

*join us at the table*

creating community



**First Presbyterian Church**  
OF LAKE FOREST

**September 24, 2023**  
**9:30 AM**  
*Season of Pentecost*

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

## **Prayer for Worship**

Exodus 16:4-5

O God who knows our every need before we can even ask, you provide all our needs and some of our wants. You bless us all. Make us truly thankful and empower us to bless others from the gifts you have given us, for the glory of your name. Amen.

## **Prelude**

Thaxted  
A Festive Rondo

Gustav Holst, arr. Diane McAninch  
Michael Helman

## **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

Sing, Rejoice, Clap Your Hands

Mark Patterson, 2004

*Sing, rejoice, clap your hands,  
Sing a song of praise to the Lord.*

*Shout from the mountaintops, whisper through the trees,  
Come ev'ry one now rejoice and sing.*

*Sing, rejoice, clap your hands,  
Sing a song of praise, let your voice be raised,  
Sing a song of praise to the Lord.*

## \*Call to Worship

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord! The Lord hears the cries of the people.

**People: Give thanks to the Lord.**

Leader: The works of the Lord are great. Remember what God has done.

**People: Give thanks to the Lord.**

Leader: God has done miracles, and the Lord always remembers  
God's covenant.

**People: Give thanks to the Lord. Glory and praise is due to the Lord!**

# \*Hymn of Praise

O God Beyond All Praising

TUNE: THAXTED



1 O God be-yond all prais - ing, we wor-ship you to - day  
2 The flow'r of earth - ly splen - dor in time must sure - ly die,  
3 Then hear, O gra - cious Sav - ior, ac - cept the love we bring,



and sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can-not re - pay;  
its frag - ile bloom sur - ren - der to you, the Lord most high;  
that we who know your fa - vor may serve you as our King;



for we can on - ly won - der at ev - 'ry gift you send,  
but hid - den from all na - ture the e - ter - nal seed is sown-  
and wheth - er our to - mor - rows be filled with good or ill,



at bless-ings with - out num - ber and mercies with - out end:  
though small in mor - tal stat - ure, to heav-en's gar - den grown:  
we'll tri - umph through our sor - rows and rise to bless you still:



we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word,  
for Christ, your gift from heav - en, from death has set us free,  
to mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,



we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.  
and we through him are giv - en the fi - nal vic - to - ry.  
and make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Michael Perry, 1942–1996

Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

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## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

Gracious God, we have sought after things, but we have not sought after you. We have expected generosity, but we have not shown generosity. We have failed to remember all that you have done. Forgive us and fill our hearts with gratitude. Help us to share our gifts and strengthen our legs so that we can run after you, O God. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### Assurance of Forgiveness

People of God, our sins are forgiven; we are reconciled to God. Let us therefore love one another with gratitude in our hearts and praise on our lips.

### \*Passing the Peace of Christ

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

## — The Sacrament of Baptism —

Receiving the sacrament of baptism today are  
**Wynna Rose McGowan and Lily Melissa McGowan**  
children of Kelsey (Hagberg) and Wesley McGowan

**Henry Anthony Stella**  
child of Nancy (Taubensee) and Martin Stella

### Congregational Question

Leader: Friends, do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture these children by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging them to know and follow Jesus, and to be faithful members of His church?

People: **We do.**

## \*The Apostles' Creed *(unison)*

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 sin; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

## The Baptism

### The Welcome *(unison)*

With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into Christ's church.  
We are all members of the household of God and family through Jesus Christ.

### Sung Response NO. 188 *(stanza 1)*

Jesus Loves Me!

TUNE: 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.***

## Word for Children: Kindergarten Bibles

Following the Anthem, Preschool through 7th graders may leave for their Sunday School Faith Building classes. After worship, please pick up your children from their classrooms on the 2nd floor (rooms 213, 214, 215, 219).

