



*"Christ Shows Himself to Thomas" Mosaic in National Cathedral, Washington, DC, by Rowan and Irene LeCompte*



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE**

**Sunday, April 16th, 2023**

**Second Sunday of Easter**

*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. No matter what's happening in our lives or in the life of the world, we will continue to be agents of God's love. We will keep growing as followers of Christ. We will keep loving and listening to our neighbors. We will continue praying for one another. 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—also see the QR code later in this Bulletin to give online.
- Join us after worship for Fellowship Hour in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center (lower level).

We're so glad to be worshipping with you in person and online!

With gratitude in Christ,

Pastors Jeff Lehn, Kara Smith-Laubenstein and Rev. Dr. Lolly Dominski

### **Spiritual Practice: Sacred Breath**

As a way of entering your time of prayer, take time to get in touch with your breathing. Don't try to change the rhythm of your breath; simply notice your natural, rhythmic rise and fall. Imagine as you breath in that God breathes life into you. As you breath out, imagine releasing all of the distractions and worries that keep you from being fully present in prayer. See if you can just set them aside for a time. Simply spending time with your breath as a way of deepening your awareness of the God who sustains you moment by moment is enough. Take time to become aware of your breathing, and allow your heart to fill with gratitude for this most basic gift of life.

Christine Valters Paintner, *Water, Wind, Earth & Fire: The Christian Practice of Praying with the Elements*, p. 22.

Join us after worship in the Lounge  
Cookies, coffee and lemonade will be served.

**WORSHIP LEADERS:**

\*PLEASE STAND

Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein, Preaching  
Rev. Jeff Lehn, Pastoral Liturgist  
Charles McElhenie, Liturgist  
Bob Woodworth, Guest Organist  
Wonee Kim, Piano  
Chancel Choir

**PRELUDE** - *O Sons and Daughters*

Jean-Francois Dandrieu

**WELCOME AND COMMON LIFE**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

The joy of the resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ is with us.

**We rejoice in the blessing God has poured into our lives.**

Even though we hear words of doubt, we are called to believe.

**Even though the world would draw us back again into darkness, we focus on the Light.**

Thanks be to Christ who gives us the victory.

**Alleluia! Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN NO. 239** - *Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!*

GELOBT SEI GOTT

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

When we keep our fears and faults locked up inside us,

It is hard to be healed and receive new life.

So let us open ourselves to God in confession, first in the silence of our hearts, then all together, trusting the Lord's desire to give us peace.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (unison)

**God of the empty tomb and our empty hearts, when we are afraid to speak our faith in the world, forgive us and help us to find our voice. When we are afraid to forgive and to love again, forgive us and give us the power to forgive. When we are afraid to stand up to misguided authority, join us with the weak to make us all strong. When we are confined by our hurts, touch us with your wounded hands and set us free. When we are locked behind our doubts and fears, pass through our barricades, open our hearts, and give us peace. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Christ comes with healing light into our locked places and shadowy hurts, resurrecting our spirits and breathing into us new life. As God's own forgiven people, go to bring peace, forgiveness, and new life to the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

**\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The peace of Christ be with you!

**And also with you!**

**CHILDREN'S CHAPEL**

Children are invited to share the peace and gather with leaders to go to the Chapel to continue to worship together in an age-appropriate and meaningful way. They will return to sit with their families toward the end of the worship service in the Sanctuary.

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** (Hymn No. 826, verse 3)

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim 'till all the world adore his sacred name.  
O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, your death has brought us life eternally.  
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim 'till all the world adore his sacred name.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Let us pray together in unison for the illumination of the Holy Spirit.

God of all who doubt and believe, by the light of your Spirit enable us to hear with our ears, to see with our eyes, and to touch with our hands your Word of life—Jesus Christ—our Lord and our God. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READING** - John 20:19-31 (pg. 115 in the New Testament)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

**SERMON**

Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein

**ANTHEM** - *O Sons and Daughters*

O FILII ET FILIAE, arr. John Ferguson

**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.

**CALL FOR OFFERING**



Give online here

We invite you to give via our church website [www.fpcw.org](http://www.fpcw.org) (see QR code), our smartphone app, or by sending a check to the church office. An offering plate is also available in the Narthex. We are grateful for your generosity!

