



Depiction of the “Ascension” from the Rabbula Gospels (Syriac manuscript, c. 586 A.D.)



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE**

**Sunday, May 21st, 2023**

**Seventh 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 Lounge.

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 breathe in that God breathes life into you. As you breathe out, imagine releasing all 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 Wallace Moore Fellowship Center.  
Cookies, coffee, and lemonade will be served.

**WORSHIP LEADERS:**

\*PLEASE STAND

Rev. Jeff Lehn, Preaching  
Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein, Pastoral Liturgist  
Emily Karottki, Liturgist  
Wonce Kim, Piano  
Chancel Choir

**PRELUDE** - *Prelude on* DIADEMATA

arr. J. Blersch and B. Boertje

**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**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

It is a good day to be here.

**It is a good day to tell stories.**

It is a good day to give thanks.

**It is a good day to ask for help.**

It is a good day to be in community.

**It is a good day to worship God.**

**\*OPENING HYMN NO. 268** - *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

DIADEMATA

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Today is Ascension Sunday when we celebrate Christ's return to God. We look up in wonder as he is lifted up into heaven. But this is not a time to gaze upward. There is work to be done. Jesus has entrusted the ministry of God's love to us. And so we examine our hearts this day, confessing how we and our world have strayed from God's dream. Let us make our confession together, first in silent prayer.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Vulnerable God, hear our prayer: for the mending of our hearts, torn apart by unkindness; for the healing of our minds and bodies, wasting away from the despair around us; for the forgiveness we seek for the sin we have allowed to persist; for the reconciliation of the world, whose division condemns us; for the fatigue and hope and uncertainty we feel in this time. Eternal God, give us the courage to receive your grace, the strength to amend our ways, and the rest we need to trudge on. We pray through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, who is Lord of all the earth. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Friends, hear the good news: the love of God is beyond measure, and we are included in that love. All is forgiven and all shall be well. We are free to love and serve our neighbor without strings attached.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*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 and 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. 447 *We Are Forgiven*

**We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.  
We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.**

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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

**Guide us, O God, by your Word and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE READING - Acts 1:1-11 (page 118 in the New Testament)

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

Rev. Jeff Lehn

## HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 452 - *Open the Eyes of My Heart*

OPEN THE EYES

## 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 - *God Is Seen*

Shape Note Hymn, arr. Alice Parker

Through all the world below God is seen all around;  
Search hills and valleys through, there he's found.

The growing of the corn, the lily and the thorn,  
The pleasant and forlorn all declare God is there.  
In meadows drest in green, God is seen.

See springing waters rise, fountains flow, rivers run;  
The mist that veils the sky hides the sun.

Then down the rain doth pour, the ocean it doth roar  
And beat upon the shore, and all praise, in their ways,  
The God who ne'er declines his designs.

The sun with all his rays speaks of God as he flies.  
The comet in her blaze, "God!" she cries.

The shining of the stars, the moon, when she appears  
His awful name declare; see them fly, through the sky  
And join the solemn sound all around.

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE—The Doxology (OLD HUNDREDTH)**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**This morning, in the multicolored company of your church on earth and in heaven, we celebrate your creation, your life, your death and resurrection, your interest in us. So this day we pray that, by your power and by these gifts we offer, you would bring new life where we are worn and tired, new love where we have turned hard-hearted, forgiveness where we feel hurt and where we have wounded, and the joy and freedom of your Holy Spirit where we are the prisoners of ourselves. Amen.**

**RECOGNITION OF SCOTT MCELHENIE, DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES**

**\*SENDING HYMN NO. 733 - *We All Are One in Mission***

ES FLOG KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN

**\*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.

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**



## Common Life Week of May 21st 2023



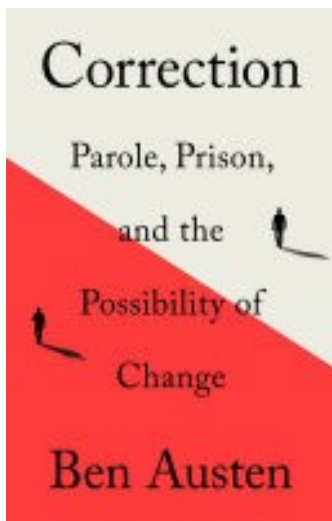
### Tower Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction

Join us for this year's Tower Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction **today at 5:00 pm** in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center. The event raises funds for this summer's Tower mission trip to Newland, North Carolina. Tower youth will have tickets available for purchase and silent auction items on display during this morning's Fellowship Hour in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center.



