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



June 30, 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 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27 and Psalm 130; Laminations 3:22-33 and Psalm 30; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43

Worship Participants

Rev. Jon Wasson
Gretchen Seymour
Dr. Robert McConnell
Dr. Jack Reeder
Summer Quartet
Brian Offman, cello
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 through 3rd Grade During worship, Playground 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

Largo from Cello Sonata in G Minor Frédéric Chopin



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

African American Spiritual There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole; there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain, but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend, and if you lack for knowledge, he'll not refuse to lend.

*Call to Worship

Psalm 130:5-6

There is a Balm in Gilead

Leader: I wait for the Lord,

People: my soul waits, and in God's world I hope.

Leader: My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning,

People: more than those who watch for the morning. Leader: In faith, let us turn to our God, whose love is sure.

All: Let us worship God.

*Hymn of Praise No. 435

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

(silent confession...) Trusting you does not always come easy when each day we are faced with the ugliness of the world. We do not believe that love conquers fear. We are not convinced that power comes through weakness. We cannot conceive how you could heal us. Forgive our lack of faith, O God, and renew our trust in you, for we would be disciples of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Kyrie sung twice

Healer of Our Every Ill Marty Haugen



give us peace be-yond our fear, and hope be-yond our sor - row.

^{*} 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

Following the Blessing, children in preschool through 3rd grade may leave for the playground. Please pick up your children from 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.

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 30

Old Testament, page 505 in pew Bible

Anthem

O Savior of the World

John Goss

O Savior of the World, who by thy cross and precious blood hast redeemed us. Save us and help us, we humbly beseech Thee, O Lord. Amen.

-Prayer for the Visitation of the Sick, Book of Common Prayer

New Testament Reading

Mark 5:21-43

New Testament, page 39 in pew Bible

Sermon Jon Wasson

"Timeless Grace"

*Hymn of Response No. 796

We Come to You for Healing, Lord

*Affirmation of Faith

From Our World Belongs to God, 34

Leader: In our world,

where many journey alone, nameless in the bustling crowd,

Satan and his evil forces

seek whom they may scatter and isolate; but God, by his gracious choosing in Christ,

gathers a new community those who by God's gift put their trust in Christ.

People: In the new community

all are welcome:

the homeless come home, the broken find healing, the sinner makes a new start, the despised are esteemed, the least are honored, and the last are first.

Here the Spirit guides and grace abounds.

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

Thy Mercy, My God Sandra McCracken

Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my song, The joy of my heart. and the boast of my tongue; Thy free grace alone, from the first to the last, Hath won my affections, and bound my soul fast.

Without Thy sweet mercy I could not live here; Sin would reduce me to utter despair; But, through Thy free goodness, my spirits revive, And He that first made me still keeps me alive.

Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart, Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart; Dissolved by Thy goodness, I fall to the ground, And weep to the praise of the mercy I've found.

Great Father of mercies, Thy goodness I own, And the covenant love of Thy crucified Son; All praise to the Spirit, Whose whisper divine Seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine. All praise to the Spirit, Whose whisper divine Seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine.

—John Stocker, c. 1777.

*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. 269

*Charge and Benediction

*Choral Response

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole; there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul. If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul, you can tell the love of Jesus and say, "He died for all."

Lead on, O King Eternal!

There is a Balm in Gilead African American spiritual

*Postlude

Fuga "alla Handel" Alexandre Guilmant

Joys & Concerns

Joys

John and Nancy Johnson celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on June 28.

Larry Crone is home.

Concerns

For Larry and Susie Warter and their family. Their son, Brian, died June 20 in a tragic accident while on a family vacation in Florida.

For Bob and Mary Lou Troyer and their family on the death of their daughter-in-law, Patrice O'Mera Troyer on June 4.

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

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 224.544.1958.

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 Stewart Kerr skerr@firstchurchlf.org

Weekly Ministries

During the summer, many of our weekly groups do not meet. Listed below are those that continue through the summer months. For questions or details contact Sarah Seccombe at sseccombe@firstchurchlf.org.

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

Worship Flowers

If you would like to provide flowers for worship, contact Sarah Seccombe at sseccombe@firstchurchlf.org.

Summer Choir July 14, 2024

Interested in singing with the Sanctuary Choir? Join us this summer for two special Summer Choir Sundays! We will meet at 8:30 AM to rehearse before the 9:30 AM worship service on Sunday, July 14 and Sunday, August 11. For more information, contact Jack Reeder at jreeder@firstchurchlf.org

Summer Hand Bells July 21, 2024

Interested in ringing bells? Join Summer Bells! We will have one rehearsal in the week preceding the service on Sunday, July 21. For more information, please contact Jack Reeder at jreeder@firstchurchlf.org

Sign up for our newsletter!

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



Bolsinger Initiative

Following a workshop led by church consultant Tod Bolsinger on June 1, a subgroup including Scott Crawford, Michelle Kaylor, Robert McConnell, Sally McDonald, Diane Quinn, Peter Vander Velde and Jon Wasson formed to conduct focus groups over the next month in order to gather opinions and stories about the church from members of the congregation. For questions about the ongoing work with the consultants, contact any member of Session.

Women's Gathering

Friday - Saturday, July 19 - 20

We will meet for dinner and fellowship on Friday evening, and come together Saturday morning for a mandala making workshop. Sign up at firstchurchlf.org/gathering

All-Church Beach Picnic & Baptisms Sunday, August 25

Save the date and join us at Lake Forest Beach after worship on Sunday, August 25 for an all-church picnic. If you have never been baptized and would like to be baptized in Lake Michigan, contact Sarah at sseccombe@firstchurchlf.org. Beach passes for non-Lake Forest residents will be available.

New Member Classes

If you are interested in learning more about our church and membership at First Pres, we will be having new member gatherings this September. For more information, contact Diane Quinn at engagement@firstchurchlf.org

The church will be closed Thursday, July 4 and Friday, July 5 in observance of Independence Day

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