**OFFERTORY** - *Easter Contemplation on O FILII ET FILIAE*

Carson Cooman

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE - The Doxology** (LASST UNS ERFREUEN)

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

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Lord God, we offer you only a portion of what you have given us. All that we have is from your creative hand. All that we can give away we do through Jesus' love. All our renewal comes from the Holy Spirit's wisdom. Deal graciously with our gifts so that others may have joy; in Jesus' name. Amen.

**\*HYMN NO. 254** - *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright*

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** - *O Filii et Filiae*

Marsha Medley





**Common Life**  
**Week of April 16th, 2023**



**Family Promise April 16-23**

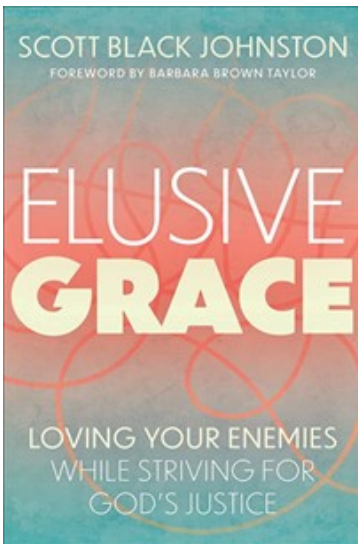
First Presbyterian Church of Wilmette and Congregation Sukkat Shalom will again partner to host families from Family Promise at First Pres this week (April 16-23).

We continue to seek volunteers to cook and serve dinner, spend the night at church, or help with clean up. Sign up online (email [office@fpcw.org](mailto:office@fpcw.org) to request a link to the online sign up page) or call the church office for more information.

**Adult Faith Formation Class: “Elusive Grace”**

Sundays, 8:45-9:45 am April 23-June 4

In-person in the Lounge and over Zoom



Join Pastor Jeff for this seven-week Eastertide study working our way through the recent book by Scott Black Johnston, *Elusive Grace: Loving Your Enemies While Striving for God's Justice*. Scott is the senior pastor of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City and has been a friend and mentor to Jeff for many years. In this class, we'll spend the first few weeks reclaiming virtues by examining temperance, justice, prudence, courage, faith, hope, and love. Then we'll retrain our hearts on love by focusing on how we love: God, Jesus, mercy, truth, our neighbor, and our enemy. Finally, we'll end with a focus on pressing issues facing the church today and how we can strive for God's justice. The hybrid class will meet on Sundays, **8:45-9:45 am** in the Lounge and on Zoom **April 23 through June 4** (Meeting ID 840 3593 7190; Password 815640.)

**Parents of High School Youth Fellowship**

Friday, April 21 6:30-8:30 pm

Hosted by Jeff and Karen Miller

1400 Isabella Street, Wilmette



All parents welcome, regardless of your student's participation in Tower. Please bring a salad or dessert and a drink to share; an entrée will be provided. Join Us!



## Racial Justice Pilgrimage November 2 through 5

In November, First Pres Wilmette will be sponsor a racial justice pilgrimage to a number of important historic civil rights sites in Birmingham, Selma and Montgomery, Alabama. While specific plans for the pilgrimage are still in the development stage, the itinerary will likely include the Edmund Pettis Bridge in Selma; the Legacy Museum, the National Memorial for Peace and Justice and the Civil Rights Museum in Montgomery; the Civil Rights Memorial, and the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham.

The tour will begin in Birmingham on Thursday morning, November 2 and end back in Birmingham on Sunday, November 5. Travel arrangements include direct flights from/to O'Hare or carpooling with other participants if that is preferred.

Cost of the trip is estimated to be around \$2000 per person...although costs are yet to be finalized. **A \$500 deposit is required by April 15 to hold your place in the tour group.**

If you have questions or would like more information about the tour, please contact Mary Watt at [mhw1117@gmail.com](mailto:mhw1117@gmail.com) or reach out to another member of the Racial Justice Committee...and mark your calendars to save the **dates of November 2-5.**



### Racial Justice Pilgrimage: Introducing Tour Leader Barry McNealy

We are fortunate to have one of the most renowned Civil Rights historians in the state of Alabama as our tour leader for the upcoming Racial Justice Pilgrimage. Barry McNealy is the preferred tour guide of the Birmingham Convention Bureau and the Alabama Tourism Department. Barry is a high school history teacher, adjunct professor at an area community college, and works for the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, in addition to giving guided tours in both Birmingham and Montgomery. Barry will make Alabama history come alive for

our group as he has for countless others including our friends at Kenilworth Union Church who toured the area last fall.

