



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

Sunday, March 3, 2024

Third Sunday in Lent

*Experience God. Grow Disciples. Transform Lives.*

\*PLEASE STAND

**BOLD TYPE** INDICATES CONGREGATIONAL SPEAKING OR SINGING

**BELL PRELUDE** - *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

Spiritual, arr. J. Stitt

## **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**

Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods! Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?

**When we look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; we wonder, what are human beings that you are mindful of us, mortals that you care for us?**

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights.

**We will celebrate your abundant goodness, God. Every day we will bless you, we will praise your name forever and ever.**

God sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever.

**Our hearts stand in awe of your words, your deeds, and all you have created and inspired, Lord. Holy and awesome is your name!**

**\*OPENING HYMN NO. 775** - *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

WALK WITH ME

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

During these forty days of Lent, we remember how Peter denied Jesus three times, and how quickly the crowd's cries changed from adulation to anger. Our faith, too, can waver when we are fearful or disappointed, or even just in the mundaneness of daily life. We come to you, holy Creator, seeking forgiveness. Turn us from focusing too much on ourselves. Help us to seek you, the One who gives the breath of life, and the promise of life eternal, first in silent prayer.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of wonder, each day you reach out to us and surround us with sights that should take our breath away - clouds painted in shades of rose and gold at sunset, the ever changing countenance of Lake Michigan, and the daily activities of the many birds and animals who share this corner of our planet with us. And yet we often overlook these signs of your presence and glory. The world is filled with your children, each created**

**in your image, and each with their own stories, personalities, and gifts to share. But, instead of expecting to be enriched and inspired by those different than us, we often allow fear and distrust to guide our engagement with them. Forgive us, Lord. Remove the barriers we have constructed, thinking they protect us when really they limit us. Help us to follow in the example of Jesus. Draw us out of ourselves. Give us the wisdom to recognize what is temporal and trivial, and the will to devote our attention and energy to that which is meaningful and transcendent - that which points to you. Amen.**

#### **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

In the cross, we see the incredible depth of God's amazing love for us. Although we are part of our fallen world, we are God's beloved children. In the abundance of grace, God calms our fears, heals our pain, and does not count our sins against us. Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and offered fullness of joy.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

#### **\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you!**

#### **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE - HYMN NO. 434 - *Restore in Us, O God***

BAYLOR

**Restore in us, O God, the splendor of your love;**

**Renew your image in our hearts, and all our sins remove.**

#### **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**

**Lord, throughout the ages your word has shined light on human existence, revealing what is good and true, what has lasting importance and meaning, what blesses our lives and is pleasing to you. Reveal this once again to us this morning through your word read and proclaimed, that we might be guided to the abundant life Jesus came to bring. Amen.**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING - Psalm 92:1-4 (Old Testament page 548)**

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **SERMON - *The Practice of Awe: Music***

Kimbol Soques

#### **RESPONSIVE ANTHEM - *Sing to the Lord***

Christopher Tye

Sing to the Lord in joyful strain, let earth his praise resound,  
Ye who amidst the ocean dwell, and fill the isles around.  
Thou city of the Lord begin with the universal song,  
Let all combined with one accord the cheerful notes prolong.

**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**



Give online here

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

**BELL OFFERTORY - Meditation**

Susan Nelson

**\*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. Amen.

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Lord, you are faithful in providing for our every need. You bless us so richly. Each day you reach out to us through the kindness and resilience of others, the beauty and diversity of the world around us, and experiences that lift our spirits and give our lives meaning. Use these gifts, and us, to make the world a place where compassion, beauty, meaning, and joy abound, we pray. Amen.

**\*SENDING HYMN - NO. 54 - Make a Joyful Noise to God!**

DIX

**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 BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE - Lamb of God, Pure and Holy**

Johann Pachelbel

Please join us after worship for lunch and the Annual Meeting  
in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center.

