

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE
Sunday, September 3rd, 2023

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Experience God. Grow Disciples. Transform Lives.



WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Jeff Lehn, Preaching

Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein, Pastoral Liturgist

Jim Lyman, Liturgist

Beach Band: Jim Lyman, Peggy Massello, Sharon Panzica, and Bill Rapp

*PLEASE STAND

PRELUDE - *The Joy of the Lord Is Your Strength*

Kandy Grady

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.

***GATHERING HYMNS**

O Sing to the Lord #637

We Are Standing on Holy Ground #406

O God, You Are My God #743

CANTAI AO SENHOR

HOLY GROUND

STEP BY STEP

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

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! Amen.

*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 as is the Nursery 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 - Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 (page 436 in the Old Testament)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON - "The Joy of the Lord Is Your Strength"

Rev. Jeff Lehn

HYMN OF INVITATION NO. 526 - *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

LINSTEAD

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.

BLESSING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

COMMUNION MUSIC - *All You Who Are Thirsty*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Loving God, your love is as close to us as our own hands and feet. People who need your love are as close to us as the people beside us, behind us, and in front of us. Having been nourished at your Table of love and grace, send us into your world to love each other, sure that you love us. Show us where we are needed and how we can make a difference so that the world sees the new life Jesus wants for everyone. Help us live for Jesus wherever we go, whatever we do. 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!

*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. 80 - *You Shall Go Out with Joy*

THE TREES OF THE FIELD

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

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



Common Life Week of September 3, 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. We're getting close to meeting the match with just \$400 to go. Help us meet our match this weekend! Give online or by check mailed to the church or placed in the offering plate.

Help Mission Partner New Life Baptist Church Expand Shelter for Homeless Chicagoans

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 on a shoestring budget of just over \$100K per year. 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 to guide purchases for the rooms; call or email the church office (847-256-3010 | office@fpcw.org) to request a link to the registry and to Rev. Jeff Lehn's recent interview of New Life Baptist Church Pastor Rev. Robert House.

Chancel Choir and Chancel Bells Rehearsals Resume

Chancel Choir rehearsals start Wednesday, September 13 at 7:30 pm (7:30-8:45); Chancel Bells on Thursday, September 14 at 7:30 pm (7:30-8:30). Contact Peggy Massello with questions (847-256-3010 x103 | pmassello@fpcw.org).

In commemoration of Labor Day, the church office closed at 3:30 pm on Friday, September 1 and will remain closed until 9:00 am on Tuesday, September 5.

Join Us for First Festival on September 10

10:00 Worship & Music Under the Tent

11:00 Lunch & Fun for All Ages

Featuring games and a giant slide with sub sandwiches, chips, desserts, and ice cream provided.
Please bring a side dish to share.

Sunday, September 17

9:45 Nursery Care for Ages 0 Through 3

10:00 Worship in the Sanctuary and Online

11:00 Fellowship Hour in the Church Lounge

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