If you would like more information about the **November 2-5 Racial Justice Pilgrimage**, please contact Mary Watt at [mhw1117@gmail.com](mailto:mhw1117@gmail.com) or reach out to another member of the Racial Justice Committee.



### Nominating Committee Begins Its Work: Do You Know Church Members with Gifts for Leadership?

Your Nominating Committee invites you to help fill vital positions on the ministry boards of our church. Because our church community is committed to inclusiveness, we value your input. Please let us know if you are interested in serving the church and willing to be considered for nomination and/or if you know of other church members who are qualified and willing to serve.

We seek nominations for Elder, Deacon, and Nominating Committee at-large members, plus Presbytery of Chicago Elder commissioners. Submit a nomination online (request a link from the church office) or using a print form inserted in future Sunday Bulletins. All suggestions will be held in confidence.



### **Chancel Choir to sing “Gospel Mass” Sunday, April 23 at 10:00 am**

Come hear the joyful and soulful sounds of this inspiring work in worship as the proclamation of the word on **Sunday, April 23 at 10:00 am**. A rhythm ensemble of bass, piano and drums (our own Ray Hopkins!) will accompany the choir.

Robert Ray's Gospel Mass, composed in 1978, premiered at the University of Illinois with a performance by the University's Black Chorus. Ray wrote it while serving as a liturgy team leader for the National Office of Black Catholics. In the Gospel Mass,

Dr. Ray's interprets two thousand years of liturgical tradition with the more contemporary music of the African-American Church. For centuries, composers have created musical settings from the text of the Ordinary of the Mass. Each setting creates a different feeling about the worship experience within the listener. The composer states: "It is my desire to combine centuries of old traditions of Mass settings with sounds of the contemporary Black Church. The move from Latin to English created new opportunities for composers to express their feelings about the texts of the Ordinary of the Mass. I wanted everyone to experience the sense of joy and celebration that is generally felt in true African-American worship."



### **Retreat Offered at First Pres Arlington Heights Saturday, April 29 between 11:00 am and 3:00 pm**

All are welcome to join Rev. Arianne Lehn who will lead this opportunity to reconnect with one's own heart, find tangible ways to use the heart like a compass on life's journey, and in so doing, as Paul wrote to Timothy, "rekindle the gift of God that is in you. (2 Timothy 1:6).

The registration fee is \$20.00 for adults, \$10.00 for those ages 18 and under; space is limited to 100 participants. Learn more and register online at [firstpresah.org/retreat](http://firstpresah.org/retreat) or by calling the church office at 847-255-5900.



### **Tower Benefit Dinner**

Mark your calendar for this year's Tower Benefit Dinner on **Sunday, May 21 at 5:00 pm** in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center. Reservations and event details available soon.



### **The Deacon's Fund Needs Your Support!**

Did you know that the budget for our Board of Deacons comes solely through donations made in the green pew envelopes? Deacons use these contributions to fund everything from care partner gifts to church defibrillator maintenance.

Please consider supporting the work of our Board of Deacons by making a donation in the green envelopes found in the pews. Our Deacons thank you for your ongoing support of their important ministries!

## **CONNECT, GROW, SHARE – Adult Groups at First Pres 2023**

Our adult group ministry strives to encourage all members to be a part of this wonderful way to grow in faith. We'd love to see you at one of our small group gatherings! More information on our church website's Small Group page.

### **STUDY, BOOK, AND DISCUSSION GROUPS**

#### **Adult Faith Formation – Sundays, 8:45-9:45 am, Lounge, Led by Rev. Jeff Lehn**

Join any Sunday for lively discussion on current study series. Contact Jeff Lehn [jlehn@fpcw.org](mailto:jlehn@fpcw.org).

