



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE
Sunday, August 20th, 2023
Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost
Experience God. Grow Disciples. Transform Lives.

WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Jeff Lehn, Preaching
Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein, Pastoral Liturgist
Jenni Holt, Liturgist
Royce Eckhardt, Guest Organist

*PLEASE STAND

PRELUDE - *Morning Has Broken*

arr. R. Eckhardt

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. 19** - *God of Great and God of Small*

GOD OF GREAT AND SMALL

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 - Luke 12:13-21 (page 74 in the New Testament)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON - "You Are Not What You Own"

Rev. Jeff Lehn

HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 716 - *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

BEACH SPRING

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 (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 - *Beautiful Savior*

D. Wood

***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. 684** - *Faith Begins By Letting Go*

LUX PRIMA

***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** - *Come, Christians, Rejoice this Day*

J. S. Bach

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



Common Life
Week of August 20th, 2023

Double Your Contribution To Maui Relief Through the Mission Committee’s Gift Match

The Mission Committee will match up to \$2500 in Maui relief contributions from members of the congregation received through September 5th. Our donation will go to efforts undertaken by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Give online or by check mailed to the church office or placed in the offering plate; please write “Hawaii Relief” on the memo line. Questions welcome (847-256-3010 | office@fpcw.org).

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 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 Joyce Knauff whose brother, Kenneth (Ken) K. Kuhles, died last week at home in Los Angeles, California.

Please pray for Rod Quainton and Nanci Priest after the death of Rod’s brother, Tony Quainton, earlier this week.

A Memorial Service for Jack O’Kieffe will begin at 11:00 am on Saturday, August 26 in the Sanctuary. A luncheon in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center will follow.

SUMMER 2023 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

August 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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