### Tell Us About the 2023 Graduates In Your Life

We will honor 2023 graduates at every level—high school, community college, vocational program, undergraduate, graduate, professional—during our **Sunday, June 4** worship service. Send us the names of the graduates in your life. We will include them in the Prayers of the People and list them in the Bulletin. Submissions welcome through **Wednesday, May 31** by email addressed to [office@fpcw.org](mailto:office@fpcw.org) or by calling the church office at 847-256-3010.



### Racial Justice Speakers on the American Prison System and Possibilities for Reform

The Racial Justice Committee at Kenilworth Union Church invite members of the First Pres Wilmette congregation to attend a program on **Tuesday, May 23 at 7:00 pm** in the Culbertson Room at Kenilworth Union Church. Please register in advance; call or email our church office to learn how (847-254-3010 or [office@fpcw.org](mailto:office@fpcw.org)).

The program features author Ben Austen and Johnnie Khalif Veal, a community activist and motivational speaker. Austen's new book, *Correction: Parole, Prison, and the Possibility of Change*, will appear in bookstores in November; his previous publications appeared in the *New York Times Magazine* and other national publications. He won awards and award nominations for his first book, *High-Risers: Cabrini-Green and the Fate of American Public Housing*, released in 2018.

Johnnie Khalif Veal grew up in Cabrini Green and served fifty-one years in prison before his 2021 release and transition to motivational speaking and community activism.

Kenilworth Union Church is located at 211 Kenilworth Avenue in Kenilworth. Call the church office (847-251-4272) with questions.



## Racial Justice Pilgrimage in November 2023

In November, First Pres Wilmette will sponsor a racial justice pilgrimage to important civil rights sites in Alabama. We have extended the pilgrimage registration deadline to **June 1st** as we still have few openings on the trip. Our goal is to have between 20 and 25 First Pres Wilmette members in the group. We currently have 15 registrants. If we don't have a full contingent from our congregation by June 1st, we plan to open registration to other churches in our community as several people outside our congregation have expressed interest in joining us.

The pilgrimage will begin on **Thursday, November 2** in Birmingham, Alabama with visits to sites there and in Selma and Montgomery. We will return to Birmingham and depart from there on **November 5**. Travel details and other information available from Mary Watt (mhw1117@gmail.com).



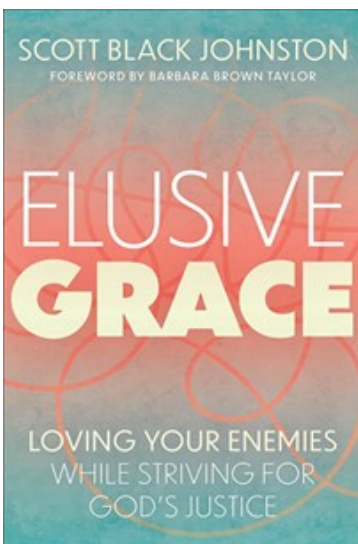
## Discover Our Pipe Organ with Director of Worship and Music Peggy Massello

Have you ever wondered how our pipe organ works? Have you ever wanted to play it? If so, you'll want to join Peggy Massello for a demonstration and explanation of our pipe organ on **Sunday, June 4** immediately after the Postlude. We'll gather in the Chancel and sit in the choir pews. Stay as long or as little as you wish! This will be informal with time for questions and answers.

## 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.)

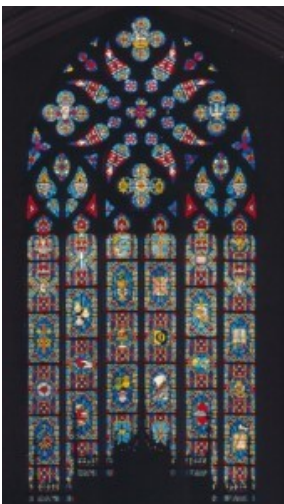


### Join the 2023 Ricky Byrdsong Memorial Race Against Hate

Register now for the 10K run, 5K run/walk, or the youth mile on **Sunday, June 18 beginning at 7:30 am** at Long Field in Evanston. The YWCA Evanston/North Shore uses funds raised during the Race Against Hate to engage children and adults in dialogue, nonviolent action, and the pursuit of racial justice. Besides contributing their registration fee, participants may raise additional funds toward this year's overall fundraising goal of \$75,000.00.

