



Franz Marc, "The First Animals" 1913

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 27, 2022

10:00 am Worship Service

Experience God. Grow Disciples. Transform Lives.

Welcome to worship at First Presbyterian Church of Wilmette! We're so glad you're here. Whether you're a long-time member or first-time visitor, we are blessed to have you with us. We hope joining us for worship today will nurture your heart and transform your mind. You are loved and never alone!

Our mission statement here is **“Experience God. Grow Disciples. Transform Lives.”** As a church, we strive to be about that simple and challenging work day after day, in season and out of season. The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically altered our lives, but it has also revealed what is most important. As we lean into what the weeks and months ahead will be like, we will continue to pray for one another. We will keep growing as followers of Christ. We will keep loving and listening to our neighbors. We will keep the hand to plow, working to embody God's dream for the world. We will keep reminding ourselves that we are a work in progress.

As we continue both in-person and livestreamed services, we are committed to keeping everyone safe and finding fresh and creative ways to worship together. We value your feedback – let us know what is going well and what could be better!

- A worship bulletin will be available (hardcopy in person or pdf online)
- Please join in the liturgy and prayers and passing of the peace, as directed
- The offering plate will be available to place a cash or check gift in before or after the service
- Join us after worship in the Lounge for fellowship and coffee

We're so glad to be worshipping with you in person and online! You are loved and never alone, friends.

With gratitude in Christ,

Pastors Jeff Lehn and Laura Sherwood

Spiritual Practice:

Take an “Awe Walk” (Solo or with Family/Friends)

We're on the verge of spring! It's a great time to try the spiritual practice of taking an “Awe Walk.” You can do it by yourself or with others. The practice is simple. Take a walk in your neighborhood or through a park or forest preserve nearby. Ask God for an open heart, open mind and open body to receive the beauty and wonder of creation. What do you notice? Up high? Down low? What do you smell? What sounds do you hear? Which people or animals did you observe? What gives you awe and wonder? Where do you see God's beauty?

The experience of awe leads us so naturally to what Anne Lamott calls “the third great prayer, Wow.” She says, “Wonder takes our breath away, and makes room for new breath.” It wakes us up to the presence of the God we seek in every moment.

Adapted from and inspired by Lindley Traynor

Order of Worship

Sunday, March 27, 2022

*Indicates please stand, rise in body and spirit as you are able.

Worship Leaders

Rev. Jeff Lehn, preaching
Rev. Laura Sherwood, pastoral liturgist
Dan Langewisch, acolyte
Greg Korak, liturgist
Langewisch family, Lenten Liturgy/Progressive Display
Peggy Massello, Music Director
Hyejin Joo, accompanist
Chancel Choir

PRELUDE - *Herzliebster Jesu* (O Dearest Jesus)

Johannes Brahms

ENTRANCE OF THE LIGHT

The Acolyte brings in the light to remind us that we have gathered in the light of Christ.

WELCOME AND COMMON LIFE

LENT 4 - OPENING LITANY AND PROGRESSIVE DISPLAY (unison):

For the Beauty of the Earth: Animals and Birds (Genesis 1:24-25)

As we walk together on this year's journey through Lent...

...May we give thanks for God's creation whenever we spend time with our pets or hear birds singing.

2 sparrow figurines are placed on the Display representing all animals and birds.

LENTEN PRAYER (unison)

We lift to you the inhabitants of your temple, Holy God, the ones who have made their nests among your altars in the world. For those seen and unseen creatures and living things that attest to your creative power, we ask your blessing upon them. Continue to guide us through this time of Lent so that every day, we draw closer to your dream for us and for all creation. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN NO. 12— *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

ST. DENIO

CALL TO CONFESSION (Congregation may be seated)

