



First Presbyterian Church

OF LAKE FOREST

July 19, 2020

Season of Pentecost

PRAYER of PREPARATION

With you, O God, to guide me,
I journey on my way.
I know you are beside me
All through the night and day.
Within your hand you hold me;
What do I have to fear?
Your loving arms enfold me,
Your grace is always near.
-St. Columba (c.521-597)

PRELUDE

Songs of Foundation and Singing

arr. Lani Smith, 2006

WELCOME

CALL to WORSHIP

LEADER: Let us call on our God and give thanks.

PEOPLE: **Glory be to God in whose covenant we find life.**

LEADER: Let us open ourselves to God's presence.

PEOPLE: **Let us seek the strength that God alone provides.**

HYMN OF PRAISE, No. 49

The God of Abraham Praise

TUNE: LEONI

*The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above,
the Ancient of Eternal Days, the God of love:
the lord, the great I am, by earth and heaven confessed,
we bow before your holy name, forever blest.*

*Your spirit still flows free, high surging where it will.
In prophet's word you spoke of old and you speak still.
Established is your law, and changeless it shall stand,
deep writ upon the human heart by your strong hand.*

*Your goodly land we seek, with peace and plenty blest,
a land of sacred liberty and Sabbath rest.
There milk and honey flow, and oil and wine abound,
and trees of life forever grow with mercy crowned.*

***You have eternal life implanted in the soul;
your love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.
We praise you, living God! We praise your holy name:
the first, the last, beyond all thought, and still the same!***

CALL TO CONFESSION

When we run away from our problems, we discover that we cannot run away from ourselves. Yet God is present with us to hear our confession and offer forgiveness. God brings us back to face what we have left behind in order that we may claim the promise of reconciliation and wholeness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Search us and test us, that all wickedness may be purged from us, O Creator. Save us from our futile striving after our own advantage. Reshape our will to conform with your intentions for us. We confess that we have allowed weeds to grow in our lives. Our focus has drifted from the harvest you intend to the fears and greed that hold us hostage. Release us from bondage to decay that we may grow in likeness to Jesus Christ. We want to bear fruit for you. Turn us to the brightness of a new day. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

SUNG RESPONSE

Surely the Presence

Tune: SURELY THE PRESENCE

***Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;
I can feel His mighty power and His grace.
I can hear the brush of angel's wings, I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.***

PASSING THE PEACE

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE:

Jacob's Dream

Genesis 28: 10 -22

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the LORD stood beside him and said, 'I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.' Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!' And he was afraid, and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.'

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel; but the name of the city was Luz at the first. Then Jacob made a vow, saying, 'If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God, and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house; and of all that you give me I will surely give one-tenth to you.'

SERMON

“Wherever You Go”

Rev. Clinton G. Roberts

OFFERING

“Wondrous Love”

Richard Walters, 1993

A.J. Buegel and Jesse Bettis, duet

DOXOLOGY No. 606

Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God, from whom all blessing flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Thank you, God, for the rich heritage of faith we have received from our ancestors. We are grateful that your Spirit is ever with us, assuring us of your acceptance and love. May our offerings share this good news with other children of God who have not yet discovered their identity. May all of us grow in righteousness that we might together experience the reality of your realm in our daily lives, here and now and for all eternity. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER 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

Children of the Heavenly Father

Tune: SWEDISH MELODY

*Children of the heavenly Father safely in his bosom gather;
nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge e’er was given.*

*God his own doth tend and nourish; in his holy courts they flourish;
from all evil things he spares them; in his mighty arms he bears them.*

*Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever;
unto them his grace he showeth, and their sorrows all he knoweth.*

*Though he giveth or he taketh, God his children ne’er forsaketh;
his the loving purpose solely to preserve them pure and holy.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Praeludium No. 21 in Bb Major

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

*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 is on vacation this week. Pastor Clint's day off is on Friday.

Participants in worship:

Rev. Clinton G. Roberts

Jim Cochrane

Sarah Seccombe

Barry Wenger

A.J. Buegel and Jesse Bettis, duet

Peter and Will Elliott, AV support