#### **Bible Study – Every Thursday, 10:00-11:00 am, Lounge, Led by Rev. Jeff Lehn**

How does the Bible inform our daily lives? Contact Bonnie Wehrenberg [bwherbie007@att.net](mailto:bwherbie007@att.net).

#### **Book Group – 3rd Wednesday (April 19th), 7:00 pm, Lounge**

The April book is "A Yellow Raft In Blue Water" by Michael Dorris. Members take turns leading the book discussion. Joyce Knauff ([joyce@jckassociates.com](mailto:joyce@jckassociates.com)) hosts this group.

### **FELLOWSHIP AND MEAL GROUPS**

#### **Lunch Hour Loop Group – Wednesday, May 10, Noon, Zoom, Hosted by Rev. Jeff Lehn**

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 – and you are always free to eat your lunch while we meet! Contact Jeff Lehn [jlehn@fpcw.org](mailto:jlehn@fpcw.org).

#### **Senior Supper Club – 3rd Tuesday (April 18th), 5:30 pm, Ridgeview Grill in Wilmette.**

If you are an over 65 member and want to get to know others more casually, please join us! Interested? Contact Bonnie Wehrenberg [bwherbie007@att.net](mailto:bwherbie007@att.net).

### **WOMEN'S GROUPS**

#### **Slowing Time for Women – Wednesday, April 26, 7:00-8:30 pm, Lounge**

A group member will share an article or poem about our relationship with Time - Chronos-Human Time/ Productivity focus and Kairos-God's Time/Fruitfulness focus. Snacks provided by members. Contact Marcia Baylin [marciabaylin3101@comcast.net](mailto:marciabaylin3101@comcast.net).

#### **Lunch Group for Women – 2nd Wednesday (April 12th), 11:30 am, Lounge**

Each month a member leads the discussion. Nancy Freeman ([njwfreeman@gmail.com](mailto:njwfreeman@gmail.com)) coordinates this group.

#### **Westminster Place "Spoke" – 3rd Wednesday, 10:00-11:00 am, in-person and via phone conference**

The group meets in a member's home at Westminster Place and follows a provided study guide with discussion facilitated by Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein. Anne Menard ([amenard4347@yahoo.com](mailto:amenard4347@yahoo.com)) coordinates this group.

### **MEN'S GROUPS**

#### **Men's Hour – Every Thursday, 7:00 pm, Lounge**

Men's Hour consists of a brief group reading, a silent five-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! Contact Paul Traynor [paultraynor@haymoon.com](mailto:paultraynor@haymoon.com).

#### **Men's Council – Every Saturday, 8:00-9:30 am, Lounge**

Meets October through June. Participants gather for breakfast and then listen to an interesting program. All are welcome any Saturday. Contact Steve Reinhart [steve.reinhart@gmail.com](mailto:steve.reinhart@gmail.com).

**Parents of High School Youth (POHSY) – Meets several times a year in member's home or at the Church** Raising teenagers is always a challenge, and as our youth gather together to navigate their lives as Christians their parents join together to lend support to one another. Contact Iris Boaz [iboaz@ameritech.net](mailto:iboaz@ameritech.net).



## Calendar for the week of April 16th, 2023

### Sunday, April 16th

8:45 am	Adult Faith Formation	Lounge/Zoom
8:45 am	Middle School Youth Class	Yellow Room
8:45 am	Junior High Youth Class	Red Room
9:45 am	Nursery Care ages Birth-3yrs during worship	Nursery
9:55 am	Livestream Worship	YouTube
10:00 am	In-person Worship	Sanctuary
10:15 am	Children's Chapel	Chpel
11:00 am	Fellowship Hour	Lounge
2:30 pm	Girl Scouts Meeting	WMFC
5:00 pm	Tower Senior High Fellowship	Tower

### Monday, April 17th

7:00 pm	Session Meeting	Upper Room
7:00 pm	Troop 5 Meeting	WMFC
8:30 pm	Crew 5 Meeting	Yellow Room

### Tuesday, April 18th

10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Lounge
5:30 pm	Senior Supper	Ridgeview Grill

### Wednesday, April 19th

10:00 am	Spoke Bible Study	Westminster Place
5:00 pm	Midweek Meetup	WMFC
6:00 pm	Church Family Dinner	WMFC
7:00 pm	Book Group	Lounge
7:30 pm	Chancel Choir	Music Room