As image-bearers of God, we are called into loving communion with all creation: meeting our needs, loving our neighbors and fostering the flourishing of the earth. God relies on us to maintain the beauty of the world. Yet we often neglect our call. Let us confess our sin and seek God's forgiveness and renewal, first in silent prayer...(silence is kept)...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of all creation, you loved us into being, yet we often flee our rightful place in your creation. We confess that we exploit the gifts you place around us and dominate the richness of the natural order. Forgive our greedy grasping. We confess our part in harming our planet home. Heal and restore us, O God, and put us in right relationship with your beautiful creation. May we help your creation reach its potential, so that each person, animal, place and thing lives in balance with everything else. Come and find us, set us right again, and take us home. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, nothing can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. The only thing that can separate you is the thought that you are separate. Rejoice in forgiveness. Rejoice in empowerment. Rejoice in new creation.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Now, let us share with each other the peace that forgiveness brings, saying:

The peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (Hymn No. 14 verse 4)

**For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING - Psalm 84:1-4 (pg. 543 in the Old Testament)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON -

Rev. Jeff Lehn

HYMN OF RESPONSE - *O God, Your Creatures Fill the Earth*

tune: ELLACOMBE, text: Carolyn Gillette

O God, your creatures fill the earth with wonder and delight,
And every living thing has worth and beauty in your sight.
So playful dolphins dance and swim; your sheep bow down and graze.
Your songbirds share a morning hymn to offer you their praise.

You made the pets we welcome in, they're wondrous blessings too.
With paws and whiskers, wings and fins, they offer praise to you.
O Lord, you call us to embrace these creatures in our care.
May we show kindness, love and grace to all pets everywhere.

You made the creatures on each farm; you know the things they need.
May they grow healthy, safe from harm, and safe from human greed.
Just as a shepherd loves the sheep, you know their joy, their pain.
Lord, bless the animals we keep; may all farms be humane.

Your creatures live in every land; they fill the sky and sea.
O Lord, you give us your command to love them tenderly.
We're called to have dominion here, to care for them always.
By loving creatures you hold dear, we offer you our praise.

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.

ANTHEM - *How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place* (text: Psalm 84:1-4)

Robert J. Powell

WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD'S BEAUTY THIS WEEK?

CALL FOR OFFERING

As we gather our gifts and offer them to God, may we do so in gratitude and praise.

We invite you to give via our church website www.fpcw.org, our smartphone app, or sending a check to the church office. An offering plate is also available in the Narthex.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE - The Doxology (OLD HUNDREDTH - Hymn No. 606)

**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)

God of all creatures, we give these offerings in gratitude, rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us. We give these offerings in faith, trusting that you will provide for our needs. We give these offerings in hope, knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world. And with these offerings, we give ourselves; May we live with generous hearts, with open hands. Amen.

*SENDING HYMN NO. 17 - *Sing Praise to God, You Heavens!*

WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*FOLLOWING THE LIGHT

The Acolyte carries the light as we go out, to remind us that we both follow and carry Christ's Light into the World.

POSTLUDE - *Lamb of God, Pure and Holy*

Johann Pachelbel

Sources

Lent IV - Opening Litany and Progressive Display: written by Rev. Laura Sherwood for First Pres Wilmette; Unison prayer inspired by Fifth Saturday prayer from *For the Beauty of the Earth Lenten Devotional* by Leah D. Schade.

Our Common Life

Week of March 27th, 2022

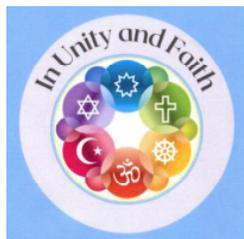


Updated Mask Policy at First Pres

At the Session March 14 Session meeting our Elders voted to update our current mask policy, upon the recommendation of the COVID Task Force. Beginning on Saturday, March 19, indoor gatherings at First Pres are now mask-optional for all attendees, including in-person Sunday worship, fellowship events, and small group gatherings.

Anyone who wishes to continue to wear a mask for any reason is encouraged to do so.

And any groups that meet in the church building are welcome to go mask-optional or to determine on their own if they wish to require wearing masks. As we have tried to do over the last two years of the pandemic, we encourage everyone to lean into our Christian virtues of grace, love, and understanding as different people will make different choices about whether to wear a mask. On Sunday mornings, a reminder that the Sanctuary balcony provides the best air circulation during worship, and the Lounge is always available to watch the Livestream with ample physical distancing opportunities. If you have any questions or concerns about Session's decision, please reach out to an Elder or any member of the COVID Task Force: Steve Reinhart, Jane Rankin, Brian Hughes, Tammy Walker, and Jeff Lehn.



