

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

Sunday, August 13th, 2023

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

*Experience God. Grow Disciples. Transform Lives.*



## WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Jeff Lehn, Preaching  
Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein, Pastoral Liturgist  
Anne Menard, Liturgist  
Jordan Roulo, Soloist

\*PLEASE STAND

**PRELUDE** - *Prelude on* SCHOENSTER HERR JESU

David Cherwien

## 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. 630** - *Fairest Lord Jesus*

CRUSADERS' HYMN

## 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.

### **\*HYMN OF RESPONSE 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 - Matthew 6:19-34 (page 6 in the New Testament)**

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **SERMON**

Rev. Jeff Lehn

### **HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 175 - *Seek Ye First***

LAFFERTY

### **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 as you exit. We are grateful for your generosity!*

**OFFERTORY - *I Believe***

Carrie Newcomer

I believe there are some debts that we can never repay  
And I believe there are some words that you can never unsay  
And I don't know a single soul who didn't get lost along the way  
I believe in socks and gloves knit out of soft grey wool  
And that there's a place in heaven for those who teach in public school  
And I know I get some things right but mostly I'm a fool *Chorus*  
I believe in a good strong cup of ginger tea  
And I believe all these shoots and roots will become a tree  
All I know is I can't help but see all of this as so very holy  
I believe in jars of jelly put up by careful hands  
I believe most folks are doing about the best they can  
And I know there are some things that I will never understand *Chorus*  
I believe in a good long letter written on real paper and with real pen  
I believe in the ones I love and know I'll never see again  
I believe in the kindness of strangers and the comfort of old friends  
And when I close my eyes to sleep at night it's good to say "Amen"  
I believe that life's comprised of smiles and sniffles and tears  
And in an old coat that still has another good year  
And I know that I get scared sometimes but all I need is here *Chorus*  
I believe, I believe, I believe, I believe

**\*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. 547 - *Go, My Children, with My Blessing***

AR HYD Y NOS

**\*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 - *La Rejouissance***

G. F. Handel, arr. S. D. Wolff

Join us after worship in the Fellowship Garden for Lemonade on the Lawn.  
Cookies and lemonade will be served.



**Common Life**  
**Week of August 13th, 2023**

**Family Promise Guests Welcomed Today Through August 20**

We continue to seek volunteers for several dinners and overnights. Request more information or sign up to help through the church office (847-256-3010 | [office@fpcw.org](mailto:office@fpcw.org)).

**Join the Book Group on Wednesday, August 16 at 7:00 pm in the Church Lounge**

The group will discuss *Horse: A Novel* by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Geraldine Brooks. Contact Joyce Knauff ([joyce@jckassociates.com](mailto:joyce@jckassociates.com)) for more information.

**Reflecting on the 2023 Pulpit Exchange with New Life Baptist Church**

Three weeks ago, a group of First Pres Wilmette members traveled south to worship with our friends at New Life Baptist Church in Chicago. We joined in that Sunday's joyous celebration of the church's establishment 37 years ago by founder and still-serving Pastor Rev. Robert House. We have had an annual pulpit exchange with New Life for the past three years and many of our members attended the worship service at First Pres Wilmette earlier this summer when Rev. House preached. New Life is a beacon of light in their community, providing overnight shelter for homeless people and offering breakfast, a morning Bible study, and a hot evening meal three days a week. A mission partner for several years, New Life operates on a shoestring budget (just over \$100K per year) and they do so much good with the limited dollars they have. They are now looking to expand their homeless shelter and have invited us to help furnish and equip two new rooms. An Amazon gift registry has been put together and will be available for members to order from shortly. Details to come.

**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](http://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.

**TODAY'S FLOWERS**

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God in celebration of the life of Steve Jevelian from his family.

**SUMMER 2023 WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

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**

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