



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF LAKE FOREST

Nurturing a community of faith working through love.



Welcome!

March 22, 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

5th 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 Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45.

Cover Art: Duccio, *The Raising of Lazarus, from the Maestà*, (1310-11).

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



Prayer for Today

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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

Rev. Anna Langholz
Associate Pastor for
Congregational Life

Dr. Robert McConnell
Director of Worship & Music

Sanctuary Choir

Michael Witt
Director of Lakeminster Ringers

Lakeminster Ringers



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

Rhosymedre
Ralph Vaughan Williams
Londonderry Air
arr. Douglas Wagner

The Welcome

Introit

O Christ, the Healer
Stephen Buzard

O Christ, the healer, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends. How can we fail to be restored, when reached by love that never ends?

— Fred Pratt Green

*Call to Worship

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Leader: The Spirit of the Lord set me down in the middle of a valley and it was full of bones.

People: Can these bones live?

Leader: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! I will cause breath to enter you.

People: And we shall live.

Leader: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon those who have died.

People: And we shall live.

Leader: God shall bring us up from our graves.

People: And we shall know that God is the Lord.

*Hymn of Praise No. 440

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Liturgy of Confession

Psalms 130:1-5

Leader: Out of the depths we call to you, O Lord.

People: Lord, hear our voice. May your ears harken to our pleas for mercy.

Leader: If you, O Lord, were to count our sins, who could stand?

People: But there is forgiveness with you, that you may be revered.

Choral Confession

Mercy
Craig Courtney

I dare not lift my guilty eyes.
I hide my lips in trembling shame.
In the darkness of my soul,
I shrink from Your rekindling flame.
Kyrie eleison, have mercy.

In mercy cover me with grace
and blot out my iniquity.
Renew my heart and wash me clean;
grant with Your pardon, purity.
Kyrie eleison, have mercy.

In equal measure of Your love,
You promise mercy and tender compassion
to the one who seeks Your face.
A broken heart, a fainting soul,
a contrite spirit together cry
for Your forgiveness and Your grace.

Against You only have I sinned.
My deeds are evil in Your sight.
Of Your forgiveness, let me sing
and in my singing take delight.
Kyrie eleison, have mercy.
— Susan Bentall Boersma

Assurance of Forgiveness

Psalm 130:6-8

Leader: Our souls wait for the Lord,

People: Even more than the watchmen for the morning.

Leader: Let us hope in the Lord.

People: For with the Lord is steadfast love and great redemption, and God shall rescue us from all our sins.

Leader: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God.

*Sung Response No. 59

The Steadfast Love of the Lord

The musical notation is written on four staves in a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; God's mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning, new every morning; great is your faithfulness, O Lord, great is your faithfulness."

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.

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.



Gospel Lesson

John 11:1-16
New Testament, page 104 in pew Bible

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

Anthem

Resignation
Florence Price

My life is a pathway of sorrow;
I've struggled and toiled in the sun
with hope that the dawn of tomorrow
would break on a work that is done.
My Master has pointed the way,
he taught me in prayer to say:
"Lord, give us this day and our daily bread."
I hunger, yet I shall be fed.

My feet, they are wounded and dragging;
My body is tortured with pain;
My heart, it is shattered and flagging,

What matter, if, Heaven I gain.
Of happiness once I have tasted;
'Twas only an instant it paused
tho' brief was the hour that I wasted
For ever the woe that it caused.
I'm tired and want to go home.
My mother and sister are there;
They're waiting for me to come
Where mansions are bright and fair.

— Florence Price

Gospel Lesson

John 11:17-45
New Testament, page 105 in pew Bible

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was

coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

Sermon

Jon Wasson

"The Sacrament of Showing Up"

*Hymn of Response No. 209

My Song is Love Unknown

*Affirmation of Faith

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

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

Beneath the Cross of Jesus
arr. Barbara B. Kinyon

*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. 645

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

*Benediction

Choral Response

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me (verse 1)
African American Spiritual

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.

*Postlude

Finale from *St. Matthew Passion*
Johann Sebastian Bach, arr. Charles-Marie Widor

Prayers

Joys & Concerns

Traveling mercies for all those on spring break this week.

For John Gescheidle and his family on the death of his father, Dan Gescheidle.

For Susan McDowell and her family on the death of her mother, Joyce.

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 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

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.

Rummage Set-Up Sunday

Help us kick off preparations for our Rummage Sale on Sunday, April 26, 12:00-4:00pm as we unload the trucks and unbox the donations. Children ages 7 and up are welcome to join, and childcare for those 2-6 years old will be available. Register on Church Center.

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 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.

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, 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.

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 11 am services on Easter Sunday, April 5. 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.



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



Announcements and Upcoming Events

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!

First Camp 2026

Monday, June 8 – Friday, June 12 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Sign up today for our 5-day camp for church families with kids between the ages of 3–6 years old to aid in the transition to Sunday School and Children's Choir. Led by Rachel Magnusson and parent volunteers, space is limited to 30 campers. Register your children and yourself as volunteer today on the Church Center App; registration closes on Friday, May 15.

Work Trip 2026

Open to 9th–12th graders, our Annual Work Trip will head to Iberia, Missouri June 7–13. Registration coming soon.



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



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