



# First Presbyterian Church OF LAKE FOREST

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



April 20, 2025

**Welcome!**

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

# Today's Service

## Easter Sunday

All the hopes and expectations of Christians are realized in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, making today the most celebrated day of the liturgical year. This morning's service is a time of joy, celebration, and renewal!

The Revised Common Lectionary scriptures assigned for today are Acts 10:34-43, Isaiah 65:17-25, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26, Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18, Luke 24:1-12.

## Worship Participants

Rev. Jon Wasson  
Rev. Kristie W. Finley  
Dr. Robert McConnell  
Dr. Jack Reeder  
Sanctuary Choir  
MC Jefferson Agloro, baritone  
Julia Frodyma, soprano  
Martin Davids, Emi Tanabe, violins  
Elizabeth Hagen, viola  
Anna Steinhoff, cello  
Isaac Polinsky, bass  
Aaron Dubois, John Wagner, trumpets  
Rick Day  
Ross Graham  
Gonzalo Zarazaga

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

## Easter Egg Hunt

10:15 am, South Lawn  
*Join us for an egg hunt!*

## 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

### Concerto for 2 Trumpets in C major, RV 537

Antonio Vivaldi  
I: Allegro  
II: Largo  
III: Allegro



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

To make a donation please scan the QR code or go to [FirstChurchLF.org/give](https://FirstChurchLF.org/give).

## Easter Acclamation

Leader: Christ is risen!

**People: Christ is risen, indeed!**

*(On this day, by ancient tradition, the Easter acclamation is given three times.)*

## Introit

### Antiphon

from *Five Mystical Songs* by Ralph Vaughan Williams

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing:  
My God and King.

The heav'ns are not too high,  
His praise may thither fly:  
The earth is not too low,  
His praises there may grow.

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing:  
My God and King.

The Church with psalms must shout,  
No door can keep them out:  
But above all, the heart  
Must bear the longest part.

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing:  
My God and King.

— George Herbert

## The Welcome

### \*Call to Worship

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**People: Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

Leader: Oh give thanks to the Lord, for God is good!

**People: God's mercy endures forever.**

Leader: Open for us the gates of righteousness.

**People: We will enter them, and give thanks to the Lord.**

Leader: Jesus Christ, the stone that the builders rejected,  
has become the cornerstone.

**People: This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made

**People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

## \*Hymn of Praise No. 232

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!  
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!  
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!  
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!  
our salvation have procured. Alleluia!  
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!  
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!  
praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!  
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

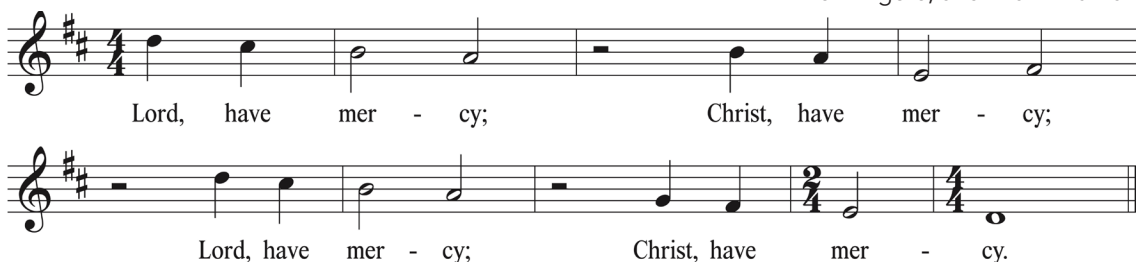
## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

(silent confession...) Resurrected Christ, there is nothing we can do to deserve the grace you give us. And yet you shower these mercies on us. You, who have taken away the sting of death, meet us where we are, in our doubt and fear, in our regrets and shame. Meet us here in this place and call us once again to trust in you. 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

### \*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.**

## Anthem

Easter

from *Five Mystical Songs* by Ralph Vaughan Williams

Rise heart; thy Lord is risen.  
Sing his praise without delays,  
Who takes thee by the hand,  
that thou likewise with him may'st rise:  
That, as his death calcined thee to dust,  
His life may make thee gold, and much more, just.

Awake, my lute, and struggle for thy part with all thy art.  
The cross taught all wood to resound his name, who bore the same.  
His stretched sinews taught all strings, what key  
Is best to celebrate this most high day.

Consort both heart and lute, and twist a song pleasant and long:  
Or since all music is but three parts vied and multiplied;  
O let thy blessed Spirit bear a part,  
And make up our defects with his sweet art.