Celebrating Wilmette's Sesquicentennial, 1872 - 2022

On Monday, March 28th, from 7 to 8:15 pm, join members of the Wilmette faith communities to celebrate where we have been and offer prayers for what Wilmette may become in the next 150 years. This event will take place at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 1747 Lake Ave. Wilmette. You can attend in person or on the St. Joseph's YouTube channel. To learn more about this event check out the Wilmette 150 website at

www.wilmette150.org/events.

HOLY WEEK 2022



PALM SUNDAY

April 10th

10 am Worship Service
in-person /Livestreamed



MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 14th

5:45 pm Soup Supper (WMFC)
6:30 pm Worship Service
(Sanctuary)
in-person/Livestreamed



GOOD FRIDAY

April 15th

3 - 6 pm Self-guided
Stations of the Cross (Chapel)



EASTER SUNDAY

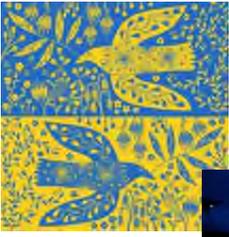
Join us Easter Sunday for one of two worship services.

9 am Worship in-person (Sanctuary)

10 am Fellowship Hour (Lounge)

11 am Worship in-person and
Livestreamed (Sanctuary)

There will be one Fellowship Hour
after the 9 am worship service.



FPCW's Mission Committee is pleased to share the good news about the success of our matching gift program in support of the Ukrainian refugee relief effort through PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.).



As of the end of last week, members of the congregation have contributed over \$9700...and more donations will definitely be coming in.



A check for \$20,000 (including the \$10,000 match from mission funds) will be sent this week. We are very grateful to be able to channel humanitarian relief funds to the people of Ukraine.

Tower Benefit Dinner – Sunday, April 24 at 5:00 pm in WMFC

Save the date because you are invited to the Tower High School Youth Benefit Dinner! The Benefit Dinner is a night of fun for the whole family including games, prizes, and an auction. The proceeds from the event will go to support the Youth Work Trip. This summer Tower is going to help rebuild homes in Ronceverte, WV. If you would like to support the youth, please consider donating to the Benefit Dinner. Contact Scott McElhenie with questions or donations, email: youth@fpcw.org.



Easter lilies and hydrangeas will beautify the church during the Easter season. You may purchase a plant in memory of a loved one or in appreciation of a special person. A list of those being remembered and appreciated, and the donors, will be published in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

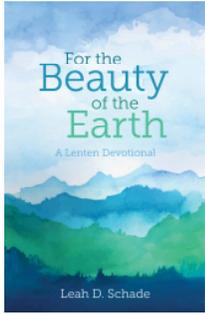
If you purchase a plant(s) for your personal use, please wait until after the 11:00 am service on **April 17th** to pick up your plant(s). The cost per plant is \$15 each for a Easter Lilly, and \$21 each for a Hydrangea.

Order forms are available today in your bulletin and in the office. Please complete the order



Fellowship Hour Hosting

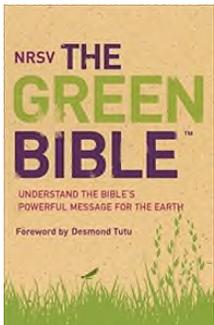
We are gathering once again after the Sunday Worship Service for our long-standing tradition of Fellowship Hour. We are in need of individuals, families, or committees to take on the Fellowship Hour hosting role. It's easy to do and a wonderful opportunity for the congregation to gather with old friends and greet visitors. The SignUp Genius link is available on the News and Publications page of our website www.fpcw.org and in the Tuesday, Daily Bread..