Brynn Riley Ciarrocchi  
Braden Matthew Cicero  
Penelope Concannon  
James Lincoln Mynhier

Margaux Jacqueline Ryswyk  
Donad Schappacher  
Morgan Elizabeth Scheuer  
Sydney Barrett Smith

## Anthem

This is the Day

Mark Burrows, 2011

*Refrain: This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

*This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice, let us rejoice, let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

*This is a day for worship, this is a day for song, a day to praise, our gracious Lord who loves us all life long.*

*Refrain*

*This is a day for sharing, this is a day for prayer, a day to talk with one who listens, the one who's always there.*

*Refrain*

## Prayer for Illumination *(unison)*

**Open us, Eternal God, to your Word read and proclaimed. Help us not to turn from your truth or avoid your message. Help us be receptive to the wisdom you offer. Amen.**

## Scripture Reading

Genesis 11:1-8

*(New Testament, page 9 in pew Bible)*

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

"If We're Better Together,  
Why are We So Far Apart?"

Michael P. McGillicuddy, LCSW

## \*Hymn of Response NO. 756

O God of Every Nation

TUNE: LLANGLOFFAN

## 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](http://firstchurchlf.org/give). Thank you for your generosity!

## Offertory

Amazing Grace

arr. John Coates Jr.

*Amazing grace! how sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!*

*Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come:  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we first begun.*

## \*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 Dedication (unison)

**Lord, giver of all good gifts, thank you for the resouces gathered here. Use these gifts for the advancement of your kingdom; in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## 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 NO. 269

Lead On, O King Eternal

TUNE: LANCASHIRE

### \*Charge and Benediction

#### \*Benediction Response

Amazing Grace

arr. Jack Reeder

*The Lord has promised good to me,  
His Word my hope secures;  
He will my Shield and Portion be,  
As long as life endures.*

*The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,  
The sun forbear to shine;  
But God, Who called me here below,  
Will be forever mine.*

### \*Postlude

Festival Toccata

Percy Fletcher



# If We're Better Together, Why are We So Far Apart?

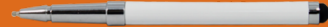
## Navigating Divisive Topics: Discussion & Workshop



LUNCH  
&  
LEARN



meet. eat. learn.



**Michael  
McGillicuddy**

**Today following worship,  
Fellowship Hall**

Adult Faith Formation welcomes back Michael P. McGillicuddy, LCSW and founder of the Untying Knots organization.



## Coming up...



### Fall Sale for Mission

Volunteers for set up (Wednesday & Thursday) and sale day are needed! Volunteer Card sign ups can be found on the name tag tables or email [rummage@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:rummage@firstchurchlf.org)



### Fall Dinner & Movie Night

**Sunday, October 15, 3:00 - 6:00 PM**

Children and middle schoolers are invited to join us in the Great Room for a fun fall dinner and movie night! We'll start with pumpkin decorating, watch Encanto, and have a casual dinner together. RSVP's are helpful but not required. Sign up at [firstchurchlf.org/encanto](http://firstchurchlf.org/encanto)



### Coffee and a Cause

**Thursday, October 12, 9:00 - 10:00 AM**

Join us in the Great Room as we support The Night Ministry by making 150 sack suppers! We are currently collecting sandwich-size ziploc baggies, individually wrapped bags of chips or crackers, granola bars, water bottles and brown paper lunch bags (larger size preferred). For more details visit: [firstchurchlf.org/coffee-and-a-cause](http://firstchurchlf.org/coffee-and-a-cause)

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View our Weekly Schedule of ministries, and find details and Zoom links on our church website: [www.firstchurchlf.org/ministries](http://www.firstchurchlf.org/ministries)

Church Website: [www.firstchurchlf.org](http://www.firstchurchlf.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/firstchurchlf](http://www.facebook.com/firstchurchlf)  
Instagram, YouTube: [@firstchurchlf](https://www.instagram.com/firstchurchlf)

## This Week's Calendar

### TODAY

- 8:30 AM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary  
9:00 Nursery open, Room 212  
9:30 Worship, Sanctuary  
Sunday School, Room 213, 214, 215, 219  
10:30 Fellowship, Great Room  
10:45 Lunch & Learn, Fellowship Hall  
Worship Ensemble Rehearsal, Sanctuary  
5:00 PM Middle School Youth Group, Youth Lounge  
7:00 Senior High Youth Group, Youth Lounge