— George Herbert

## Gospel Lesson

Luke 24:1-12

New Testament, page 90 in pew Bible

## Sermon

Jon Wasson

“The Comedy of Grace”

## \*Hymn of Response No. 238

Thine Is the Glory

Thine is the glory,  
risen, conquering Son;  
endless is the victory  
thou o'er death hast won.  
Angels in bright raiment  
rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-clothes  
where thy body lay.

*Refrain:* Thine is the glory,  
risen, conquering Son;  
endless is the victory  
thou o'er death hast won.

Lo! Jesus meets us,  
risen from the tomb;  
lovingly he greets us,  
scatters fear and gloom.  
Let the church with gladness  
hymns of triumph sing,  
for the Lord now liveth;  
death hath lost its sting. *Refrain*

No more we doubt thee,  
glorious Prince of life!  
Life is naught without thee;  
aid us in our strife.  
Make us more than conquerors  
through thy deathless love;  
bring us safe through Jordan  
to thy home above. *Refrain*

## \*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 sins; 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



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

### I Know that my Redeemer Liveth

from *Messiah* by G.F. Handel

I know that my Redeemer liveth,  
And that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth.  
And though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.  
For now is Christ risen from the dead, the first fruits of them that sleep.  
— Charles Jennens, based on Job 19:25-26, 1 Corinthians 15:20

## **\*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 Thanksgiving and Dedication**

### **\*Hymn of Sending No. 246**

Christ is Alive!

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound  
to distant years in Palestine,  
but saving, healing, here and now,  
and touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift, and war  
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,  
and lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth,  
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,  
and find the way, the life, the truth,  
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.



## **\*Charge and Benediction**

### **\*Benediction Response**

**Hallelujah**

from *Messiah* by G.F. Handel

Hallelujah!

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ;

King of kings, and Lord of lords,

He shall reign for ever and ever.

