



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF LAKE FOREST

Nurturing a community of faith working through love.



Welcome!

March 8, 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

3rd 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 Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42.

Cover Art: Unknown artist, *Christ and the Samaritan Woman* (6th century). Scan the QR code to learn more about this piece of art.



Prayer for Today

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; 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

Daniel Makins
Songwriter in Residencer

Brian Hoffman
Cello

Garrett Dee
Director of Mission

Flowers in Worship

The flowers in the niches are given in loving memory of Christine Shaw.



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

Cantabile in B major
César Franck

The Welcome

*Call to Worship

Psalms 46:6, Revelation 22:1-2, 17

Leader: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

People: the holy dwelling place of the Most High!

Leader: Behold the river of the waters of life, flowing from the throne of God.

People: On the bank of the river is the tree of life, whose leaves are for the healing of the nations.

Leader: The Spirit says, "Come!" Let all who are thirsty come!

People: Let all who desire drink the water of life without price!

*Hymn of Praise No. 415

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

John 4:5-24

(silent confession...) **O God, you have searched our hearts, and know everything we have ever done. We thirst for things that will never satisfy us. We commit ourselves to things that will never last. We worship things that will never bring us salvation. Forgive us, O Lord, and give us the living water that comes only as a gift from you, and may it be for us a spring gushing up to eternal life, through our Savior Jesus Christ. 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

* PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE.

*Sung Response No. 59

The Steadfast Love of the Lord

The musical score is written on four staves of a single treble clef in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). 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 melody is simple and melodic, with a final cadence on the last note.

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 4:5-15

Old Testament, page 94 in pew Bible

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Anthem

Thirst No More

Sandra McCracken, Leslie Jordan, and Matt Wert

There is a fountain ever flowing
Where the waters are not spent
Here you and I, we trade our sorrows
For the love that will not end

Chorus: Thirst no more
Thirst no more
Thirst no more
Come and drink

There is a river strong and mighty
Giving life abundantly
A fresh supply, a steady current
Joy unending, come and drink. **Chorus.**

Like a tree beside the water
Never dry, my roots grow deep
Storm or drought, I will not wither
There is a peace sustaining me. **Chorus.**

Gospel Lesson

John 4:16-42
New Testament, page 95 in pew Bible

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

Sermon

Jon Wasson

"The Power of a Conversation"

*Hymn of Response No. 475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

*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

West Bank Water And the Woman at the Well Daniel Makins

Did you hear about the woman down at the well?
Down the old dirt path on the edge of town
In the field of Joseph in the noonday sun
She was chattin' up a stranger with a foreign tongue... Hmmm

Mindin' her own business and her daily chore
Just a few more buckets 'til her day was done
She didn't start no trouble, didn't ask for some
Seems he told some kinda riddle and she came undone... Hmmm

He asked her for some water then He said some things
About a life eternal and an endless stream
She couldn't understand what His words might mean
But He sounded like a prophet with a truth in Him

She's in a difficult life in a difficult world
What could He possibly want from a Samaritan girl?
Take all of the West Bank water that you can haul
It seems the Savior's close and connects us all
The Savior's close gonna save us all

He told her secrets only she could know
He said, your wait is over honey – I'm the one
Then she could feel the Spirit, dropped her things and run
To tell the whole town she had met, the One... Hmmm

Can you imagine the hope a Messiah would bring?
Like all those stories from the mountain-tops the old tribes claimed
Do you think Jacob had a notion when he dug that thing?
It would mark the spot where the woman first witnessed Him

We're all in a difficult life in a difficult world
For Spirit and truth and Samaritan girls
Take all of the West Bank water that you can haul
It seems the Savior's close and connects us all
The Savior's close gonna save us all

So take all of the West Bank water that you can haul
Thanks be to heaven come and save us all

*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. 65

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

*Benediction

Benediction Response

In my sorrows, Lord walk with me
In my sorrows, Lord walk with me
When my heart is aching
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me (verse 3)
African American Spiritual

*Postlude

Toccata in E minor
Joseph Callaerts

Prayers

Joys & Concerns

We celebrate that over 70 people served together at Feed My Starving Children yesterday.

For Tina Young and her family on the death of her mother.

Community

For the ongoing work of our mission partner, ElderCARE. Founded in 1968, ElderCARE Lake County is a volunteer-driven nonprofit dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for adults age 60 and older throughout Lake County. ElderCARE's volunteers provide free essential services including: transportation to medical appointments, grocery shopping assistance, technology

support, friendly in-person visits, and reassurance phone calls. First Pres has long supported the work of Elder Care and they always welcome new volunteers.

If interested, please reach out to them at ElderCareLakeCounty.org. Training and flexible scheduling are provided, and volunteers are matched with care receivers based on preferences and availability, making it easier to contribute in a way that's meaningful for both volunteer and senior.

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.

Dinner & Trivia Night

Join us on March 15, 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 Open House

Join us for a Rummage Open House following worship today in Fellowship Hall. Tour the sorting room, see how donations are organized, meet the team who make it all happen, and browse the Easter mini sale.

Senior Luncheon

Join us Wednesday, March 11 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 the Church Center app or contact Sarah Seccombe at sseccombe@firstchurchlf.org. These lunches are planned through May.

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 nametag tables) or register on Church Center by Tuesday, March 31.

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

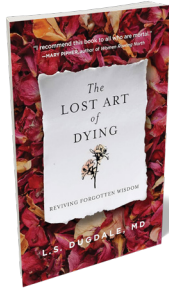
Pastor's Book Club

The Lost Art of Dying

by Lydia Dugdale

March 14, 6:30 pm

Join others in reading *The Lost Art of Dying* by Lydia Dugdale, a thoughtful exploration of why we avoid thinking about death and how Christian faith invites us to face it with honesty and hope.



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. She will join us at Glen Rowan House on the Lake Forest College campus to speak about her book on March 14. Space is limited; for more details and to register visit 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.



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

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 pavillion 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!



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