

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

Sunday, July 30th, 2023

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

Experience God. Grow Disciples. Transform Lives.



WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Jeff Lehn, Preaching
Nancy Hopkins, Liturgist

*PLEASE STAND

PRELUDE - *This Is My Father's World*

arr. Ken Medema

WELCOME AND COMMON LIFE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

The heavens declare the glory of God;

The skies proclaim the work of his hands.

How many are your works, Lord!

In wisdom you made them all.

The earth is full of your creatures,

The vast and spacious waters teem with living things beyond number.

You care for the land and enrich it abundantly,

You crown the year with your bounty.

Let all the earth worship the Lord!

For God spoke, and the world came to be.

***OPENING HYMN NO. 370** - *This Is My Father's World*

TERRA BEATA

CALL TO CONFESSION

When Christ's light shines upon us, the sins we try to hide are revealed. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess the attitudes and actions that tarnish our lives, so that we can be cleansed and renewed. Let us pray together, first in silent prayer.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

For our unwillingness to feel the suffering of others, and our readiness to live comfortably with injustice, forgive us, Lord. For our self-righteousness that denies guilt, and our self-interest that overshadows compassion, forgive us, Lord. For our abuse of the earth and our exploitation of its resources, forgive us, Lord. For our failings in community and our reticence to become involved, forgive us, Lord. For the times when we were too self-absorbed to care, when we were too preoccupied to listen, when we were too greedy to share, forgive us, Lord. With sorrow and remorse in our hearts, we ask that God forgive us, Christ renew us, and the Holy Spirit help us to grow in love. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The sound of water pouring into the baptismal font assures us that God has forgiven us. Christ is renewing us. The Holy Spirit is transforming us. Through the Lord's grace, we are a new creation, ready to sing God's glory and extend his love in our broken world.

Thanks be to God!

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Children's Chapel is on hiatus for the summer. We invite children to sit with their families and worship together. Worship bags are available in the Narthex outside the Sanctuary—an usher can help you locate one. The Nursery is available for babies and very young children.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE - HYMN NO. 59 - *The Steadfast Love of the Lord*

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;

God's mercies never come to an end.

They are new ev'ry morning, new ev'ry morning;

Great is your faithfulness, O Lord, great is your faithfulness.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God, you are beyond knowing, shrouded in wonder and mystery and yet as close to us as our very breath. By your Spirit, illuminate our hearts and minds through your Word, so that our love for you and for all your creation might grow deeper. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING - Psalm 104:24-34 (page 555 in the Old Testament)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON - "The Grandeur of God"

Rev. Jeff Lehn

HYMN OF RESPONSE - *What a Wonderful World*

George David Weiss and Bob Thiele

I see trees of green, red roses too

I see them bloom for me and you

And I think to myself

What a wonderful world

I see skies of blue and clouds of white

The bright blessed days, the dark sacred nights

And I think to myself
What a wonderful world
The colors of the rainbow
So pretty in the sky are also on the faces of people going by
I see friends shaking hands, saying, "How do you do?"
They're really saying, "I love you"
I hear babies cry, I watch them grow
They'll learn much more than I'll ever know
And I think to myself
What a wonderful world
Yes, I think to myself
What a wonderful world.

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



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

OFFERTORY

***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**

God, we pray that you use these gifts to transform the world, to bring about your justice, peace, and reconciliation of all creation. Transform us as we make these offerings, so that with you we might be co-creators of your beloved community. Amen.

SENDING HYMN NO. 542 - *God Be with You Till We Meet Again

GOD BE WITH YOU

***RESPONSIVE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Christ has no body on earth but ours.

Ours are the eyes with which Christ looks with compassion on this world;

Ours are the feet with which Christ walks to do good;

Ours are the hands with which Christ blesses all the world.

Let us go now and protect the earth, care for all God's creatures, and live in love.

Go in the peace of Christ.

***POSTLUDE - *Let All Things Now Living*, arr. Lloyd Larson**

ASH GROVE



Common Life
Week of July 30th, 2023

Congregational Meeting After Worship on August 6

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, August 6 immediately following the 10:00 worship service in the Fellowship Garden (weather permitting; in the Sanctuary if moved indoors). The meeting’s purpose is to hear the Nominating Committee report and vote on slates of Elders and Deacons to serve on respective church boards beginning September 1. Online attendance on Zoom also available. Lemonade on the Lawn will follow the meeting. Details to come.

Back to School Backpacks and Supplies for Children in Rogers Park

Help us meet our 2023 goal: 60 backpacks filled with school supplies for 20 elementary school students and 40 in middle/high school through our partnership with Rogers Park Presbyterian Church. Please give online (choose Backpacks for Kids from the Fund menu) or by cash/check in the offering plate.

Family Promise Guests Welcomed August 13 through August 20

We look forward to welcoming Family Promise guests this summer. Volunteer to set up, prepare and serve dinner, stay overnight, or clean up at the end of the week. Request more information or sign up to help through the church office (847-256-3010 | office@fpcw.org).

Summer Recess for Education and Fellowship Activities

Many of our education programs and fellowship groups are on hiatus for the summer. Please feel welcome to learn more about them at fpcw.org or by calling the church office at 847-256-3010. These activities will resume with the start of our new program year in September.

FOR OUR PRAYERS

Please pray for the family of Jack O’Kieffe who died Thursday.

Please pray for safe travel, meaningful service, and joyful fellowship among Tower youth on their work trip to Newland, North Carolina. The group will return on Saturday.

SUMMER 2023 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

July 30
 8:00 am Gillson Park
 10:00 am Chapel

August 6
 10:00 am Fellowship Garden

August 13, 20, and 27
 8:00 am Gillson Park
 10:00 am Sanctuary

September 3
 10:00 am Fellowship Garden

First Festival

**Sunday
 September 10**

10:00 Worship & Music
 11:00 Lunch & Games

CHURCH OFFICE

847-256-3010
 Monday-Thursday 9:00am-5:00pm
 Friday 9:00am-3:30pm

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Jeff Lehn
Senior Pastor
jlehn@fpcw.org ext. 101

Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein
Associate Pastor
ksmithlaubenstein@fpcw.org ext. 102

Rev. Dr. Lolly Dominski
Parish Associate for Congregational Care
ldominski@fpcw.org ext. 108

Peggy Massello
Director of Worship & Music
pmassello@fpcw.org ext. 103

Lindley Traynor
Director of Children & Family Ministry
ltraynor@fpcw.org ext. 104

Marvin Behm
Financial Manager
finmanager@fpcw.org ext. 107

Jane Currie
Office & Communications
office@fpcw.org ext. 106