**TODAY IN WORSHIP:**

Kimbol Soques, Preaching  
Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein, Pastoral Liturgist  
Joyce Knauff, Liturgist  
Peggy Massello, Music Director and Organist  
Chancel Bells  
Chancel Choir  
Wonee Kim, Accompanist  
Ethan Holtermann, Livestream Engineer  
John Phelan, Sound Technician  
Bill Sharp, Usher  
Stephanie Phelan, Greeter  
Lindley Traynor, Children's Chapel  
Paula Balthazar and Sevan Hovakimian, Nursery  
Armando De Lacruz, Facilities

**OUR LENTEN LITURGY** reflects the research and writing of Rev. Dr. Lolly Dominski.

**TODAY'S PREACHER,** Kimbol Soques, previously from Austin, Texas, has an eclectic history. A poet and teacher, she has also served as a systems administrator, a church communications analyst, and a non-profit executive. She is particularly interested in how the arts operate as theology. Kimbol recently earned her Master of Theology (Th.M.) in theopoetics at Boston College, and while at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary she received the King Prize for preaching. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Christian education at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. Her husband Marty also worships at First Pres Wilmette; their adult children are scattered across Texas, Maryland, and North Carolina.





## Common Life Week of March 3, 2024

### WELCOME & CONNECTION

#### **Attend the Annual Meeting Today After Worship**

Join us for our church's Annual Meeting today in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center immediately following worship. Lunch will be served and a brief meeting will be held to (1) receive the annual report and hear words of gratitude for how our ministry changed lives in 2023, (2) receive the 2024 operating budget, and (3) approve terms of call for Jeff and Kara.

#### **Sing with the Choir During Lent and Easter**

Some of the most beautiful choral music has been written for the season of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. Rehearse with the Chancel Choir on Wednesday nights, between 7:30 pm and 8:45 pm and sing in worship on Sundays now through Easter (March 31). Enrich the experience by taking home copies and recordings of the music. Contact Peggy Massello, Director of Music & Worship, with questions ([pmassello@fpcw.org](mailto:pmassello@fpcw.org)).

#### **Attend Gallimaufry, a Musical Kaleidoscope**

After the sellout debut, Una Voce added a second date. Register now for an evening of music featuring the voices of Linnea Jacobs, Peggy Massello, and Carol Moss beginning at 7:00 pm on Friday, April 5 in the Chapel. Proceeds will benefit [Stock the Shelves](#) (\$15.00 freewill donation recommended). Check the [flyer](#) for details and a QR code to [register](#).

### SHARE, SUPPORT, GROW

#### **Contribute to Sanctuary Flowers this Easter**

Lilies and hydrangeas will beautify the church again this Easter. Help provide them by purchasing a plant in memory of a loved one or in appreciation of a special person. A list of those being remembered will appear in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Please complete the order form inserted in today's bulletin and accessible [online](#); send or deliver it to the church office ([office@fpcw.org](mailto:office@fpcw.org) or by mail). Forms must have arrived in the church office on or before Sunday, March 24.

#### **Support Our Board of Deacons**

Contribute to the Deacons' Fund using a green pew envelope or through a designated [online contribution](#). Funds allow Deacons to purchase cards and small gifts for those in their care. Contributions also underwrite training materials and costs associated with maintaining our church's defibrillator.

### MISSION

#### **Contribute Contents for Migrant Care Packages**

Just-arrived migrants can use a variety of toiletries, snacks, clothing items, and other essentials while they wait for shelter placement, from granola bars to fresh undergarments. We have a collection box inside the east entry (off the parking lot) for contributions that volunteers will sort and provide to distribution sites. Please consult the [complete list of needs](#) for details.



## Common Life Week of March 3, 2024

### RACIAL JUSTICE

#### **Hear the Chicago Reader's 2022 Activist of the Year, Jahmal Cole, On Neighborhood Activism**

The Racial Justice Committee will welcome Cole, Founder and CEO of My Block, My Hood, My City to the Joseph Sears School Auditorium in Kenilworth on Thursday, March 21 at 7:00 pm. Learn about his commitment to building an interconnected Chicago through service and education, especially among young adults. His ethos: What's something simple I can do that will have a positive impact on my block? Read the [event flyer](#) for more on Jahmal Cole, the March program, and his organization.

#### **Check What's Next from the Racial Justice Committee**

In April, we will exhibit the work of [folk artist Jevoid Simmons](#) in the Chapel. His paintings chronicle his family's migration from the South in the early 1950s. More opportunities to come later in the year.

