



# First Presbyterian Church OF LAKE FOREST

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



April 28, 2024

**Welcome!**

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

# Today's Service

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Easter

Because the good news of Easter can hardly be contained in a single day's celebration, Easter marks the beginning of the season of Eastertide, the fifty days that lead up to Pentecost. This season is designed for extended celebration, for exploring the meaning of Christ's resurrection, and for joyful Christian living.

The Revised Common Lectionary scriptures assigned for today are Acts 8:26-40 and Psalm 22:25-31 and Exodus 19:1-6 and Psalm 118:19-25; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8.

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## Worship Participants

Rev. Jon Wasson  
Rev. Peter Smith  
Dr. Robert McConnell  
Jack Reeder  
Sanctuary Choir  
Rick Day  
Ryder Gamrath  
Georgia Sottosanto-Sorenson



### Give

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

### Intrada

Malcolm Archer



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

Psalm 22

Heinrich Schütz, arr. Jack Reeder

The meek and humble souls shall see his table spread,  
And all that seek the Lord shall be with joys immortal fed.  
The isles shall know the righteousness of our incarnate God.  
Hallelujah.

—Psalm 22, para. Isaac Watts

## \*Call to Worship

Leader: Lift your voices to God.

**People: We call on the One who promises to hear us.**

Leader: In life, in death, in every moment, God deals graciously with us.

**People: We rejoice in the One who saves us.**

**All: Let us Worship God.**

## \*Hymn of Praise No. 366

Love Divine, All Love Excelling

## Call to Confession

## Prayer of Confession

(silent confession...) **God of mercy, we confess that we have not borne the fruit of the Spirit. We have not loved others as you have loved us. We have denied the promise of baptism and cut ourselves off from you. Forgive us, restore us, that we may abide in your love and live out your mercy, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

## Kyrie

Craig Phillips

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

\* PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE.

## Assurance of Forgiveness

### \*Gloria Patri No. 581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.

### \*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 4<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to come forward, and 5<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.**

## New Testament Reading

1 John 4:7-14

New Testament, page 241 in pew Bible

## Sermon

Peter Smith

“What Is Love?”

## \*Hymn of Response No. 693

Though I May Speak

## \*Affirmation of Faith

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.

## 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](http://firstchurchlf.org/give).  
Thank you for your generosity!

## Offertory

God So Loved the World from *The Crucifixion*

John Stainer

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.

—John 3:16-17

## \*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 Dedication**

**\*Hymn of Sending No. 450**

Be Thou My Vision

**\*Commissioning of Rummage Sale Chair-people and Volunteers**

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**\*Choral Response**

Choral Amen

John Stainer

**\*Postlude**

Hyfrydol

Ralph Vaughan Williams

# Joys & Concerns

## Joys

Rummage Week creating a community of volunteers working together to raise money for our mission partners.

## Concerns

Carla Seidel's brother, Scott, passed away from cancer last week in Colorado.

Jean Grost's granddaughter, Melissa Angela Grost, died Sunday, April 21.

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](mailto: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](mailto:prayerchain@firstchurchlf.org). Please know that your prayers will be held in strict confidence.

## Serve, Learn, & Connect

### Engagement & Membership

Diane Quinn

[engagement@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:engagement@firstchurchlf.org)

### Arrange a Wedding or Baptism

Sarah Seccombe

[sseccombe@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:sseccombe@firstchurchlf.org)

### Join our Music Ministry

Robert McConnell

[rmccConnell@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:rmccConnell@firstchurchlf.org)

### Mission & Outreach

Stewart Kerr

[skerr@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:skerr@firstchurchlf.org)

## Weekly Ministries

For details or to join our small groups, contact Sarah Seccombe at [sseccombe@firstchurchlf.org](mailto: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

## **Spring Rummage Sale** **Saturday, May 4, 8 AM–3 PM**

We need more volunteers for setup and sale day! Email [rummage@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:rummage@firstchurchlf.org) to volunteer. Working a minimum of four hours lets you shop the sale before the general public! Net dollars from our sales support our church's mission partners' initiatives.

## **Rummage Family** **Volunteer Day** **Today, 1–4 PM**

Bring your whole family and help rummage unload boxes. This is the first day of rummage set-up, so be the first to see what's coming! Following volunteering, weather permitting, families are invited to head over to the manse for a backyard party beginning at 4:00 PM.

## **Vacation Bible School** **June 12 – 14 and 16**

Open to children age 4 by December 31 through entering 4<sup>th</sup> grade. This year's VBS theme is Scuba: Diving Into Friendship with God. VBS is volunteer-based, so we also need your help to make this a success! Register by Monday, June 3. Details and registration: [firstchurchlf.org/vbs](http://firstchurchlf.org/vbs)

## **Senior High Youth Group** **April 28, 12:00–2:00 PM and May 4, 3:00–5:00 PM**

High Schoolers, it's not too late to get involved with our Senior High Youth Group! Join us in helping with Rummage set-up and clean-up to earn Work Trip 2024 points. To learn more about Work Trip 2024 contact Anne Winebrenner at [awinebrenner@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:awinebrenner@firstchurchlf.org).

## **Kristie's Sabbatical**

Pastor Kristie Finley will be taking her sabbatical for part of the summer, for some time of rest and reflection. You can read more about her time away at [firstchurchlf.org/kristie](http://firstchurchlf.org/kristie).

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



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