



First Presbyterian Church

OF LAKE FOREST

September 27, 2020

Season of Pentecost

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

God of life, there are days when the burdens we carry are heavy on our shoulders and weigh us down, when the road seems dreary and endless, the skies gray and threatening, when our lives have no music in them, and our hearts are lonely, and our souls have lost their courage. Flood the path with light, turn our eyes to where the skies are full of promise; turn our hearts to brave music; give us the sense of comradeship with heroes and saints of every age; and so quicken our spirits that we may be able to encourage the souls of all who journey with us on the road of life, to your honor and glory. **Amen.**

-Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

THE WELCOME

PRELUDE

Alleluia Fanfare

Fred Gramann, 2011

CALL to WORSHIP

from Luke

Leader: Jesus taught, "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?...
But love your enemies, do good, and bend, expecting nothing in return."

People: **"Your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High;
for God is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked."
May we too be merciful, just as our Father is merciful.**

**Please stand if you are able.*

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures

of the sea. There's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice,
of the mind. And the heart of the E-ter-nal

which is more than lib-er-ty. There is no place where earth's
is most won-der-ful-ly kind. If our love were but more

sor-rows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place
faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's Word, and our lives re-

where earth's fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
flect thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our Lord.

**Please stand if you are able.*

A PRAYER of CONFESSION and ASSURANCE

Leader: Let us pray. Because you made the world, and intended it to be a good place, and called its people your children; because, when things seemed at their worst, you came in Christ to bring out the best in us; so, gracious God, we gladly say:

People: Goodness is stronger than evil, Love is stronger than hate, Light is stronger than darkness. Truth is stronger than lies.

Leader: Because confusion can reign inside us, despite our faith; because anger, tension, bitterness and envy distort our vision; because our minds sometimes worry small things out of all proportion; because we do not always get it right, we want to believe:

People: Goodness is stronger than evil, Love is stronger than hate, Light is stronger than darkness. Truth is stronger than lies.

Leader: Because you have promised to hear us, and are able to change us, and are willing to make our hearts your home, we ask you to confront, control, forgive and encourage us, as you know best.

(Pause)

Then let us cherish in our hearts that which we proclaim with our lips:

People: Goodness is stronger than evil, Love is stronger than hate, Light is stronger than darkness. Truth is stronger than lies.

Leader: Lord, hear our prayer, and change our lives until we illustrate the grace of the God who makes all things new.

People: Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE No. 654

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

Tune: IN THE LORD

In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful, in the Lord I will re -

**Please stand if you are able.*

joyce! Look to God, do not be a - fraid. Lift up your
 voice - es, the Lord is near, lift up your voice - es, the Lord is near.

TEXT AND MUSIC: Jacques Berthier
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PASSING THE PEACE of CHRIST

PRESENTATION of KINDERGARTEN BIBLES

Receiving Bibles are: Christina Lee Bennett, Belle Ryan Ciarrocchi, Clementine Clunn, Caleb Nathaniel Lauby, Peter Richard McNicholas, Russell Lawrence McNicholas, Henry Murch, Avery Elizabeth Price, Hannah Grace Price, Leah Michelle Taubensee, and Grace Lucinda Vallaly.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:38–48

‘You have heard that it was said, “An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.” But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

‘You have heard that it was said, “You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.” But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you

**Please stand if you are able.*

have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Love in Action”

Rev. Clinton G. Roberts

OFFERTORY

Song of Assurance

Arnold B. Sherman, 2009

***DOXOLOGY, No. 606**

Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***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.

INTRODUCTION of DR. KEN SAWYER, McCormick Theological Seminary

SHARING OF OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

**Please stand if you are able.*

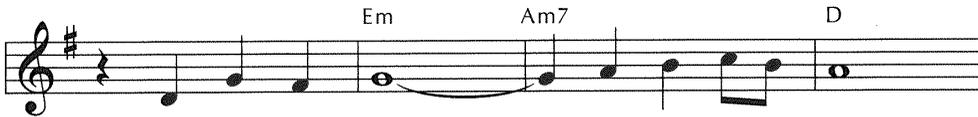
***HYMN OF SENDING No. 693**

Though I May Speak

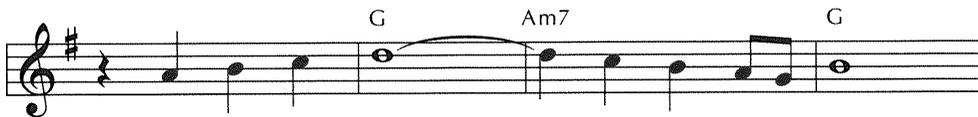
Tune: GIFT OF LOVE



1 Though I may speak with brav - est fire,
2 Though I may give all I pos - sess,
3 Come, Spir - it, come, our hearts con - trol;



and have the gift to all in - spire,
and striv - ing so my love pro - fess,
our spir - its long to be made whole.



and have not love, my words are vain,
but not be given by love with - in,
Let in - ward love guide ev - ery deed;



as sound - ing brass, and hope - less gain.
the prof - it soon turns strange - ly thin.
by this we wor - ship, and are freed.

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Celebration No. 5 in C

Michael R. Keller, 1993

*To give online or fulfill your pledge: FirstChurchLF.org/give

*To give to our COVID-19 Fund: FirstChurchLF.org/give/covid-fund-donations

*For information on our Mission Food Depot: FirstChurchLF.org/mission-food-depot

Pastor Kristie day off is on Friday. Pastor Clint's day off is on Friday.

**Please stand if you are able.*

Participants in worship:

Rev. Clinton G. Roberts

Rev. Kristie W. Finley

Jim Cochrane

Sarah Seccombe

Barry Wenger

Chancel Bells

Susan Noble

Catherine Larson

Gabe Knott

Tom Tropp

T.S. Elliot

Peter Elliot

Will Elliot

**Please stand if you are able.*