Consider leading a First Pres Wilmette team! Email or call the church office for more information about team leadership or for assistance finding more information about the Race Against Hate and individual runner registration ([office@fpcw.org](mailto:office@fpcw.org) | 847-256-3010).

(Long Field is located at the corner of Sheridan Road and Lincoln Avenue in Evanston.)



### Seeking a New Vision for the Sanctuary and Pipe Organ

The newly-formed **Bill Tempelmeyer Committee**, composed of several church members and led by Peggy Massello, has begun exploring updates, improvements, and potential changes to the layout and use of the sanctuary and, in particular, the organ. The committee will consider a wide-range of options that seek to better align the physical space with the church's theology and better reflect the present era. The committee welcomes additional members. If you are interested in joining, please contact Peggy to learn more ([pmassello@fpcw.org](mailto:pmassello@fpcw.org) | 847-256-3010 ext. 103).

**Get the word out about an upcoming meeting, program, or event**  
by sending information to [office@fpcw.org](mailto:office@fpcw.org).

For consideration, send a submission by 5:00 pm on Mondays  
for the next day's release of Daily Bread.

Send a submission by 12:00 noon on Thursdays  
for the following Sunday's Common Life section of the Worship Bulletin.

Questions about these publications and their contents always welcome.  
Write to [office@fpcw.org](mailto:office@fpcw.org) or call the church office at 847-256-3010.



## **CONNECT, GROW, SHARE – Adult Groups at First Pres Wilmette 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, Church 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 – Thursdays, 10:00-11:00 am, Church 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, 7:00 pm, Church Lounge**

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 – 1st Wednesday (June 7), 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).

#### **Parents of High School Youth (POHSY)**

Parents meet several times a year in a 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).

#### **Senior Supper Club – 3rd Tuesday (June 20), 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! Contact Bonnie Wehrenberg [bwherbie007@att.net](mailto:bwherbie007@att.net).

### **WOMEN'S GROUPS**

#### **Slowing Time for Women**

Group members share articles and poems about our relationship with Time: Chronos, or human time, focused on productivity, and Kairos, God's time, focused on fruitfulness. Snacks provided by members. Contact Marcia Baylin [marciabaylin3101@comcast.net](mailto:marciabaylin3101@comcast.net).

#### **Lunch Group for Women – 2nd Wednesday (June 14), 11:30 am, Church Lounge**

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

#### **Westminster Place “Spoke” – 4th Wednesday (May 24), 10:00-11:00 am, Westminster Place in Evanston 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. Contact Anne Menard [amenard4347@yahoo.com](mailto:amenard4347@yahoo.com).

### **MEN'S GROUPS**

#### **Men's Hour – Thursdays, 7:00 pm, Church 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 – Saturdays, 8:00-9:30 am, Church Lounge - on summer break**

Meets mid-September through mid-May. 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).

## Calendar for the week of May 21st, 2023

### Sunday, May 21st

8:45 am	Adult Faith Formation	Church 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	WMFC
5:00 pm	Tower Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction	WMFC

### Monday, May 22nd

6:30 pm	Troop 5 Court of Honor	Sanctuary
7:00 pm	Troop 5 Court of Honor Reception	WMFC
8:30 pm	Crew 5 Meeting	Yellow Room

### Tuesday, May 23rd

10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Church Lounge
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### Wednesday, May 24th

10:00 am	Spoke Bible Study	Westminster Place
7:00 pm	Slowing Time Women's Group	Church Lounge
7:30 pm	Chancel Choir	Music Room

### Thursday, May 25th

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

### Friday, May 26th

No scheduled events

### Saturday, May 27th

No scheduled events

### Sunday, May 28th

8:45 am	Adult Faith Formation	Church 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	Church 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 teachers of students at all levels as they close the academic year.

Pray for those touched by gun violence in our city, nation, and world.

Pray for those experiencing war, extreme weather, and natural disasters:

- In the war-torn country of Ukraine;
- Following Cyclone Mocha in Myanmar and Bangladesh; and
- During catastrophic floods in Italy.

## TODAY'S FLOWERS

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God in celebration of the birth of Axel Stephen Malstrom, son of Stephen and Alicia, brother of Annabelle and Chuck, and grandson of Bob and Linda.



## CHURCH OFFICE

847-256-3010

Monday-Thursday 9:00am-5:00pm

Friday 9:00am-3:30pm

## CHURCH STAFF

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*Associate Pastor*

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*Livestream Engineer*

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### **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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