



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF LAKE FOREST

Nurturing a community of faith working through love.



Welcome!

March 29, 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

Palm Sunday

The first Sunday of Holy Week is commonly called Palm Sunday, referring to Christ's entry into Jerusalem to shouts of "Hosanna!" This is the day on which Jesus entered the city in triumph, but as part of his journey to the cross. This is the week in which the crowd's cries of "Hosanna" would soon turn to "Crucify him!"

The Revised Common Lectionary scriptures assigned for today are Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11.

Cover Art: Félix Louis Leullier, Entrée triomphale du Christ à Jérusalem (1811-1882)

Prayer for Today

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and 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

Dr. Stephen Alltop
Organist

Sanctuary Choir

Worship Flowers

The flowers in the niches are given in memory & honor of our precious Lindsay's 40th birthday on March 31st.

Lindsay Peeler
Always remembered
Forever loved



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

Two Chorale Preludes on “*Valet will ich dir geben*”
Georg Freidrich Kauffmann

The Welcome

*Call to Worship

Matthew 21:5-9

Leader: Say to the daughter of Zion:

People: Behold, your king comes to you, humble and mounted on a donkey.

Leader: Hosanna to the Son of David.

People: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

All: O you who dwell in the highest heaven, save us we pray!

*Processional Hymn No. 196

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

(silent confession...) **Most merciful God, we confess that, like the crowds and disciples who first greeted Jesus as he entered Jerusalem, our hearts are quick to abandon him. We acclaim him as our King, but we are inclined to serve other masters. We profess to follow him, but in times of trial we deny him. We greet him with praise and palms, and in the next moment we say, “crucify him.” Forgive us, O Lord, and give us steadfast hearts willing to follow Jesus even to his passion and death, for he is our only hope in life and death. 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 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 simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. 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 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 Fellowship Hall. 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.



Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Old Testament, page 565 in pew Bible

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever!
Let Israel say,
'His steadfast love endures for ever.'
Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the Lord.
This is the gate of the Lord;
the righteous shall enter through it.
I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.
The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
This is the Lord's doing;
it is marvellous in our eyes.
This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!
O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
We bless you from the house of the Lord.
The Lord is God,
and he has given us light.
Bind the festal procession with branches,
up to the horns of the altar.
You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God, I will extol you.
O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Anthem

Ride On, King Jesus

African American Spiritual arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

Ride on king Jesus,
No man can a-hinder me.
Ride on king Jesus, ride on,
No man can a-hinder me.

King Jesus rides on a milk white horse,
No man can a-hinder me
The river of Jordan he did cross,
No man can a-hinder me.

If you want to find your way to God,
No man can a-hinder me
The gospel highway must be trod,
No man can a-hinder me.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 21:1-11

New Testament, page 23 in pew Bible

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.' This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

'Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

'Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

Sermon

Anna Langholz

"Don't Miss the Forest for the (Palm) Trees"

*Hymn of Response

Ride On, Ride On

1. Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Hear all the
2. Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly
3. Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! The host of
4. Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Your last and
5. Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly

tribes ho - san - na cry; O Sav - ior meek, pur -
pomp ride on to die. O Christ, Your tri - umphs
an - gels in the sky look down with sad and
fierc - est strife is nigh. The Fa - ther on His
pomp ride on to die, bow Your meek head to

sue Your road with palms and scat - tered gar - ments strowed.
now be - gin o'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.
won - d'ring eyes to see th' ap proach - ing Sac - ri - fice.
sap - phire throne a - waits His own a - noint - ed Son.
mor - tal pain, then take, O Christ, Your pow'r and reign.

* PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE.

*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

Benedictus from *Mass in B Minor*
Johann Sebastian Bach

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

*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. 826

Lift High the Cross

*Benediction

Choral Response

Blessed is He in God's Great Name
Scottish Psalter

Blessed is he in God's great name
That cometh us to save.
Give thanks to God for he is good,
His mercy lasts always.
— Psalm 118:26, 29

*Postlude

Fantasia Super "*Valet will ich dir geben*"
Johann Sebastian Bach

Prayers

Joys & Concerns

Traveling mercies for all those returning from spring break.

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.

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

Open every day throughout Holy Week, the chapel is a welcoming space available 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

Senior Luncheon

Join us Wednesday, April 8 at 11:00 am in the South Parlor for a luncheon for seniors. Hosted by the Deacons, this special gathering will feature great food, conversation, and community. Register today on Church Center or contact Sarah Secombe. These lunches are planned through May.

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.

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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