Our theme for Lent this year is “For the Beauty of the Earth.” Drawn from the title of the beloved hymn written by Follitt Pierpoint in 1864, our theme will unfold week after week in worship as we focus on a different aspect of God’s good creation. We will also reflect on how creation nurtures us and our call to steward the earth, our precious home. Throughout Lent – from Ash Wednesday to Holy Week – you’re encouraged to read the daily devotional by Leah Schade of the same name. Each daily devotion includes scripture, a brief reflection and questions to ponder, or a spiritual practice for the day. Pick up your copy from the church office beginning on Sunday, February 27, or call or email Madeline Weston to ask her to send one to you (office@fpcw.org; 847-256-3010)

Adult Faith Formation Class

Sundays, 8:30-9:30 am (through April 10)



“The Green Bible and 50 Ways to Help Save the Earth”

Join Pastor Jeff for this six-week Lenten study that serves as a “deeper dive” into our broader theme for the season: “For the Beauty of the Earth.” Each week, we will (1) look at a portion of “The Green Bible,” a recent translation of the Bible focused on creation care, and (2) discuss several practical ways that we can make a difference. No pre-reading required – just come and grow with us as we together seek to “Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently, nourish the life of the world in our care” (Shirley Erena Murray).

PROGRAMMING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH – Week of March 27th, 2022 (Spring Break)

SUNDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS

Children’s Chapel for children ages 3 yrs. - 6th grade. No Children’s Chapel today.

After the Sharing of the Peace, children ages preK - 6th grade are invited to either remain in the sanctuary with their families, or move to the chapel for an age-appropriate time of worship, lead by Lindley Traynor (ltraynor@fpcw.org), Dir. of Children & Family Ministries, and Scott McElhenie (youth@fpcw.org), Dir of Youth and Family Ministries. This is a meaningful time of encountering God and connecting with each other through simple liturgy, songs, prayer, and the stories of our faith. Children return to sit with their families toward the end of the service in the sanctuary.

7th and 8th Grade Youth Group and Confirmation Class. No Confirmation Class today.

Sundays 11:00 am-12:00 noon in Wallace Moore Fellowship Center. All 7th and 8th graders are invited to join the group which will include activities and discussion to help dive into the meaning of our faith and how faith applies to our lives. 8th graders will have additional opportunities to reflect on their desire and readiness to be confirmed as active members of the church. Contact Pastor Laura Sherwood, lsherwood@fpcw.org.

TOWER Senior High Youth – 5:00 - 7:00 pm No Tower Youth gathering today.

Senior High Youth will gather tonight at 5:00 pm in the WMFC for a devotion (“For the Beauty of the Earth” by Leah D. Schade), fellowship and dinner. Questions? Contact: Scott McElhenie, youth@fpcw.org

Mid-Week Meet-Up - Wednesdays 4:45-5:45 pm No Mid-Week Meet-Up on Wednesday.

activity and music (singers and ringers) followed by dinner provided in Wallace Moore Fellowship Center.

For children ages 3 yrs. through 6th grade. Parents are invited to come and help with the activity or gather for parent fellowship during the children’s program and stay for the community dinner. Contact: Peggy Massello, pmassello@fpwc.org or Lindley Traynor, ltraynor@fpwc.org.

Calendar for the week of March 27th, 2022 (Spring Break)

Sunday, March 27th

8:30 am	Adult study - The Green Bible (Upper Room)	In-person/Zoom
10:00 am	In-person Worship Livestreaming Worship	Sanctuary YouTube
11:00 am	Fellowship Hour No Confirmation, Tower Youth or Children's Chapel	Lounge

Monday, March 28th

7:00 pm	Mission Ministry Group	in-person/Zoom
7:00 pm	Wilmette's Sesquicentennial	St. Joseph Catholic Church

Tuesday, March 29th

No meetings scheduled

Wednesday, March 30th

7:30 pm	Chancel Choir	WMFC
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Thursday, March 31st

10:00 am	Bible Study	via Zoom
7:00 pm	Men's Hour APNC (Upper Room)	Lounge In-person/Zoom
7:30 pm	Chancel Bells	WMFC

Friday, April 1st

No meetings scheduled

Saturday, April 2nd

8:00 am	Men's Council (breakfast & program)	WMFC	in-person/Zoom
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Sunday, April 3rd

8:30 am	Adult Study - The Green Bible (Upper Room)	In-person/Zoom
10:00 am	In-person Worship Service Livestream Worship	Sanctuary YouTube
10:30 am	Children's Chapel Time	Chapel
11:00 am	7 & 8 grade Youth & Confirmation Class	Purple Room
11:00 am	Fellowship Hour	Lounge
5:00 pm	Tower Senior High Youth fellowship/dinner	Tower/WMFC



Small group offerings

All are invited.

