



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF LAKE FOREST

Nurturing a community of faith working through love.



Welcome!

March 15, 2026

To all who are weary and seek rest,
To all who mourn and long for comfort,
To all who are lonely and desire friendship,
To all who hunger and thirst for grace,
and to all who will come,

First Pres opens wide her doors and offers
welcome in the name of Jesus Christ.

Today's Service

4th Sunday of 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 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41.

Cover Art: Unknown artist, *The Healing of the Blind Man and the Raising of Lazarus* (c. 1125).

Scan the QR code to learn more about this piece of art.



Prayer for Today

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Book of Common Prayer

Visiting First Pres?



If you're new to First Pres, please scan this code to get in touch.

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

Worship Participants

Rev. Jon Wasson
Pastor/Head of Staff

Dr. Lydia Dugdale
Guest Preacher

Dr. Robert McConnell
Director of Worship & Music

Dr. Stephen Alltop
Organist

Sanctuary Choir

Carol & Cherub Choirs

Sally McDonald
Elder

Mindy Mooney
Deacon

The Baptism

Receiving the sacrament of baptism this morning is Ellis Alexander Van Bel, child of Emily and Max Van Bel.



Our Sanctuary sound system is equipped to broadcast directly to Auracast (via Bluetooth, check your hearing aid's phone app) and T-Coil-equipped hearing aids. Assistive listening devices are also available from the ushers.



Prelude

Organ Sonata No. 1, Op. 63
I. Allegro moderato e serio
Felix Mendelssohn

The Welcome

Introit

The Lord's My Shepherd
Brother James's Air

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; he leadeth me
The quiet waters by.
he leadeth me, he leadeth me,
the quiet waters by.

*Call to Worship

Ephesians 5:8-14

Leader: Once we were in darkness,

People: But now we are in God's light.

Leader: Let us walk together as children of light,

People: For the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.

Leader: Let us arise from sleep! Let us arise from the dead,

People: And the light of Christ will shine upon us.

*Hymn of Praise No. 187

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

(silent confession...) **Most merciful God, we confess that our souls are blind. We fail to see the good in others. We fail to see the evil in ourselves. We do not notice the needs of others. We are oblivious to you, and your working in the world. Forgive us, we pray, and give us the eyes of faith, that we might see ourselves and others rightly and truly, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. 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

*Sung Response No. 59

The Steadfast Love of the Lord

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.**

Baptism

Ellis Alexander Van Bel

Congregational Question

Leader: Friends, do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture this child, by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging him 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

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.**

Anthem

Only Ever Always

Ellie Holcomb and Sandra McCracken

Draw me out with the morning stars
Wake me up with beauty
Sprout a daisy in the yard
Every day remind me

Chorus: In your love we are satisfied
Only ever always
In the morning, in the night
Only ever always

You wrote the song that is in our hearts
Song of joy and wonder
Everyday is a brand new start
His love, it grows us younger. **Chorus.**

Blessing of the Children

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.

Following the blessing, children in preschool through 4th grade may go to their Sunday School classrooms. Every child needs to be checked-in through Church Center before attending. If you haven't already, please scan the QR code to create a Church Center profile and then check-in your child(ren) for Sunday school at one of the check-in stations in the Great Room.



New Testament Lesson

Ephesians 5:8-14

New Testament, page 194 in pew Bible

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. This is why it is said:

“Wake up, sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

Gospel Lesson

John 9:1-11

New Testament, page 102 in pew Bible

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a

beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight."

Sermon

Lydia Dugdale

*Hymn of Response No. 795

Healer of Our Every Ill

Prayers of the People

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, go to firstchurchlf.org/give, or use your Church Center App. Thank you for your generosity!

Offertory

Open Thou Mine Eyes
John Rutter

Open thou mine eyes and I shall see;
Incline my heart and I shall desire;
Order my steps and I shall walk
In the ways of thy commandments.

O Lord God, be thou to me a God
And beside thee let there be none else,
No other, naught else with thee.

Vouchsafe to me to worship thee and serve thee
According to thy commandments
In truth of spirit,
in reverence of body,
In blessings of lips,
In private and in public.

— Lancelot Andrews

*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. 649

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

*Benediction

Choral Response

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me (verse 4)
African American Spiritual

In my troubles, Lord walk with me.
In my troubles, Lord walk with me.
When my life becomes a burden
Lord I want Jesus to walk with me.

*Postlude

Chorale Setting on *St. Anne*
Hermann Schroeder

* PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE.

Prayers

Joys & Concerns

We celebrate this morning's baptism of Ellis Alexander Van Bel, child of Emily and Max Van Bel.

