

Join us at the table as we continue

our Path Forward



First Presbyterian Church
OF LAKE FOREST

November 19, 2023
9:30 AM
Stewardship Sunday

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

Prayer for Worship

O God, the gift of your Son is the life-changing treasure that is truly beyond all value. Your generosity and goodness astounds us! Inspire us to teach your commandments and share your gospel, that all may enter into the joy of Christ. Amen.

Prelude

Oh Rejoice in All Your Works

Wendell Kimbrough

The Welcome

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

We are a community that prays for and with one another. If you wish, we invite you to fill out a Joys & Concerns card (in the pew rack) to share your prayer request.

If you are a visitor and would like us to get in touch with you, please provide your information on the back of the Joys & Concerns card. An usher will collect them later in the service.

During the service, you are invited to stand as you are able where an asterisk () is printed, and speak or sing in unison all passages in bold.*

Let us take a few moments of silence as we prepare our hearts to worship God.



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.

Choral Introit

Thankful am I/Gracias

Elaine Lockwood

Thankful am I for all God gives to me.

I'm thankful for my home, and for my family.

Thankful am I for all God gives to me.

*Call to Worship

Leader: O Lord, how manifold are your works!

**People: In wisdom you have made them all,
the earth is full of your creatures.**

Leader: May the glory of the Lord endure forever.

People: May God rejoice in all God's works.

Leader: We will sing to the Lord as long as we live.

All: We will praise our God while we have being. Hallelujah!

*Hymn of Praise NO. 14

For the Beauty of the Earth

TUNE: DIX

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

(silent confession...) **Loving God, we confess that we have sinned against you by not honoring you or one another. When we place our iniquities before you, it is your love that sheds light on our wayward deeds. As we stand in awe of your constancy for us, we ask your forgiveness through the mercy of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Kyrie

Craig Phillips

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

mer - cy. Lord, 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.*

*Passing the Peace of Christ

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Anthem

Santo, Santo, Santo

arr. Mary Kay Parrish

Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you!

My heart is glad to say the words: Holy is the Lord.

Lord God, almighty, who is and was and us to come.

O holy, holy is the Lord, our God, holy is God's name.

Blessing of the Children

Children and youth not singing in the choir may stay seated for the blessing. All ages will go to their Faith Building classrooms afterwards. Please pick up your children on the 2nd floor following worship.

New Testament Lesson

Matthew 25:14-30

(New Testament, page 28 in pew Bible)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"God is not a Harsh Man"

Jon Wasson

*Hymn of Response NO. 450

Be Thou My Vision

TUNE: SLANE

Invitation to the Offering



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

Offertory

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Harold Friedell
Text by Percy Dearmer

*Draw us in the Spirit's tether,
for when humbly in your name,
two or three are met together,
you are in the midst of them;
Alleluia, alleluia!
Touch we now your garment's hem.*

*As disciples used to gather
in the name of Christ to sup,
then with thanks to God the Father
break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluia, alleluia!
So now bind our friendship up.*

*All our meals and all our living
make as sacraments of you,
that by caring, helping, giving,
we may be disciples true.
Alleluia, alleluia!
we will serve with faith anew.*

***Doxology** *(unison)*

*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 Thanksgiving and Dedication**

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

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.*

***Hymn of Sending** *(see insert)*

Oh Rejoice in All Your Works

Wendell Kimbrough

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response** *(see insert, sing twice)*

Now to Him Who is Able

Robert P. McConnell

***Postlude**

Allegro assai vivace from *Sonata No. 1 in F major*

Felix Mendelssohn

Announcements

Thanksgiving Day Community Service at Church of the Holy Spirit

Join us on Thanksgiving Day at 10:00 AM as we gather with our friends from St. James Lutheran Church and Church of the Holy Spirit for our annual community worship service.

Advent Wreath Making & Dinner Sunday, November 26, 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Sign up for our annual Advent tradition in fellowship and make a special Advent wreath for your home. This is a church wide, all-ages event. Bring grandparents, grandkids, family, and friends to share in the fun! firstchurchlf.org/adventwreath

The church will be closed on November 23 – 24 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Festival Choir for Lessons and Carols

Do you love to sing but can't be with the choir every Sunday? Join the First Pres Festival Choir for our church's service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 10 at 9:30 AM. Rehearsals have begun, but there are three more dates!

