

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

Sunday, January 28th, 2024

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Experience God. Grow Disciples. Transform Lives.



*PLEASE STAND

BOLD TYPE INDICATES CONGREGATIONAL SPEAKING OR SINGING

PRELUDE - *Prélude, Berceuse, and Lied* from 24 Pièces en style libre

Louis Vierne

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**

Children of God: Welcome!

Welcome to this place of love and grace,

Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance.

God invites all of us to be part of the beloved community,

God invites all of us to share in the good news:

We are welcome, just as we are. We are loved, just as we are.

In gratitude for all of this, let us worship God.

***OPENING HYMN NO. 450** - *Be Thou My Vision*

SLANE

CALL TO CONFESSION

God is gracious and merciful and knows our needs even before they reach our lips. Still, we engage in confession, admitting to God all that rests uneasily in our hearts. Confident of God's love, let us make our confession, first in silent prayer.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your loving name. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God desires relationship with us, and reconciliation for all of creation. Jesus comes bearing the good news of forgiveness and transformation. Receive the good news of God's grace: We are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE - HYMN NO. 314, Refrain, sing twice - *Christ, Be Our Light*

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Children are invited to share the peace and gather with leaders to go to the Chapel and continue to worship together 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 infants and very young children.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God you are beyond knowing, shrouded in wonder and mystery and yet as close to us as our very breath. 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 - 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 (New Testament page 171)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON - "The Primacy of Love"

Rev. Jeff Lehn

HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 366 - *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

HYFRYDOL

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

CALL FOR OFFERING



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 - *Be Thou a Smooth Way*

Ralph Johnson

Be thou a smooth way before me, be thou a guiding star above me,
Be thou a keen eye behind me, this day, this night, forever.
I am weary, and I forlorn. Lead thou me to the land of the angels.
If only thou, O God of life, be at peace with me, be my support,
Be to me as a star, be to me as a helm,
From my lying down in peace to my rising anew.

***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**

Holy and vulnerable God, in the multicolored company of your church on earth and in heaven, we celebrate your creation, your life, your death and resurrection, your interest in us. This day, we pray that, by your power and by these gifts we offer, you would bring new life where we are worn and tired, new love where we have turned hard-hearted, forgiveness where we feel hurt and where we have wounded, and the joy and freedom of your Holy Spirit where we are the prisoners of ourselves. Amen.

SENDING HYMN NO. 301 - *Let Us Build a House

TWO OAKS

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 BLESSING**

***POSTLUDE - *Carillon* (abridged version) from 24 Pièces en style libre**

Louis Vierne

WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Jeff Lehn, Preaching

Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein, Pastoral Liturgist

Caroline Bender, Liturgist

Ray Hopkins and Steve Reinhart, Ushers

Peggy Massello, Music Director and Organist

Chancel Choir

Wonee Kim, Accompanist

Amy and Kevin McJoynt, Greeters

TODAY'S FLOWERS are given by the Brumitt family in loving memory of Marj Brumitt.

PLEASE PRAY for Carolyn Holtermann and the Holtermann family after the recent death of Carolyn's mother and for Jesse Cox and the Reesecox family after the recent death of Jesse's uncle.

Join us after worship in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center
for a program about our youth and youth ministry
with coffee, lemonade, and treats for all.



Common Life Week of January 28th, 2024

WELCOME & CONNECTION

Don't Miss the Fun and Fellowship at the Annual Family Bowling Event

Come to the Wilmette Bowling Center at 3:00 pm next Sunday (February 4) for bowling, pizza, games, and prizes. The \$18.00 per person fee covers bowling, shoe rental, pizza, and soft drinks. Register participants ages five and up [online](#). Plan to play until 5:00 pm; the Wilmette Bowling Center is located at 1903 Schiller Avenue in Wilmette. Read the [flyer](#) and contact the church office with questions (847-256-3010 office@fpcw.org).

Provide a Warm Welcome by Serving as a Greeter

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.

Discover What's Happening with Our Youth

Join participants, pastors, and parents for an engaging discussion about Tower Senior High Fellowship and our church's young people after worship today and in conjunction with Fellowship Hour. Please come to the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center to take part.

SHARE, SUPPORT, GROW

Tell the Nominating Committee About Church Members with Gifts for Leadership

Your Nominating Committee invites you to help fill vital positions on the ministry boards of our church. We value your input as part of our church's commitment to inclusiveness. Please let us know if you are interested in serving the church and willing to be considered for nomination and/or if you know of other church members qualified and willing to serve. We seek nominations for Elder, Deacon and Nominating Committee at-large members. Please complete our [online form](#) or use a print form found on the ushers' table and in the church office. All suggestions will be held in confidence.

Honor a Loved One by Contributing Flowers for the Chancel

Sign up on the poster in the Narthex. An announcement will appear in the Sunday Bulletin acknowledging your gift and naming the person you wish to honor, celebrate, or remember. Contributors may take their flowers home or leave them for Deacons who will divide them into posies and deliver them to Care Partners. Contact Linda Malstrom (lindamalstrom@gmail.com) with questions.

2024 Stewardship Campaign Complete: Thank You!

Thanks to everyone for making this year's stewardship campaign, "Rooted and Grounded in Love," a success. With your generosity and dedication, we received 101 pledges totaling \$873,296 to support the life and ministry of our church in 2024. This represents a 3% increase over last year. This year, 28 pledges came in online; 83 arrived in the offering plate or by mail. We are deeply grateful for your trust and partnership as we embody the gospel together at the corner of Ninth and Greenleaf. Every gift of every size matters. Thank you!



