

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



May 26, 2024

Welcome!

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

Today's Service

Ordinary Time

The times between Christmas and Lent and between Pentecost and Advent are known as "Ordinary Time," time outside the two great seasons of the liturgical calendar. The truth is there is nothing ordinary — if by ordinary we mean less important — about this time. During this time we are invited into faithful attention to what it means to live out daily what we say we believe.

The Revised Common Lectionary scriptures assigned for today are Isaiah 6:1-8 and Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17.

Cover: The Trinity, 1411 (or 1425-27) by Andrei Rublev

Worship Participants

Rev. Jon Wasson
Rev. Kristie Finley
Dr. Robert McConnell
Jack Reeder
Daniel Makins
Rick Day
Ryder Gamrath
Georgia Sottosanto-Sorenson

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

Sunday School ages 3 and through 3rd Grade During worship, Playground On Communion Sundays, children will go to the Playground 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



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

Introit

Trinity Song
Sandra McCracken

*Call to Worship

Leader: God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast

love and faithfulness.

People: We have gathered to hear the story of God and God's people.

Leader: It is a story of God's mercy and steadfast love. **People:** It is our story, for we are God's people.

All: Inspire us, oh God, to faithfulness, to mercy, to steadfast love.

Let us become a people who reflect your image.

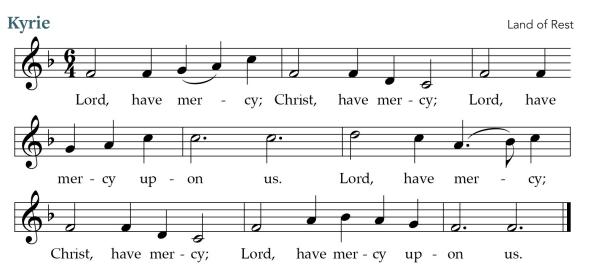
*Hymn of Praise No. 415

Come, Ye Sinners Poor and Needy

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

(silent confession...) Triune God, we praise you as the God of love and life. Though Jesus prayed that we would be one, we confess that we fail to live in unity with each other and with you. We break our communion through hostile words and unkind actions. We long for your Spirit to heal us and to correct us. We long for you to help us experience communion with you and with each other. Even now, dependent on your grace, we commit ourselves to live more fully in the unity you desire. Through Christ, our Lord, Amen.



^{*} 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 4th grade are invited to come forward, and will go to playground church afterwards. Please pick up your children on the playground 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

John 3:1-17

New Testament, page 93 in pew Bible

Sermon Kristie Finley

"The Unpredictable Spirit"

*Hymn of Response No. 475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

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.

Service of Ordination and Installation

Constitutional Questions

Congregational Questions

Leader: Do we, members of the church, accept these servants as elders and

deacons, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation, to lead us

in the way of Jesus Christ?

People: We do.

Leader: Do we agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow

as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is head of the church?

People: We do.

Prayer of Ordination and the Laying On of Hands

Leader: Almighty God: in every age you have chosen servants to speak your word

and lead your loyal people. We thank you for these people whom you have called to serve you. Give them special gifts to do their special work; and fill them with Holy Spirit, so they may have the same mind that was in Christ

Jesus, and be faithful disciples as long as they live.

People: God of grace, who called us to a common ministry as ambassadors of

Christ, trusting us with the message of reconciliation: give us courage and discipline to follow where your servants rightly lead us; that

together we may declare your wonderful deeds and show your love to

the world; through Jesus Christ the Lord of all. Amen.

Declaration of Ordination and Installation

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 Special Music Daniel Makins

*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 See Insert

Rejoice in All Your Works

*Commissioning of Kristie Finley

*Charge and Benediction

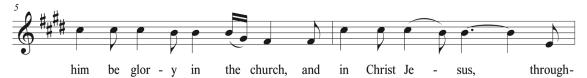
*Congregational Response

Now To Him Who is Able Robert McConnell



to him who is ab - le do far more than we ask to







*Postlude

^{*} PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE.

Joys & Concerns

Joys

Bob and Mary Lou Troyer will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary on May 30.

Chris and Jack Edwards share the joy of the birth of their second grandchild, a girl, Reagan Power Edwards, born Friday, May 19 in Seattle, Washington. Baby, big sister, parents, grandparents, and aunt are all doing well.

Robert and Hannah McConnell shared the joy of the birth of their nephew, Edward Dewey Schneider.

Concerns

For Barbara Linville and her family on the death of her husband, David Linville, on May 22. A memorial service will be held here on May 30 at 11:00 AM.

Dick Holmes is home recovering from surgery.

Larry Crone is in rehab.

For Lynn Heizer and her family on the death of her brother, Stephen Hill.

For Jim Mayhall and his family on the death of his mother, Lois Mayhall Reinhart, on May 12.

For the family of Dan Cassin, who died May 11. Son, Dwight and daughter, Laurie. A memorial service will be held here on July 11 at 11:00 AM.

Prayers for safety and comfort for the areas in the country that are experiencing the ongoing destructive forces of the weather.

Prayers of gratitude for all those who gave their lives in service to their country and to the safety and freedom of others.

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 & MembershipDiane 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

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

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

APNC update

For an update from the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, please visit firstchurchlf.org/update

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 members to sign up with you. We are looking to add to our roster of volunteers for ushers and greeters. Email Sarah Seccombe, sseccombe@firstchurchlf.org

Sunday School Volunteers

Help with Sunday School (and Playground church this Summer) as a teacher or assistant. No previous experience required, and training will be provided. Email Rachel Magnusson at rmagnusson@firstchurchlf.org

Playground Church

Sundays, May 26 - September 1

Children ages 3 years through 4th grade will start in worship and head off for a time of informal Sunday School that includes bible stories, activities, games, crafts and free play on the playground.

Allen Hilton

Sunday, June 2

Join us as we welcome Allen Hilton, guest preacher on Sunday, June 2 at 9:30 AM. There will be a conversation between Jon and Allen following worship to discuss Allen's work on polarization and how the church might lead during a time of deep division and broken trust.

Work Trip Blessing

Sunday, June 2

Join us as we bless the 2024 Work Trip participants and advisors before they head off to Higgin's Lake on June 9.

Vacation Bible School June 12 – 14 and 16

Open to children age 4 by December 31 through entering 4th 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

Pastoral Care

During Kristie's sabbatical, if you have a pastoral care need, please email us at pastoralcare@firstchurchlf.org or call the church to speak with Sarah Seccombe.

For the full church calendar, schedule of ministries, and more: www.firstchurchlf.org
Find us on Facebook and Instagram: @firstchurchlf