Wednesday, November 22, 7:00-8:00 PM

Thursday, November 30, 7:00-8:00 PM

Thursday, December 7, 7:00-9:00 PM

The service of Lessons and Carols invites us to join the shepherds and the angels in the telling of the Christmas story in scripture and in song. The Festival Choir will sing works by Paul Manz, Dan Forrest, Handel's Messiah, and old and new favorites. Contact Jack Reeder (jreeder@firstchurchlf.org) for more information.

Women's Christmas Tea Monday, December 4, 5:45 PM

RSVP to join us for the 21st Annual Women's Christmas Tea, an evening of tea, fellowship, and a Christmas program, supporting Mothers Trust Foundation. Details and sign-up on firstchurchlf.org/christmastea

Giving Tree

In this season of giving, we encourage you to participate in the Giving Tree ministry! The Giving Tree will be going up tomorrow, November 20 and holds names and wishes from those in the Casa Central Chicago InTact program. Select a paper ornament, and return wrapped gifts with their tag by Monday, December 4.

Serve the congregation as a church leader!

The All Church Nominating Committee is assembling a slate for congregational election in February 2024. We ask that you prayerfully consider yourself or nominate others you believe are ready to lead and serve our church. For details and to complete a nomination form, go to firstchurchlf.org/acnc Nominations are due by Sunday, January 28.

**View our full church calendar, weekly schedule of ministries,
and more on our church website: www.firstchurchlf.org**

Find us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube: [@firstchurchlf](https://www.facebook.com/firstchurchlf)

This Week's Calendar

TODAY

8:00 AM	Music Rehearsal, Sanctuary
9:00	Nursery open, Room 212
9:30	Worship, Sanctuary Sunday School, Rooms 213, 214, 215, 219
10:30	Fellowship, Great Room
7:00 PM	Senior High Youth Group, Away

MON

9:30 AM	Rummage Sorting, Rummage Sorting Room
6:00 PM	Knitting Communities Together, Parish House

TUE

9:30 AM	Tuesday Morning Bible Study Group, Parish House
1:00 PM	Prayer Shawl Ministry, South Parlor Adult Bible Study, Zoom
5:30	Lakeminster Ringers, Bell Room
7:00	Chancel Bells, Bell Room
7:30	Boy Scouts Troop Meeting, Fellowship Hall/Rm 012

WED

7:00 PM	Sanctuary Choir, Music Room
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THU Thanksgiving Day, Church Closed

FRI Thanksgiving Holiday, Church Closed

7:00 AM	Men of Corinth Bible Study, Zoom
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Give

Give online or fulfill your pledge:
scan the QR code
or go to FirstChurchLF.org/give.

Worship Participants

Rev. Jon Wasson
Rev. Kristie W. Finley
Dr. Robert McConnell
Susan Noble
Jack Reeder
Christina Maldonado
Nathan Fivecoate
Cherub Choir
Carol Choir
Sanctuary Choir
Worship Ensemble
Georgia Sottosanto-Sorenson, AV Support
Ryder Gamrath, AV Support

Serve, Learn & Connect

For our weekly ministries and Zoom links
firstchurchlf.org/ministries

Share Joys & Concerns

Kristie Finley 224.544.1967

Home Communion

Kristie Finley 224.544.1967

Arrange a Wedding or Baptism

Sarah Seccombe 224.544.1958

Engagement & Membership

Diane Quinn dianequinn@mac.com

Mission

Stewart Kerr 224.544.1968

Elders

Vail Bayly

Paul Bergmann

Donna Coffin

Scott Crawford

Paul Darling

John Gescheidle

Lynnette Hinch

Elinor Hite

John Johnson

Laura Johnson

Sally McDonald

Mary Gould Moorhead

Diane Quinn

Paul Roeck

David Strong

Peter Vander Velde

Anne Warnke *Clerk*

Anne Winebrenner

Deacons

Bill Allen

Nancy Anderson

Carol Bagan

Carolyn Bennett

Dorothy Chantler

Mallory Ciarrocchi

Emily Gilley

Peg Gronau

Nancy Hamming

Jeff Hinch

Cindy Johnson

Dick Johnson

Susan McDowell

John McNicholas

Susan Milanak

Jerry Mortensen *Elect*

Tiffany Notz

Martha Richter

Gale Strenger Wayne
Co-moderator

Tricia Sweet
Co-moderator

Sherry Trenchard

Bert Tucker

Kimberly Tunney

Tess Uihlein

Scott Weston

Staff

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Custodian

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Custodian



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