2022 Small Groups (meeting via Zoom or in-person)

Slowing Time for Women

Meets the 3rd Wednesday at 7pm. New joiners always welcome! Starting in January 2022 we will read “What My Grandmothers Taught Me” (the genealogy of Jesus). Contact Sue Sklansky at suesklansky@gmail.com

Lunch Group for Women

Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at noon, and each month a member takes the responsibility to lead the discussion. Nancy Freeman coordinates njwfreeman@gmail.com.

Book Group

Meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7 pm, hosted by Carol Korak. carolkorak@gmail.com. Members take turns leading a book discussion. February book is “Lost Roses,” by Martha Hall Kelly.

Men's Hour

Meets Thursdays at 7 pm. Men’s Hour consists of a brief group reading, a silent 5-minute meditation, and an opportunity for each attendee to share thoughts and experiences in turn. No homework or reservations required, and drop-ins are always welcome! Paul Traynor at paultraynor@haymoon.com.

Men's Council

Meets every Saturday morning (8-9:30 am) in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center. Members take turns cooking breakfast and providing a presentation. Questions? Contact Steve Reinhart steve.reinhart@gmail.com. This group meets in person and via Zoom.

Bible Study

Meets on Thursdays at 10 am. How does the Bible inform our daily lives? This class is led by Rev. Jeff Lehn. jlehn@fpcw.org.

Adult Faith formation

Meets Sunday mornings at 8:30-9:30 am in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center. Led by Rev. Jeff Lehn, this group is studying The Green Bible and 50 Ways to Help Save the Earth.

Pres Homes Women “Spoke”

1st Thursday of the month at 10 am in-person or via UberConference at Westminster Place, Pastor Laura Sherwood leads the discussion. Current study: Women in Matthew’s Genealogy of Jesus. lsherwood@fpcw.org

Abigail Group

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm in a member’s homes or Zoom. Abigail is a women’s group for separated or divorced women. Questions? Please contact Sue Sklansky at suesklansky@gmail.com.

Loop Group

Meets the 1st Wednesday of the month at noon on Zoom. The “Loop Group” meets for fellowship, connection and prayer. We know many of us are stressed at work and could use a small group to be supported and encouraged by. You can work from anywhere to join this group. Interested? Email Pastor Jeff Lehn at jlehn@fpcw.org.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

- For the joy of in-person and livestreaming worship,
- For the families of Ukraine and all who are assisting,
- For those with health concerns, Jack McAllister, and Colleen McAllister's mother, Dorothy, and Trudy Ronnel,
- For those who are grieving,
- For our homebound members,
- For those who suffer from depression, anxiety or addictions, and those who journey with them.

Lent: For the Beauty of the Earth Resources

With creation at the heart of our Lenten practice this year, we hope you will find new ways to appreciate and care for the earth in the coming days. Here are some ways to grow in your knowledge, and give thought to ways you can be a good steward of the earth. We welcome other resources as well!

Kiss the Ground film <https://kissthegroundmovie.com/>

A film about how we can repair the soil and impact the climate.

Islands of Faith film <https://www.netflix.com/title/81292475>

A film about Indonesia and the many faiths represented there that are caring for their native lands in ways that are sustainable and honoring their faith.

Go Green Wilmette <https://gogreenwilmette.org/>

A local resource for all things “green” in Wilmette—what you can do, and what we can do as a community to impact the planet.

Plant a tree in your parkway. <https://www.wilmette.com/engineering-public-works/forestry/tree-planting/>

CHURCH STAFF

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OFFICE HOURS

9 am-5 pm (Monday-Thursday)

9 am-1:00 pm (Friday)



INCLUSIVITY STATEMENT

Gathered by the grace of Jesus Christ, we are a vibrant and supportive Christian family whose welcoming spirit reflects God's love for all people. We invite participation in all aspects of our church life by persons of every race, language, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, physical or mental ability, economic or marital status, or faith background. FPCW is a member of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, a broad-based, national group of clergy and lay leaders working for a church that is simultaneously faithful, just, and whole.



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