



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

Sunday, October 1st, 2023

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

World Communion Sunday

Experience God. Grow Disciples. Transform Lives.

*PLEASE STAND

BOLD TYPE INDICATES CONGREGATIONAL SPEAKING OR SINGING

PRELUDE - *I Come, O Savior, To Thy Table* and *At the Lamb's High Feast*

Charles W. Ore

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**

We gather from the west to the east, from the south to the north,

to celebrate the God of peace who accompanies us in our acts of peace.

This God of peace accompanies us in each and every circumstance around us.

We praise God's name! Amen!

Rev. Gloria Ulloa, Presbyterian Church of Colombia

***OPENING HYMN NO. 301, verses 1, 3, and 5** - *Let Us Build a House (All Are Welcome)* TWO OAKS

CALL TO CONFESSION

Faced with God's goodness we recognize our failings. In the knowledge of God's mercy, we dare tell the truth about ourselves and our world. In the confidence of God's children let us confess our sins.

*Armenian, Shant Agoushian, Near East School of Theology student,
Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East*

SONG OF FORGIVENESS

Allen Pote

O Lord have mercy on us, have mercy.

O Lord have mercy on us, we pray.

O Lord forgive us, forgive us all our sins as we walk in the light of your love.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Today, God, we confess fumbings and failures in accomplishing unity, as we set aside yet another day to remind ourselves of the task. **On this World Communion Sunday, give us eyes to recognize your reflection in the eyes of Christians everywhere. Give us a mind to accept and celebrate our differences. Give us a heart big enough to love your children everywhere. We thank you for setting a table with space enough for us all! Amen.**

Safiyah Fousa, The Africana Worship Book (2007)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

“God accepted us simply because of our faith in Christ,” through whom our sins were forgiven. May he help us to continue to “preach peace to those who are near and far.” Amen.

*Armenian, Shant Agousbian, Near East School of Theology student,
Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East*

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE - HYMN NO. 814 - *In God Alone*

Jacques Berthier

In God alone my soul can find rest and peace, in God my peace and joy.

Only in God my soul can find its rest, find its rest and peace. (sing three times)

CHILDREN’S CHAPEL

Children are invited to share the peace and gather with leaders to go to the Chapel and continue to worship in an age-appropriate and meaningful way. They will return to sit with their families in the Sanctuary toward the end of the worship service. The Nursery is available for babies and very young children.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy Spirit, grant us openness and give us understanding of what each one of us needs to receive through Holy Scripture. When facing a difficult choice between the easy and the right decision, help us to choose the narrow path. We also pray for all who are about to set [out] on an adventurous journey of faith anywhere in the world. Amen.

Magdaléna Trgalová, Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren

SCRIPTURE READING - Galatians 3:23-29 (New Testament page 189)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON - “Spiritual Practices: Sharing the Table”

Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein

HYMN OF INVITATION - NO. 530 - *One Bread, One Body*

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

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.

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, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

BLESSING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

COMMUNION MUSIC

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

In peace let us pray:
O God, we give you thanks for uniting us as the Body of Christ
and for filling us with joy at this table.
Lead us toward the unity of your church,
And help us treasure signs of reconciliation.
Now that we have tasted the banquet you have prepared for us,
May we one day feast together in your heavenly city.
Through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,
Ever one God, world without end. Amen.

Communion Liturgy, Iona Community, Scotland

CALL FOR OFFERING



Give online here

We invite you to give via the 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 the Sanctuary. We are grateful for your generosity.

OFFERTORY - *What Feast Will You Bring?*

Charles McCartha

What feast will you bring? Who will sit at your table?
Will you ask the broken, the hungry, the poor?
Will you seat them and feed them and show them by deed; the love the Lord gives us is given
to all.

The feast will you bring the first fruits from your garden?
Will you bring from the cellar your most treasured wine?
Will you serve them on rarest white linen cloth, with silver most cherished, most cherished and
fine?

How will you heal the sick and the broken?
How will you feed the hungry and poor?
Will you give them the treasure laid up in your storeroom?

Will you open your heart and give even more?

What feast do you bring as Christ sits at your table?

Do you bring your first fruits and most treasured wine?

Do you serve them on rarest white linen cloth, with silver most cherished, most cherished and fine?

Do you see Christ in the sick and the broken?

Do you see Christ in the hungry and poor?

Will you give him the treasure laid up in your storeroom?

Will you open your heart and give even more?

“As you do unto them, so you do unto me,” says Christ our Savior, our Lord and King.

Is your table set for the least of these? What feast will you bring them?

What feast will you bring?

***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 of new life, out of the abundance of our lives we offer these gifts to you.

Through your blessing and our willingness to share,

may these offerings become a source of hope and love

in this church family, and in the community beyond us,

in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

St. Martin's Presbyterian Church, Christchurch, New Zealand

***SENDING HYMN NO. 322 - first time solo, second and third time all**

We Are One in Christ Jesus (Somos uno en Christo)

SOMOS UNO

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 BENDICTION**

POSTLUDE - *Fantasy on ST. KEVIN

Gilbert M. Martin

WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein, Preaching

Rev. Jeff Lehn, Pastoral Liturgist

Addy Lundgren, Liturgist

Chancel Choir

Robert Woodworth, Guest Organist

Wonee Kim, Accompanist

Join us after worship in the Church Lounge
for fellowship, coffee, lemonade, and cookies.



Common Life Week of October 1st 2023

CONNECT, GROW, SHARE

Adult Faith Formation Study “Wrestling with the Book of Job”

Begin a new year of Adult Faith Formation opportunities with Rev. Jeff Lehn’s study of Job. The class begins Sunday, September 17 at 8:45 am in the Church Lounge and continues through Sunday, October 8. Participation on Zoom available on request. Using the recent book by Andrew Zack Lewis, *Approaching Job*, as our guide, this class will focus on the content and structure of the book, the meaning of individual passages, and some theological and ethical implications. Please join us!

