



First Presbyterian Church OF LAKE FOREST

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



April 27, 2025

Welcome!

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

Today's Service

2nd Sunday after Easter

Because the good news of Easter can hardly be contained in a single day's celebration, Easter marks the beginning of the season of Eastertide, the fifty days that lead up to Pentecost. This season is designed for extended celebration, for exploring the meaning of Christ's resurrection, and for joyful Christian living.

The Revised Common Lectionary scriptures assigned for today are Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118-14-29 or Psalm 150 or 2 Kings 7:1-16 and Psalm 2; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31.

The Baptism

Receiving the sacrament of baptism today are:

Willem Morton Davis and Cecilia Grace Davis, children of Emily Kerschner Davis and Jay Toby Davis.

Frederick Loring Hodgkinson, child of Jeanette Mae Hodgkinson and Daniel Loring Hodgkinson

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.

Worship Participants

Rev. Kristie Finley
Jim Kingsley
Dr. Robert McConnell
Dr. Jack Reeder
Daniel Makins
Brian Hoffman, cello
Rick Day
Gonzalo Zarazaga

Prelude

Holy Manna
Wilbur Held



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

*Call to Worship

(Revelation 1:4-8)

Leader: Jesus Christ is the firstborn of the dead,

People: and the ruler of all kings of earth.

Leader: Jesus loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood.

People: To him be glory and dominion forever and ever.

Leader: Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega,

People: who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

*Hymn of Praise No. 396

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

(silent confession...) **Most merciful God, you never despise us for our doubts and are always seeking after us, but we confess that in times of doubt, we hide ourselves from you. We lock the doors of our hearts against you. We neglect to join together in community. We allow our fears to extinguish the light of your love. Have mercy on us, we pray, and show us your resurrected Son. May we touch his hands and side and truly know that, beyond our doubts, he is our Lord and God. 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.

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.**

* PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE.

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Baptism

Willem Morton Davis

Cecilia Grace Davis

Frederick Loring Hodgkinson

Congregational Question

Leader: Friends, do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture these children, by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging them to know and follow Jesus, and to be a faithful member of Christ's church?

People: **We do.**

***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.

The Baptism

The Welcome

With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into Christ's church.

We are all members of the household of God and family through Jesus Christ.

Sung Response No. 188 verse 3

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me, this I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong.
They are weak, but He is strong.

Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

Following the Baptism, children in preschool through 4th grade will go to their Faith Building class, this week in Fellowship Hall. Please pick up your children following worship.

Anthem

When Nothing is Clear

Daniel Makins

When it was evening,
And there was fear,
After the leaving, when nothing was clear,
Oh, what the night could bring,
Oh, what the night could bring
So, they locked the doors around them,
To keep the dark at bay.
The light of love, extinguished,
It just can't end this way.
They had no words to name it.
They had no words to name it.
Accept the peace God can bring.
Do not doubt, but believe.
Now, just as the fire was breaking,
After a meal to share,
A subtle spirit stirring, a something in the air,
A trying to remember,
Trying to remember.

Then, in the midst of sorrow,
Familiar hope arrived,
Forgiving all the worry,
And precious tears that cried.
Rejoicing, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Rejoicing, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Accept the peace God can bring.
Do not doubt, but believe.
Just when the story looks like darkness can
win,
That's when the real work begins.
So, when it is evening,
And there is fear,
After the leaving, when nothing is clear...
Accept the peace God can bring.
Do not doubt, but believe.

Gospel Lesson

John 20:19-31

New Testament, page 115 in pew Bible

Sermon

Kristie Finley

"Unlocked Witnesses"

*Hymn of Response No. 726

Will You Come and Follow Me

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

Offertory

Now the green blade riseth
from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth
many days hath lain;
love lives again,
that with the dead has been;
love is come again
like wheat arising green.

In the grave they laid him,
love whom hate had slain,
thinking that never
he would wake again,
laid in the earth
like grain that sleeps unseen;
love is come again
like wheat arising green.

Now the Green Blade Riseth

John Macleod Campbell Crum, arr. Daniel Makins

Forth he came at Easter
like the risen grain,
he that for three days
in the grave had lain;
quick from the dead,
my living Lord is seen;
love is come again
like wheat arising green.

When our hearts are wintry,
grieving, or in pain,
thy touch can call us
back to life again;
fields of our hearts
that dead and bare have been:
love is come again
like wheat arising green.

*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. 610

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Commissioning of Rummage Sale Chair-people and Volunteers

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

Scherzo in E Major
Eugène Gigout

* PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE.

Joys & Concerns

Joys

We celebrate the baptisms of Willem and Cecilia Davis.

We celebrate the baptism of Frederick Hodgkinson.

Concerns

For the family of Bob Noble, who died April 18.

For Gale Strenger Wayne on the death of her cousin, Nancy Benson.

For Bob Crawford, who is recovering from shoulder replacement surgery.

Prayers for the Country and the World

O God, week after week you arise, gathering your people, proclaiming your word of life, feeding us with food that is eternal, sharing your Spirit, and renewing the face of the earth. Renew us, renew the leaders of the world that they would hear your call for justice, your call for compassion and see the true needs of the people. Hold close those who suffer and caress their brows with your spirit. O God, transform us by this resurrection, that we may embrace all that you have made and live toward the justice that you intend through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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

Spring Rummage Sale

Saturday, May 3,

8:00 am -3:00 pm

Today begins set up for this year's 75th Anniversary Rummage Sale. Volunteers are needed to help with set up (today, Monday and Tuesday) as well as on sale day (Saturday). Please email rummage@firstchurchlf.org to learn more.

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

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.



Next Chapter

May 15, 4:00 - 5:30 pm, South Parlor

Are you getting ready for the next chapter of your life? Join as we gather to talk about the desires, fears, losses, and possibilities of starting a new phase in life. Whether you are becoming an empty nester, starting a new job or mourning the loss of a partner, let's explore what that feels like and where God is in the midst of it all. No registration required. Questions? Contact Kristie Finley at kfinley@firstchurchlf.org.

Ringin' in the Spring

May 18, 2:00 - 3:30 pm

Join the bell choirs at First Pres on Sunday, May 18, for an afternoon of joyful ringing! Joined by friends from across Chicagoland, the ringers at First Pres will present a short concert, performing outside of worship for the first time since 2021. They will play pieces old and new, and close with several pieces commissioned by Lakeminster Ringers. A small reception will follow.

Jon Guerra Concert

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. 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.

For more information and how to get tickets visit firstchurchlf.org/upcomingevents

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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