



First Presbyterian Church OF LAKE FOREST

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



January 5, 2025

Welcome!

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

Today's Service

Epiphany

The season of Epiphany always begins on January 6 and extends until Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. These weeks are a time to focus on Jesus' ministry so that, from Christmas onward, worshipers grow in awareness of the significance of Jesus' entire life. It is a transformative season of faith in which the glory of Christ is revealed.

The Revised Common Lectionary scriptures assigned for today are Jeremiah 31:7-14 and Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9) 10-18.

The Revised Common Lectionary scripture assigned for Epiphany are Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14, Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12.

Worship Participants

Rev. Jon Wasson
Rev. Kristie Finley
Dr. Robert McConnell
Dr. Jack Reeder
Staff Choristers
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 ages 3 through 4th Grade
During worship, Rooms 213, 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

Prélude sur l'introït de l'Épiphanie
Maurice Duruflé



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

Saw You Never, in the Twilight

Harold Friedell

Saw you never, in the twilight,
When the sun had left the skies,
Up in heaven the clear stars shining
Through the gloom, like silver eyes?
So of old the wise men, watching,
Saw a little stranger star,
And they knew the King was given,
And they followed it from far.
— Cecil Frances Alexander

*Call to Worship

Leader: Arise, shine; for your light has come.

People: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

Leader: Come, worship the Lord of glory.

All: Proclaim God's praise among the nations!

*Hymn of Praise No. 150

As With Gladness Men of Old

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

(silent confession...) **God of all glory, you look from heaven and see us as we are —not worthy to kneel at your feet, not ready to welcome your way. Forgive us, gracious God. In Christ, stoop down to save us; loosen the ties that bind us to sin and set us free to love and serve you; in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Kyrie

Craig Phillips

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have
mer - cy. Lord, _____ have mer - cy.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. It contains a melody for the lyrics "Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have". The second staff starts with a measure rest marked with a '4', followed by the melody for "mer - cy. Lord, _____ have mer - cy.". The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

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.**

Following the Passing of the Peace, children in preschool through 3rd grade may leave for a group lesson in the Chapel. Middle Schoolers are encouraged to stay in worship. Children will return to the sanctuary during the Hymn of Response and join their families for Communion.

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

Ecce Novum

Ola Gjeilo

Behold, a new joy,
Behold a new wonder!
A Virgin, who knew not a man,
Bears a son.
She knew not a man, but as the pear-tree
bears the pear,

The flourishing papyrus brings
The lily from the soil.
See how nature
Changes her laws!
A pure virgin bears
The son of God.

*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

New Testament Lesson

Matthew 2: 1-12

New Testament, page 2 in pew Bible

Sermon

Jon Wasson

"By Another Road"

*Hymn of Response No. 151

We Three Kings of Orient Are

The Lord's Supper

The Invitation to the Table

Prayers of the People

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and Cup

So that all feel welcome at the table, the bread is gluten-free, and the cups contain grape juice. Communion is served intinction style. Ushers will direct your row when it is time to come forward.

Communion Music

Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing,
Stealing our senses all away?
Never the like did come ablousing,
Shepherds, in flowery fields in May,
Whence is that goodly fragrances flowing,
Stealing our senses all away?

What is that light so brilliant, breaking
Here in the night across our eyes?
Never so bright, the daystar waking,
Started to climb the morning skies!
What is that light so brilliant, breaking
Here in the night across our eyes?

Quelle est cette odeur agreable?

French traditional carol, arr. David Willcocks

Bethlehem! There in manger lying,
Find your Redeemer, haste away,
Run ye with eager footsteps hieing!
Worship the Saviour born today.
Bethlehem! There in manger lying,
Find your Redeemer, haste away.

Praise to the Lord of all creation,
Glory to God the fount of grace;
May peace abide in every nation,
Goodwill in men of every race.
Praise to the Lord of all creation,
Glory to God the fount of grace.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Hymn of Sending** See insert

The Lord's Prayer

Albert Hay Malotte

*Charge and Benediction

*Benediction Response

Know ye not that lowly baby
Was the bright and morning Star?
He who came to light the Gentiles,
And the darkened isles afar?
And we, too may seek his cradle;
There our hearts' best treasures bring;
Love, and faith, and true devotion
For our Saviour, God and King.

— Cecil Frances Alexander

Know Ye Not That Lowly Baby

Harold Friedell

*Postlude

Dix

Wayne Wold

Journey of the Magi

T.S. Elliott (1888-1965)

'A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey, and such a long journey:
The ways deep and the weather sharp,
The very dead of winter.'
And the camels galled, sore-footed, refractory,
Lying down in the melting snow.
There were times we regretted
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.
Then the camel men cursing and grumbling
And running away, and wanting their liquor and women,
And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly
And the villages dirty and charging high prices:
A hard time we had of it.
At the end we preferred to travel all night,
Sleeping in snatches,
With the voices singing in our ears, saying
That this was all folly.

Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation;
With a running stream and a water-mill beating the darkness,
And three trees on the low sky,
And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.
Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel,
Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,
And feet kicking the empty wine-skins,
But there was no information, and so we continued
And arrived at evening, not a moment too soon
Finding the place; it was (you may say) satisfactory.

All this was a long time ago, I remember,
And I would do it again, but set down
This set down
This: were we led all that way for
Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another death.

Joys & Concerns

Joys

Ruth Mandahl became a great-grandmother on November 24 to a baby girl named Lillian Mandahl.

Concerns

For the family of Marj Swansen, who died January 2.

Prayers for the Country and the World

God of glory, your Word made a home with us so that we might be at home in you. Gather your children from the farthest places in the world and lead us to that home where the human race can become a human family. Where those with breaking hearts as in New Orleans can feel surrounded with your love and our compassion. Where war and hatred are no more. Where we live lives of light that you shine upon us, loving each and every neighbor, near or far. We pray all of this through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. 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

Worship Flowers

If you would like to provide flowers for worship, you can sign up on the bulletin board or contact Sarah Seccombe at sseccombe@firstchurchlf.org

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.



Congregational Meeting

Today, following worship

The Session has called for an in-person congregational meeting to take place following worship today 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 dquinn@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.

First Wednesday Lunch

Wednesday, February 5, 11:30 AM

Join us on the first Wednesday of each month beginning in February for a lunch hosted by the Deacons. This special gathering for our older adults will feature great food, conversation, and community. Details and registration coming soon.

Dinner & Trivia

Sunday, February 23

Save the date for a fun night of friendly competition and fundraising for our Senior High Work Trip. All ages are welcome! Details and registration coming soon.

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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700 North Sheridan Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045
847.234.6250 | firstchurchlf.org