Common Life
Week of January 28th, 2024

RACIAL JUSTICE

Listen to Stories from the Racial Justice Pilgrimage

Travelers to Montgomery, Selma, and Birmingham will show photos, share stories, and invite conversation about how we might build on their pilgrimage experiences to do the work of justice in the Chicago area and beyond. Join pilgrimage participants in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center on Sunday, February 11 at 11:00 am for a presentation and luncheon. Contact the church office with questions (847-256-3010 | office@fpcw.org).

Register for the Exploring Whiteness Workshop

The Racial Justice Committee will host four sessions on Thursdays in February (8, 15, 22 and 29) to explore and discuss four themes: White Identity, White Privilege, White Fragility, and White Supremacy. Each session will begin at 7:00 pm in the Church Lounge and conclude at 8:30 pm. Participants need not attend on all four dates; come to one or as many as you wish. Please see the enclosed [flyer](#) for detailed information including a QR code and link to the appreciated but not required [sign-up page](#).

ADULT GROUPS

Come for Men's Council on Saturday

Men's Council will begin with breakfast at 8:00 am on Saturday, February 3 in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center and continue with a program about Egypt. Weekly breakfasts and programs will continue into May. Contact Steve Polkoff with questions (odyssey1516@gamil.com).

Participate in the Current Study Before Worship Next Sunday

Rev. Jeff Lehn will continue a study using *From Widows to Warriors: Women's Stories from the Old Testament* by Lynn Japinga on Sunday, February 4 at 8:45 am in the Church Lounge with online attendance available.

Lunch with the Senior Supper Club on Tuesday, February 20

Men and women age 65 and over share lunch this winter and will gather at Ridgeview Grill in Wilmette on Tuesday, February 20 at 1:00 pm. Contact Bonnie Wehrenberg (bwherbic007@att.net) with questions.

Join the Book Group on Wednesday, February 21

Reviewers described Bill Clegg's *Did You Ever Have a Family* as masterly, elegant, heartrendering, and absorbing, with characters who practice forgiveness and restore hope. The Book Group will gather to discuss the novel on Wednesday, February 21 at 7:00 pm in the Church Lounge. Contact Joyce Knauff with questions (joyce@jckassociates.com).

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/

Stay Engaged On Your Social Channels

Watch for weekday posts on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#). Share them with family and friends and encourage them to join us!

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 28, 2024

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

8:45 am	5th-8th Grade Fellowship	Yellow Room
8:45 am	Adult Faith Formation	Church Lounge
9:00 am	Endowment Fund Group Meeting	Narthex Meeting Room
9:45 am	Nursery Care for Ages 0-3	Nursery
9:55 am	Livestream Worship Service	YouTube
10:00 am	In-Person Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:15 am	Children's Chapel	Chapel
11:00 am	What's Happening with Our Youth Discussion	WMFC
4:00 pm	Troop 5 Patrol Leaders' Council Meeting	Upper Room
5:00 pm	Tower Senior High Fellowship and Dinner	Tower/WMFC

MONDAY, JANUARY 29

7:00 pm	Troop 5 and Crew 5 Open House	WMFC
7:30 pm	Troop 5 Board of Review Meeting	Yellow Room

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Church Lounge
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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31

10:00 am	Spoke Bible Study	Westminster Place
5:00 pm	Midweek Meetup	WMFC
6:00 pm	Church Family Dinner	WMFC
6:30 pm	Youth Bells Rehearsal	Music Room
7:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Music Room

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

10:00 am	Bible Study	Church Lounge
6:00 pm	Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting	Upper Room
7:00 pm	Men's Hour	Church Lounge
7:30 pm	Chancel Bells Rehearsal	Music Room

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

No Events Scheduled

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

8:00 am	Men's Council	WMFC
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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

8:45 am	Adult Faith Formation	Church Lounge
9:45 am	Nursery Care for Ages 0-3	Nursery
9:55 am	Livestream Worship Service	YouTube
10:00 am	In-Person Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:15 am	Children's Chapel	Chapel
11:00 am	Fellowship Hour	Church Lounge
3:00 pm	Family Bowling Event	Wilmette Bowling Center
5:30 pm	Troop 5 Patrol Leaders' Council Meeting	Upper Room
6:30 pm	Troop 5 Shawnee Trek Planning Meeting	Upper Room
7:30 pm	Crew 5 Bike Trek Planning Meeting	Upper Room

WMFC = Wallace Moore Fellowship Center

TODAY'S OFFERTORY

“Be Thou a Smooth Way” is a setting of a text from the *Carmina Gaedelica*, a collection of traditional prayers, hymns, blessings, and incantations from the Highlands and the Western Isles (Hebrides) of Scotland, gathered and translated in the late nineteenth century by Alexander Carmichael. These are truly folk-texts, passed down orally (and no doubt embellished) through many generations by the inhabitants of the most remote regions of Scotland.

The Scots trace the origins of their Christian faith back to the year 563, when St. Columba (circa 521-97), exiled from his native Ireland, came ashore on the Hebridean island of Iona and established a religious community that would soon become the center of Christian missionary activity to the people of Scotland and the surrounding islands. The result was a unique and beautiful blending of Christian belief and Celtic worldview, in which every thought, act, and artifact of life became seen as an encounter with, and a response to, the divine Three in One.

The tune ST. COLUMBA, most often associated with the hymntext “The King of love my shepherd is,” somehow demanded to be incorporated into this piece. Although the tune’s appropriateness here is no doubt obvious to readers of this introduction, I was quite far into the process of composition before I began to understand why it came to me. I am thankful that it did.

~ Ralph M. Johnson

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.

We 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

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