### Thursday, April 20th

10:00 am	Bible Study	Lounge
7:00 pm	Men's Hour	Lounge
7:45 pm	Chancel Bells	Music Room

### Friday, April 21st

6:00 pm	Parents of High School Youth Fellowship	Home of Jeff and Karen Miller
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### Saturday, April 22nd

8:00 am	Men's Council	Lounge
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### Sunday, April 23rd

8:45 am	Adult Faith Formation	Lounge/Zoom
8:45 am	Middle School Youth Class	Yellow Room
8:45 am	Junior High Youth Class	Red Room
9:45 am	Nursery Care ages Birth-3yrs during worship	Nursery
9:55 am	Livestream Worship	YouTube
10:00 am	In-person Worship	Sanctuary
10:15 am	Children's Chapel	Chapel
11:00 am	Fellowship Hour	Lounge
5:00 pm	Tower Senior High Fellowship	Tower

WMFC = Wallace Moore Fellowship Center

## **For Our Prayers**

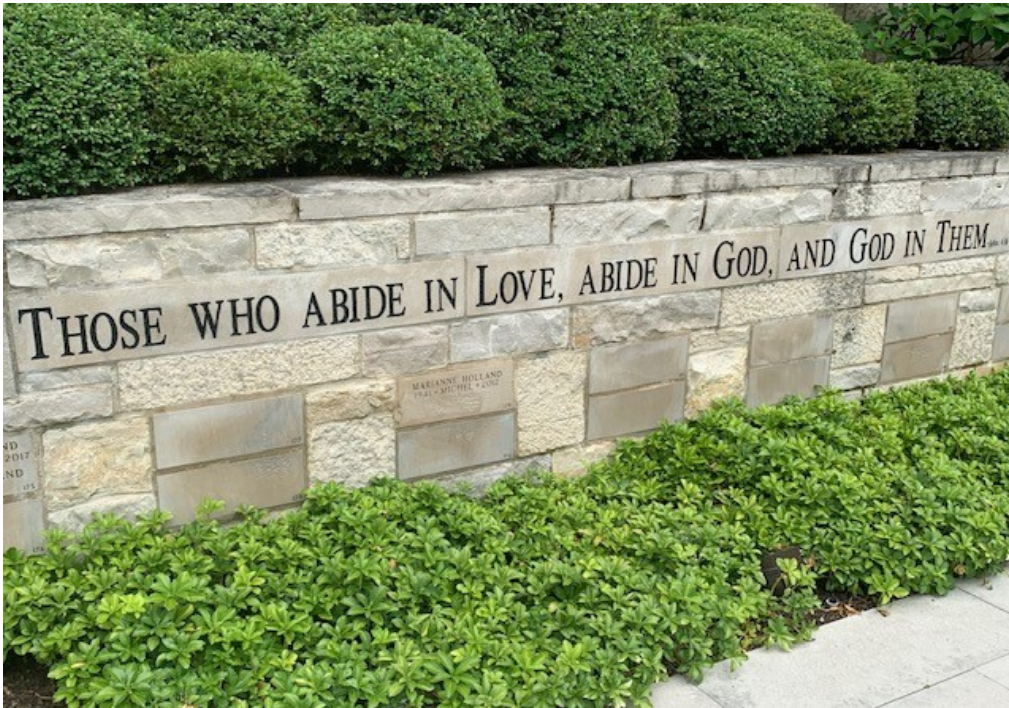
Please pray for those in the midst of illness, walking through a season of grief, or homebound and unable to join us this day.

Pray for the family of Bob Dunn, beloved and longtime church member, who died on March 23rd.

Pray for the family of Maryanne Raveret who died in Moraga, California on March 28th.

For those experiencing war, extreme weather and natural disasters:

- In the war-torn country of Ukraine;
- After Tropical Cyclone Freddy in Malawi; and
- Following severe storms in the southern Plains.



## **CHURCH STAFF**

Rev. Jeff Lehn  
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Rev. Dr. Lolly Dominski  
*Parish Associate for Congregational Care*  
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## **OFFICE HOURS**

9am-5pm (Tuesday -Thursday)

9am-3:30pm (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.



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