WELCOME & CONNECTION

Serve as a Greeter this Fall

Welcome members and visitors as they enter the church or during Fellowship Hour. Read a complete description of this welcoming ministry and [sign up](#) online.

MISSION

Racial Justice Workshop Series Postponed to Early 2024

The Racial Justice Committee has postponed the Be the Bridge Whiteness Workshop originally scheduled for this month. The Doucettes will lead us in discussion to examine White Identity, White Privilege, White Fragility, and White Supremacy in early 2024. Watch for more information as it gets closer.

Join the Family Matters Walk-a-Thon on October 7

Support one of our longstanding mission partners, Family Matters, by participating in their 34th Annual Walk-a-Thon on Saturday, October 7 beginning with registration at 9:00 am at 7731 N. Marshfield Avenue in Chicago. The event raises funds to support community outreach programs in the North Howard neighborhood where Family Matters builds educational equity, expands teen job access, and cultivates resilient leaders. Many First Pres Wilmette members, past and present, volunteer as tutor-mentors by pairing with youth in first through twelfth grades for a school year. The Walk-a-Thon will conclude with a celebratory community block party, carnival, and picnic, also at 7731 N. Marshfield Avenue. Learn more [online](#) or call 773-465-6011 x1114.

Use Our Bulletin Interactively Online

Follow links and generate email messages by viewing our Sunday Bulletin online. Find it at fpcw.org/worship-livestream/worship-archive/

2023-2024 ADULT GROUPS AT FIRST PRES WILMETTE

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!

STUDY, BOOK, AND DISCUSSION GROUPS

Adult Faith Formation – Sundays, 8:45 am, Church Lounge, Led by Rev. Jeff Lehn

Join any Sunday for lively discussion on the current study series. Contact Jeff Lehn jlehn@fpcw.org.

Bible Study – Thursdays, 10:00 am, Church Lounge, Led by Rev. Jeff Lehn

We study scripture and consider how it informs our lives. Contact Bonnie Wehrenberg bwherbie007@att.net.

Book Group – 3rd Wednesday (October 18), 7:00 pm, Church Lounge

Members take turns leading the book discussion. Contact Joyce Knauff (joyce@jckassociates.com).

FELLOWSHIP AND MEAL GROUPS

Lunch Hour Loop Group – 1st Wednesday, Noon, Zoom, Hosted by Rev. Jeff Lehn – on hiatus

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.

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 Irris Boaz iboaz@ameritech.net.

Senior Supper Club – 3rd Tuesday (October 17), 5:30 pm, Ridgeview Grill in Wilmette

If you are over 65 and want to get to know others more casually, please join us! Contact Bonnie Wehrenberg bwherbie007@att.net.

WOMEN'S GROUPS

Lunch Group for Women – 2nd Wednesday (October 11), 11:30 am, Church Lounge

Each month a member leads the discussion. Contact Nancy Freeman njwfreeman@gmail.com.

Westminster Place “Spoke” – 4th Wednesday (October 25), 10:00 am, Westminster Place

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. Participation also possible through phone conferencing. Contact Anne Menard amenard4347@yahoo.com.

MEN'S GROUPS

Men's Hour – Thursdays, 7:00 pm, Church Lounge

Participants share a brief group reading, silent five-minute meditation, and an opportunity to share thoughts and experiences in turn. No homework or reservations required, and drop-ins are always welcome! Contact Paul Traynor paultraynor@haymoon.com.

Men's Council – Saturdays, 8:00-9:30 am, Wallace Moore Fellowship Center and Church Lounge

Meets October through mid-May. Participants gather for breakfast and then listen to an interesting program. All are welcome any Saturday. Contact Steve Polkoff odyssey1516@gmail.com.

Calendar for the Week of October 1, 2023

Sunday, October 1

8:30 am	5th-8th Grade Fellowship	Yellow Room
8:45 am	Adult Faith Formation	Church Lounge
9:45 am	Nursery Care for Ages 0-3	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
7:00 pm	Troop 5 Meeting	WMFC

Monday, October 2

3:00 pm	Endowment Fund Meeting	Narthex Meeting Room
6:00 pm	Finance, Budget, and Operations Committee Meeting	Upper Room
7:30 pm	Personnel Support Committee Meeting	Church Lounge
7:30 pm	Troop 5 Court of Honor	Sanctuary
8:30 pm	Troop 5 Court of Honor Reception	WMFC

Tuesday, October 3

10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Church Lounge
7:30 pm	Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting	Church Lounge

Wednesday, October 4

5:00 pm	Midweek Meetup	WMFC
6:00 pm	Church Family Dinner	WMFC
7:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Music Room

Thursday, October 5

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

Friday, October 6

9:00 am	Troop 5 Men's Council Breakfast Preparation	WMFC Kitchen
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Saturday, October 7

7:30 am	Men's Council Meeting	WMFC and WMFC Kitchen
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WMFC = Wallace Moore Fellowship Center

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 in the world. 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.

I hope your heart will hear something personal and relevant this morning—a word of comfort, a spur to action, a call to a deeper relationship with God. After the service, please stick around. Introduce yourself to one of our pastors. We have lots of programs and community groups to feed your soul and expand your spirit. Try one out. You never know—you might just be home!

With gratitude in Christ,
Pastors Jeff Lehn, Kara Smith-Laubenstein and Rev. Dr. Lolly Dominski

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.



CHURCH OFFICE

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

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Jeff Lehn
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