—Charles Jennens, based on Revelation 19:6, 16, Revelation 11:15

### **\*Postlude**

**Toccata from Symphony No. 5 in F major**

Charles-Marie Widor

## **The Easter flowers throughout the church have been given...**

### **In Memory of**

### **Given By**

Our son, Christopher

Brian & Linda Martinat

My mom, Sally Currie

Julie Currie

Our mother and Nana, Audrey Webster

The Munoz Family

Our father and Papa, James Webster

Our brother and uncle, Scott Webster

Our father and Abuelo, Gustavo Munoz

William & Helen Munson

Elaine Loeser

Kimberly Jean Barclay Combs

Caryl Barclay

Louise Riber and Margaret Johnson

Nancy & John Johnson

Bruce & Virginia Ross

Susan Michaelis

Don & Mona Strenger

Don Jr., Jan, Gale and Rob

Henry T. & Frances Pratt Strenger

## In Memory of

Jerry Ligon

Our parents, grandparents & siblings

Lois Rinehart

Robert & Virginia Neuschel

William Klug, III

William Klug, III

Michael & Frances Leonard

Gene & Barbara Pearson

Norma Garrett

Michelle Bagan Morgan

Dr. Ed Hamming

Laurie Anderson

Laura Lee Sibley

Mother Maria, Father Nikola, and Sister Lily

Mary & Marv Farwell

Our beloved parents and brother: Harry & Dee Power,

Harry Power, III, and John & Margaret Edwards

Hal and Ruthie Derrick

Laura Beth and her father, Lawrence Anderson

Ann & Carl Schultz

Pat & Bob Schmidt

M. David Cain

Maggie Bennett

Herb & Marianne Faulks

## Given By

Fay Ligon

Nancy & Bill Hensel

Jim & Susie Mayhall

Carla Wyckoff

Karey Walker

Sara Graham

Kristin & Garth Pearson

Tricia Heinzmann

Carol Bagan

The Hamming Family

Kay McCurdy

Frank Sibley

Ivanka Stefanova

Liz Farwell & Michael Reyes

Chris & Jack Edwards

Mary Derrick

Frances Anderson

Steve & Julia Simon

Laurel Taylor

Wyn, Joe, David, Jr. Cain Families & Ann Cain Rattin Family

Mom & Dad, Elliot, Dustin, Annie & Molly

Bruce & Patty Bennett and Family

## In Memory of

Libby Faulks

Erick Hoogcarspel

Hildo Hoogcarspel

Karol Karlblom

Miriam Nagode Ramm

Larry Crone

Our parents and sons, David & Michael

John Remington

Hildo & Erick Hoogcarspel

Doris & Ken Wheeler and Sue & Fred Fondriest

Mary Kingsley & Len Moss

Phyllis & Ken Boyer

Louise & Bart Hadler

Gary, Millicent and Robert Kreischer

Don Murphy

Louise & Nancy Kennedy-Lloyd

Ward & Mary McMasters

Donald McMasters

Patricia J. Young, our beloved mother

Edward FitzSimons

Pauline & Neil Raudabaugh

Rebecca & Bill Peebles

Jan & Mack Reynolds

Barbara & Richard Levin

## Given By

Bruce & Patty Bennett and Family

The Bennett Family

The Bennett Family

Bob Karlblom and Anne & Dewey Winebrenner

Jan Zilka

Mary Onorato

Bob & Mary Shaw

His loving family

Dora & Beatrice Hoogcarspel

Diane Fondriest

The Kingsley Family

The Hadler Family

The Kreischer & MacKendrick Families

The Severson & Starkey Families

Jack Lloyd

Jean M. Grost

The Hoekstra and O'Keane Families

The FitzSimons/Harrison Families

Beverly & Joe Raudabaugh

Rich Levin, Sally McDonald and Family

## In Memory of

Esteleen & Homer McDonald

Birdene Odell "Granny" Schoonover

Audrey Vanderaa

Jack & Gregg Bornhoeft

Paulette Wood

Dr. Paul Bubala

## Given By

Rich Levin, Sally McDonald and Family

Richard & Marilyn Holmes

Laura Luce

Nancy & John Laesch

Tia Bagan

Mrs. Carol Bubala and Family

## To the Glory of God

The McNicholas Family

Diane Quinn

The Chantler, Uihlein, Drowne and Crouch Families

## In Honor of

Kristie Finley

Dorothy & Art Chantler

James Arnold Felling

Jim & Gretchen Seymour's 29<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary

Nani and Papa

## Given By

Doug & Laurie Valassis

Karen, Nancy and Julie

The Felling Family

Bob & Shirley Zinn

Alex, Carter & Lily

## Note on the music:

Our choral music for this morning's services comes from two larger works, both by British composers, composed nearly 170 years apart: George Frideric Handel's *Messiah* and Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs*. Handel (1685-1759) was a successful composer of Italian opera, with performances of forty different operas over his first twenty years in London. By the 1730s, opera had fallen out of favor and was replaced with the oratorio – a combination of dramatic elements from operas, church anthems, and the English language. Many of Handel's oratorios were stories drawn from the Old Testament: *Esther*, *Israel in Egypt*, and *Judas Maccabeus* (our Hymn of Response, Thine is the Glory, comes from this oratorio, sung to a different text). In 1741, Handel's friend Charles Jennens wrote the text for a new work unlike his other oratorios – *Messiah*. The work's three acts correspond to a period in Jesus' life: the first, his birth, the second, his death and resurrection, and the third, the resurrection of the dead and glory of Christ in Heaven. Unlike in Handel's other oratorios, there are no named characters. *Messiah* saw its premiere in Dublin in April 1742.

Our Benediction Response, the famous "Hallelujah chorus," closes the second act of the oratorio. It is difficult to ignore the triumph of this chorus, most notably through ascending line that heard throughout the chorus on "For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth." The nearly unstoppable utterances of "Hallelujah" punctuate the movement – Handel often writes them as short notes, almost as though the singers are tripping over themselves in joy to sing them.

The Offertory anthem is the aria for soprano, "I know that my Redeemer liveth." It begins the third and final part of the oratorio and describes Jesus' resurrection and expresses hope for the world to come. The simple setting allows us to focus on the text of the aria and for Handel to subtly demonstrate his text painting (a technique of composing in which the music visually or aurally depicts the text). This is noticeably heard with the ascending melodic line on "for now is Christ risen" – we hear Christ rise from the dead! The aria's tone and music present the Resurrection in a different light: one of simple hope and beauty.

Our other selections are by the British composer Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). Vaughan Williams was raised in a devout Anglican family, who instilled in him strong morals and compassion; this is evident in Vaughan Williams' enlisting in the Royal Army Medical Corps as a medic, despite his advanced age. We sing two songs from the cycle *Five Mystical Songs*, a setting of four poems (the first poem split into two songs) by George Herbert (1593-1633). Herbert was a musician, politician, and Anglican priest, best known today for his metaphysical poetry that sought to define his world through the intertwining of the sacred and profane. *Five Mystical Songs* was composed from 1906-1911 and premiered in September 1911 with a full orchestra. This morning you'll hear a chamber arrangement for string quintet, piano, and trumpets.