### MON

### TUE

- 9:30 AM Tuesday Morning Bible Study Group, Parish House  
1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry, South Parlor  
Adult Bible Study, Zoom  
5:00 Staff Support Team Cmte. Mtg., Parish House/Zoom  
5:30 Lakeminster Ringers, Bell Room, 009  
7:00 Chancel Bell Choir, Bell Room, 009  
7:30 Boy Scouts Troop Meeting, Fellowship Hall/Rm 012

### WED

- 10:00 AM Wednesday Women's Bible Study, S. Parlor/Zoom  
11:00 Resource Grp: Caregivers of Terminally Ill, Bride's Rm  
4:15 PM Carol Choir, Music Room  
5:00 Cherub Choir, Music Room  
Confirmation Class, Stuart Room 214  
5:30 Wednesday Night Supper, Great Room  
6:30 Offering of Music and Paryer, Sanctuary  
7:00 Youth & Young Adult Faith Form. Cmte., Youth Lounge

### THU

- 6:30 AM Daybreakers Men's Bible Study, Great Room/Zoom  
7:00 PM Mom's Small Group, Youth Lounge  
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Music Room

### FRI

- 7:00 AM Men of Corinth Bible Study, South Parlor/Zoom



## Give

Give online or fulfill your pledge:  
scan the QR code  
or go to [FirstChurchLF.org/give](https://FirstChurchLF.org/give).

The flowers in the niches are given in loving  
memory of Jack and Corrine Reichert.

**Pastor on call:** Kristie Finley 847.942.4057

## Worship Participants

Rev. Kristie W. Finley  
Mike McGillicuddy, LCSW  
Dr. Robert McConnell  
Jack Reeder  
Susan Noble  
Cherub and Carol Choirs  
Lakeminster Ringers  
Sanctuary Choir  
Rick Day, AV Support Lead  
Georgia Sottosanto-Sorenson, AV Support  
Ryder Gamrath, AV Support

## Serve, Learn & Connect

**For our weekly ministries and Zoom links**  
[firstchurchlf.org/ministries](https://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](mailto: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

Rev. Kristie W. Finley *kfinley@firstchurchlf.org*  
Associate Pastor for Congregational Life + Engagement

Dr. Robert P. McConnell *rmcconnell@firstchurchlf.org*  
Director of Music + Arts

Jan McNicholas *jmcnicholas@firstchurchlf.org*  
Director of Business Operations

Kane Q. Kowalik *kkowalik@firstchurchlf.org*  
Director of Communications

Stewart Kerr *skerr@firstchurchlf.org*  
Director of Mission

Suzie Brunner *sbrunner@firstchurchlf.org*  
Director of Preschool

Anne Winebrenner *awinebrenner@firstchurchlf.org*  
Interim Director Youth + Young Adult Faith Formation

Susan Noble *childrensmusic@firstchurchlf.org*  
Director of Children's Music

Jack Reeder *jreeder@firstchurchlf.org*  
Director of the Sanctuary Choir

Sarah Seccombe *sseccombe@firstchurchlf.org*  
Program Administrator

Lenka Vrazda *lvrazda@firstchurchlf.org*  
Financial Associate

Patrick Goymerac *pgoymerac@firstchurchlf.org*  
Financial Accounting Manager

Dina Price *dprice@firstchurchlf.org*  
Office Assistant

Rick Day *rday@firstchurchlf.org*  
AV Support + Production Leader

Christina Maldonado *cmaldonado@firstchurchlf.org*  
Worship Team Leader

Nathan Fivecoate *nfivecoate@firstchurchlf.org*  
Worship Team Associate

Cat Rodriguez *custodian@firstchurchlf.org*  
Custodian

Guillermo Montufar *custodian@firstchurchlf.org*  
Custodian



**First Presbyterian Church**  
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700 North Sheridan Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045  
847.234.6250 | FIRSTCHURCHLF.ORG