We celebrate the birth of Scott Joseph Small on March 9, parents Megan and Michael Small, siblings Calvin and Weezie.

For Mary Watanabe and her family on the death of her sister, Barbara Tammeus Fyfe.

For the family of Rev. Gordon Butcher, former First Pres Associate Pastor, who died on March 7.

For Ted Rojahn who is at Lake Forest Hospital.

For Jane Grossman and her family on the death of her sister, Sally Duckworth Hansen on March 12 in Wichita, KS.

Community

For the ongoing work of our mission partner, Faraja School, which exists

for children who are too often unseen.

In rural Tanzania, many children with disabilities are hidden away, denied education, and left without medical care. Founded in 1999 in the Kilimanjaro region by the family of First Pres members, Faraja School is the area's only residential primary school for children with physical disabilities. Serving grades K-7, Faraja provides education, therapy, medical care, and vocational training in a nurturing community built on its motto: "Disability is NOT Inability."

Carrying their impact beyond the school walls, they have added Faraja Forward with African-led mobile outreach teams who travel to remote villages to find children who have never received care, bringing treatment, advocacy, and hope to them and their mothers. First Pres is happy to partner with Faraja to ensure every child is seen, supported, and given the chance to thrive.

Prayer Requests

We are a church that prays for each other, celebrating life's joys and supporting each other in times of need. Our staff prays together on Tuesday mornings and would like to include your prayers. For prayer requests please fill out a Joys & Concerns card, email us at pastoralcare@firstchurchlf.org or call 224.544.1962.

Prayer requests will be removed from this listing after two weeks.

Prayer Chain For confidential prayers, you may email prayerchain@firstchurchlf.org. Please know that your prayers will be held in strict confidence.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Dr. Lydia Dugdale, guest preacher

Dr. Dugdale is an Associate Professor of Medicine and Director of the Center for Clinical Medical Ethics at Columbia University, and the founding Co-Director of the Program for Medicine, Spirituality, and Religion at Yale School of Medicine.

Prayer Chapel

Wednesday mornings during Lent, from 7:00–9:00 am, the chapel will be open for self-guided prayer. Guidelines for different prayer practices and coffee will be available.

Youth Groups

Middle Schoolers (5th–8th Grade) and High Schoolers (9th–12th grade) **will not meet this week**. Join us again on April 12.

Dinner & Trivia Night

Join us tonight, 5:00–6:30pm for a fun night of dinner and friendly competition and support our High School Youth Group as they prepare for this summer's Work Trip to Camp Wilderness in Iberia, Missouri. This event is open to all ages with trivia questions for everybody; families with young children are welcome! Register today on Church Center.

Rummage Sale Volunteers

Our Spring Rummage Sale will be held on Saturday, May 2, and your help is greatly needed! Scan the QR Code to fill out the volunteer form.



Meal Train Ministry

The Deacons are starting a Meal Train Ministry. If you would like to provide a meal when needs arise, please register on the Church Center app.

Nursery Supervisor Needed

We are seeking a part-time Nursery Supervisor to lead and maintain our church nursery. This individual creates a welcoming, loving, and safe environment for infants and toddlers during Sunday worship services. The Supervisor oversees a small team of student workers and reports to the Director of Children's Ministry. For more information contact Rachel Magnusson at rmagnusson@firstchurchlf.org.



Find First Pres in Church Center Scan here to log in and learn about everything happening in our congregation!



Announcements and Upcoming Events

Easter Flowers

Offerings for Easter flowers are welcomed in memory or in honor of a loved one. If you would like your offering to be printed in the Easter bulletin, please turn in your donation envelope (which can be found on the name tag tables) or register on Church Center by Tuesday, March 31.

Easter Ushers

Ushers are needed for our 9 am and 11 am services on Easter Sunday, April 5. Register today on Church Center.

Pastoral Care

For pastoral care when the church office is closed, email pastoralcare@firstchurchlf.org or call 224.544.1962 to leave a voicemail.

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday Dinners Thursday, April 2

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. Register on Church Center.

Good Friday Tenebrae Service Friday, April 3, 7:00 pm

Our solemn Tenebrae service is a time of reflection on the passion of Christ. Through scripture readings, music, and hymns, we will journey through the events of Christ's crucifixion as the sanctuary gradually darkens.

Easter Sunday Sunday, April 5, 6:00 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am

Join us at the north pavilion at Lake Forest Beach for a casual sunrise celebration with communion at 6:00 am. Traditional services will be at 9:00 am and 11:00 am in the Sanctuary.

Easter Egg Hunt Sunday, April 5, 10:15 am

Bring your Easter baskets to the Parish House lawn for our annual Egg Hunt between services!



Get Involved Scan this code to get more information about specific ministries, upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.



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