Our Introit, "Antiphon," is a bombastic setting of a simple verse and refrain poem that expresses great praise for God. Listen for the refrain "Let all the world in every corner sing, 'My God and King!'" Vaughan Williams follows Herbert's clear formal structure by repeating it throughout the work. Vaughan Williams sets the verses for separate subsections of the choir: the sopranos and tenors, or just the sopranos and altos, creating dizzying variations in a cacophony of praise.

Like Herbert's poetry, Vaughan Williams' setting exudes a deep sense of spirituality, despite Vaughan Williams' own agnosticism. Our Anthem, "Easter," is the first song of the cycle. Herbert's poetry is set mostly for solo baritone; the choir interjects briefly to punctuate the baritone's vocal writing. Listen for the repeating motif around the first line, "Rise heart; thy Lord is risen." Like Handel, Vaughan Williams uses text painting: the piano's ripples when the baritone calls for his lute, or the angular writing in the violins when Herbert describes the "stretched sinews" of Christ on the cross. Herbert's poetry and Vaughan Williams' music invite us into the awe-inspiring mystery of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection. Therefore, like all else this morning, we "sing his praise, without delays."

— Dr. Jack Reeder

# Joys & Concerns

## Joys

For the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and with him, the redemption of all creation

## Concerns

For Bob Crawford, recovering from shoulder replacement surgery.

For the students, faculty and families of those affected by the recent school shootings at Wilmer-Hutchins High School in Dallas, Texas and Florida State University.

## Prayers for the Country and the World

God of all ages and of all people, the shadows and gloom of Good Friday have been dispersed by the light and color of Easter Sunday. We rejoice in your power that turns our sorrow into joy, our despair into hope, our defeat into victory and evil into goodness. Help us on this Easter morning, O God, to burst out of the tombs that have trapped us: tombs of selfishness and sinfulness, greed and gluttony, scandal and corruption, pride and prejudice. Let now a new life of divine grace and human love burst forth from each of us this Easter day, through the grace of Jesus Christ, the Risen One. Amen.

— Robert H. Midgley

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](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

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

### Mission & Outreach

Sally McDonald and Laura Johnson

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

## Weekly Ministries

For details and schedule visit our website at [firstchurchlf.org/ministries](http://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

## Spring Rummage Sale for Mission

Saturday, May 3, 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

Shop clothing, art, accessories, home decor, furniture, and more while raising funds to support our mission partners! If you would like to volunteer for the sale, email [rummage@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:rummage@firstchurchlf.org).

## Church Membership

Interested in learning more about First Pres and becoming more engaged with our church?

For more information on becoming more involved in church ministries or becoming a member, contact Diane Quinn at [engagement@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:engagement@firstchurchlf.org).

## Jon Guerra Concert

**Sunday, June 8**

Singer-songwriter Jon Guerra will be coming to our Sanctuary to perform for an intimate evening of devotional music, featuring songs from his new album, *Jesus*. Jon Guerra is best known for creating devotional music — less Sunday morning worship, more Monday morning prayer. His debut album, *Keeper of Days* (2020), was followed by *Ordinary Ways* (2023). He has also composed music for films like Terrence Malick's *A Hidden Life* (2019). With a diverse range of collaborations and a growing community around his music, Jon's live concerts provide a rich backdrop for listening and engaging with the Spirit.

Tickets are free for church members. Promo code "FirstPres25" will allow you to bypass all fees. [firstchurchlf.org/upcomingevents](http://firstchurchlf.org/upcomingevents)

## First Camp

**Monday, June 9 – Friday, June 13, 9:30-11:30 am**

Join us for our re-imagined Vacation Bible School, now First Camp. This 5-day camp, for up to 40 children ages 3-6 years old, is designed to aid in the transition to Sunday School and Children's Choir. First Camp is led by Rachel Magnusson and parent volunteers. More details and online registration at [firstchurchlf.org/upcomingevents](http://firstchurchlf.org/upcomingevents).



### Sign up for our newsletter!

Scan the QR code or go to [firstchurchlf.org](http://firstchurchlf.org) to receive news and updates from First Pres.

For the full church calendar, schedule of ministries, and more: [www.firstchurchlf.org](http://www.firstchurchlf.org)

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