in your ways. Like the Israelites in the wilderness, we have grumbled, doubted, and turned away from your provision. You offer us redemption through your Son, but we often settle for other remedies, distractions, and false hopes. Forgive us, merciful God, that we may take up the life you offer us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Kyrie

John Arndt, David Gungor, Ian Cron,
Ben Kilgore, and Evan Wickham

Musical score for Kyrie, featuring three staves of music in G major. The first staff is in 4/4 time and contains the lyrics "Lord, have mer - cy;". The second staff is in 4/4 time and contains the lyrics "Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have". The third staff starts in 2/4 time and then changes to 4/4 time, containing the lyrics "mer - cy.".

Assurance of Forgiveness

*Sung Response No. 59

Steadfast Love of the Lord Never Ceases

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;

God's mercies never come to an end.

They are new every morning, new every morning;

great is your faithfulness, O Lord, great is your faithfulness.

*Passing the Peace of Christ

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Blessing of the Children

Children up to 4th grade are invited to come forward, and 5th through 7th grade are welcome to join them or stay seated for the blessing. All ages will go to their Faith Building classrooms afterwards. Please pick up your children on the 2nd floor following worship.

Leader: Holy God, we thank you for the gift of these children,

People: And for their parents.

Leader: We know that you have entrusted them to their parents,

People: And also to our community.

Leader: To care for them,
to teach them,
to be examples of Christ to them.
Bless these children.

People: And let us be a blessing to them.

All: Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Numbers 21:4-9

Old Testament, page 139 in pew Bible

New Testament Reading

John 3:14-21

New Testament, page 94 in pew Bible

Sermon

Jon Wasson

Snakes, the Cross, and the "Somehow" God

*Hymn of Response No. 182

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

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

You Belong
Wendell Kimbrough

To the ones who were once God's sworn enemies,
From the West and the East and the land beyond the seas,
Oh come to the table, where God spreads a feast,
"You belong, you belong, you belong with me."

So all you outcasts come
The City of God is your home;
And the Lord will greet you rejoicing to sing,
"You belong, you belong, you belong with me."

So turn to the ones you have reason to hate,
Lay down your weapons, oh learn to be brave.
Let's start with the words our Lord taught us to say,
"You belong, you belong, you belong with me."

When the lord comes shouting, "I make all things new!"
Then the ones who were strangers will know what to do.
We'll cry tears of joy as we sing out the truth:
We belong, we belong, we belong with you.

*Doxology

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. Amen.

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

*Hymn of Sending (see insert)

O Rejoice in All Your Works
Wendell Kimbrough

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response (see insert)

Now To Him Who is Able
Robert McConnell

*Postlude

Joys & Concerns

Joys

Scott Weston was selected as an Evans Scholar!

Concerns

Jan McNicholas' family, especially her sister Jenny and her daughters, on the death of Jan's brother-in-law Fred McCahey.

Bob Shaw is in rehab for a broken femur.

Nancy Orbison's surgery for cancer was successful and she will continue with treatment.

Beth Miller's surgery on March 5 was successful.

Peter Vander Velde recovering from a broken clavicle.

Prayers for the Country and the World

Draw us near O Lord. We need your comfort and assurance these days as weather continues to impact the world, give relief to those impacted. Draw near, O Lord, to those who are hungry, make us instruments of your compassion and care, to those in Gaza, Africa, and the middle east. Draw near, O Lord, to those suffering in mind, body, or spirit, that your presence be a reminder of all you offer us and let hope grow through your love. 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 prayers 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

rmccconnell@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

Learn It and Live It 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, South Parlor/Zoom

Mom's Small Group

7:00 PM, Youth Lounge

FRIDAYS

Men of Corinth Bible Study

7:00 AM, South Parlor/Zoom

Announcements

Holy Week

Palm Sunday

March 24

9:30 AM Worship,
Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday

March 28

5:30 PM Great Room

Good Friday

March 29

7:00 PM Tenebrae,
Sanctuary

EASTER SUNDAY
March 31

Sunrise Service

6:30 AM, South Lawn

Join us for coffee and a light
breakfast in the Great Room
following worship.

Traditional Services

9:00 and 11:00 AM,
Sanctuary

Easter Egg Hunt

10:00 AM, South Lawn
Bring your Easter baskets!

Coffee and a Cause

Thursday, March 14

Coffee and a Cause is a social gathering for parents to get together while also dedicating time to service work. This month's service project supports Allendale's STAR (Shelter & Transitional Adolescent Resources) program for runaway lock-out & homeless youth. Join us in the Great Room from 9:00 – 10:00 AM for coffee and fellowship, while we pack up essentials for Allendale. If you'd like to donate items, please pick up a list of supplies by the hospitality desk!

Maundy Thursday Dinner Church

Thursday, March 28

Join us for Dinner Church in the Great Room at 5:30 PM, when we gather around the table for supper, worship, and communion as we reflect on the Last Supper of Jesus and his disciples. RSVP: firstchurchlf.org/dinner

Worship Volunteers

If you are eager to meet and welcome new people, and would like to serve during worship on Sundays, we are always looking for volunteers! Invite a friend or family to sign up with you. We need ushers, communion servers, and liturgists! Email info@firstchurchlf.org.

Associate Pastor Search

The First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest is actively seeking an Associate Pastor for Faith Formation. The Associate Pastor will have overall responsibility for overseeing and leading the faith formation efforts with special emphasis on children, youth, and their families. For more information, you may read the full job description at firstchurchlf.org/apnc.

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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