



First Presbyterian Church OF LAKE FOREST

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



March 16, 2025

Welcome!

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

Today's Service

2nd 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 Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3: 17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a).

Prayer for today

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and holdfast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer

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 during the offering.

The Nursery (available for children up to 3 years) opens at 9:00 am in Room 212.

Join us for Coffee Hour following worship in the Great Room.

Flowers in the niches are in celebration of our dedicated Hospitality Ministry team.

Worship Participants

Rev. Jon Wasson
Rev. Kristie Finley
Dr. Robert McConnell
Dr. Jack Reeder
Sanctuary Choir
Audrey Neace, mezzo-soprano
Cherub & Carol Choirs
Eloise Mulliken, soloist
Rick Day
Gonzalo Zarazaga

Prelude

Prelude on Aberystwyth

Healey Willan

Balm in Gilead

arr. Harry Burleigh



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.



Give

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

The Welcome

Introit

There is a Balm in Gilead

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.

*Call to Worship

(Psalm 27)

Leader: The Lord is our light and our salvation.

People: Whom shall we fear?

Leader: One thing we ask of the Lord, and that we will seek:

People: that we may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of our life,

Leader: to behold the beauty of the Lord

People: and to meditate in God's temple.

All: Today, may we all know the goodness of our God.

*Hymn of Praise No. 435

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

(Luke 13:31-35)

(silent confession...) **Most merciful God, you desire to gather us under the shelter of your wings, but we are stubborn and resist your care. You send prophets to teach us your ways, but we ignore their calls. You invite us to lay our burdens on you, but we prefer to find security in our own labors. Forgive us, O Lord, and make us willing to accept the rest for our souls that only you can give, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Kyrie

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

Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy;

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

* PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE.

Assurance of Forgiveness

*Sung Response No. 59

The Steadfast Love of the Lord

The musical score is written on four staves in a single system. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in a soprano clef. The lyrics are: "The stead - fast love of the Lord nev - er ceas - es; God's mer - cies nev - er come to an end. They are new ev - ery morn - ing, new ev - ery morn - ing; great is your faith - ful - ness, O Lord, great is your faith - ful - ness." The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some rests and a fermata over the word "end".

The stead - fast love of the Lord nev - er ceas - es; God's
mer - cies nev - er come to an end. They are
new ev - ery morn - ing, new ev - ery morn - ing; great is your
faith - ful - ness, O Lord, great is your faith - ful - ness.

*Passing the Peace of Christ

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Anthem

The Lord is my Light

Michael Bedford

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Who shall I fear? Of whom shall I be afraid?

For in times of trouble you hide me in your dwelling.

You comfort me and shelter me, and set me high on a rock.

Hear, O Lord, when I cry to you, give ear to me and answer

O hide not your face from me, your face, O Lord, do I seek.

— Psalm 27

Blessing of the Children

Following the Blessing, children in preschool through 4th grade will go to their Faith Building classrooms, rooms 213, 215 and 219. Please pick up your children 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 Lesson

Luke 13:31-35

New Testament, page 77 in pew Bible

Sermon

Jon Wasson

"The Fox and the Hen"

*Hymn of Response No. 440

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering



You may give online by scanning the QR code with your mobile phone,
or go to firstchurchlf.org/give.
Thank you for your generosity!

Offertory

Come, weary one, leave thy labors;
Come lift thy head,
see thy Savior and Friend.
His arms are opened wide;
O soul, be satisfied.
Come find His rest.

Take His yoke upon thee,
For He is gentle and lowly in heart.
So learn from Christ the Lord,
Thy portion and reward.
Come find His rest.

Come Find His Rest

Dan Forrest

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest.
Lay down, o weary one, lay down
Your head upon my breast."

I came to Jesus as I was,
So weary, worn, and sad;
I found in Him a resting place,
And He has made me glad.

— Eric Dewar and Horatius Bonar

*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. 65

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

*Charge and Benediction

*Benediction Response

I want Jesus to walk with me
I want Jesus to walk with me,
All along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

I want Jesus to Walk with Me

African American Spiritual

*Postlude

Toccata in E minor

Joseph Callearts

Joys & Concerns

Joys

Carla and Rich Seidel announced the birth of their 9th grandchild, Coco Annelise Seidel on March 11, born to Mark and Kinsey Seidel. Proud big brothers, Woody and Jay.

Linda Hall will complete her cancer treatments on March 17.

Concerns

For Sally McDonald, Rich Levin and family on the death of her mother, Esteleen McDonald, 96 years old, in Hillsboro, Indiana.

For Cindy Morehead and her family on the death of her husband, Dick Morehead. A memorial is being planned for May 17.

For the Kovalcin family, Lawrence and Brenna, on the death of his grandmother Irene Kovalcin.

For Jan Zilka recovering from a hospital stay.

Prayers for the Country and the World

Dearest Lord, we are grateful for the comfort and compassion we receive from you. In this time of uncertainty and fear, knowing that you surround us with your unconditional love allows us to hold fast to hope. We pray for the vulnerable in our lives and the world, be it from natural or manmade events, or those suffering in mind, body, or spirit, hold them close, let them feel your presence. In the name of your son, Jesus, we pray. Amen

We are a church that prays for each other, celebrating life's joys and supporting each other in time of need. We invite you to share your prayer requests by filling out a Joys & Concerns card, emailing us at 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 and Upcoming Events

For more information and to sign up, visit firstchurchlf.org/upcomingevents

Easter Flowers

As we look forward to Easter, offerings for flowers are welcomed in memory or honor of a loved one, to beautify the sanctuary and remind us of the glory of God's creation and Christ's resurrection. If you are offering Easter flowers in honor or memory of a loved one and would like for their names to be printed in the Easter bulletin, please have your donation and forms in by Tuesday, April 15. firstchurchlf.org/flowers

First Camp 2025

June 9-13, 9:30-11:30 am

First Camp registration is now open on our website. For ages 3-6 years old, this camp runs Monday, June 9 through Friday, June 13 from 9:30 - 11:30am. First Camp is run by Rachel Magnusson and parent volunteers, and Rachel is seeking volunteers. Please email her at rmagnusson@firstchurchlf.org.

Sign up for our newsletter!

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



Sunday Evening Worship During Lent

Sundays, 5:00 pm, Chapel

Join us for a casual evening worship in the chapel led by Daniel Makins. The service will begin at 5 pm with communion and dinner in the great room to follow. All are welcome!

Maundy Thursday Dinners

Thursday, April 17

This year we invite you to join us in homes across town for a shared meal and communion. Together, we will reflect on Jesus' humility and sacrifice, breaking bread in fellowship as we prepare our hearts for Good Friday. Sign up coming soon.

Labyrinth

March 5 - April 20; Fellowship Hall

We invite you to walk the labyrinth as a form of prayer. A guide is provided in Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions or want to learn more, contact Kristie Finley at kfinley@firstchurchlf.org.

Art & Prayer

March 5 - April 20; Room 012

Creative activities can add a new dimension to your prayer life. This space is available Monday through Friday during church business hours. Each week a new medium will be added. All supplies and guides will be provided.

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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