### ADULT GROUPS

#### **Come for Men's Council on Saturdays in March**

Men's Council will begin with breakfast at 8:00 am on Saturday, March 9 in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center and continue with a program on the Sultanate of Oman and South Africa. Weekly breakfasts and programs will continue into May. Contact Steve Polkoff with questions ([odyssey1516@gamil.com](mailto:odyssey1516@gamil.com)). Please accept a special invitation to attend Men's Council on March 23 when Rabbi Sam Gordon, founder of Sukkat Shalom and Rabbi Emeritus, will present "Yes In My Backyard: Jewish-Christian Partnership in Wilmette." Learn more about Rabbi Gordon at the [Sukkat Shalom website](#).

#### **Attend Adult Faith Formation Before Worship on Sundays in Lent**

Rev. Jeff Lehn leads a class on the practice of awe using the [recent book by Dacher Keltner](#) as a guide. The study begins at 8:45 am on Sundays in the Church Lounge and will continue through March 24. Contact Jeff ([jlehn@fpcw.org](mailto:jlehn@fpcw.org)) with questions or to receive a weekly email containing optional readings.

#### **Enjoy an Afternoon of Fellowship at the Senior Supper in March**

The group will continue its winter lunchtime gatherings for one additional month on Tuesday, March 19 beginning at 1:00 pm at Ridgeview Grill in Wilmette. Contact Bonnie Wehrenberg ([bwherbie007@att.net](mailto:bwherbie007@att.net)) with questions.

#### **Participate in the Book Group**

Read Diane Chamberlain's *Necessary Lies*, a historical novel set in the American South circa 1960, and then join the Book Group to discuss it on Wednesday, March 20 at 7:00 pm in the Church Lounge. Contact Joyce Knauff ([joyce@jckassociates.com](mailto:joyce@jckassociates.com)) for more information.

#### **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/](http://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 MARCH 3, 2024

### SUNDAY, MARCH 3

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
11:00 am	Annual Meeting and Luncheon	WMFC
5:00 pm	Tower Senior High Fellowship	Tower
5:30 pm	Troop 5 and Crew 5 Meetings	Upper Room
6:30 pm	Tower Senior High Dinner	WMFC

### MONDAY, MARCH 4

7:00 pm	Troop 5 Meeting	WMFC
7:30 pm	Crew 5 Meeting	Yellow Room

### TUESDAY, MARCH 5

10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Church Lounge
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### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

5:00 pm	Children's Musical Rehearsal	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, MARCH 7

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

### FRIDAY, MARCH 8

No Events Scheduled

### SATURDAY, MARCH 9

8:00 am	Men's Council	WMFC
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### SUNDAY, MARCH 10

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
11:00 am	Fellowship Hour	Church Lounge
5:00 pm	Tower Senior High Fellowship	Tower
6:30 pm	Tower Senior High Dinner	WMFC

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.

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**

Rev. Jeff Lehn  
*Senior Pastor*  
[jlehn@fpcw.org](mailto:jlehn@fpcw.org) ext. 101

Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein  
*Associate Pastor*  
[ksmithlaubenstein@fpcw.org](mailto:ksmithlaubenstein@fpcw.org) ext. 102

Rev. Dr. Lolly Dominski  
*Parish Associate for Congregational Care*  
[ldominski@fpcw.org](mailto:ldominski@fpcw.org) ext. 108

Peggy Massello  
*Director of Worship & Music*  
[pmassello@fpcw.org](mailto:pmassello@fpcw.org) ext. 103

Lindley Traynor  
*Director of Children & Family Ministry*  
[ltraynor@fpcw.org](mailto:ltraynor@fpcw.org) ext. 104

Marvin Behm  
*Financial Manager*  
[finmanager@fpcw.org](mailto:finmanager@fpcw.org) ext. 107

Jane Currie  
*Office & Communications*  
[office@fpcw.org](mailto:office@fpcw.org) ext. 106

Ethan Holtermann  
*Livestream Engineer*  
[ethanholtermann1@gmail.com](mailto:ethanholtermann1@gmail.com)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

600 Ninth Street, Wilmette, Illinois 60091

847-256-3010

[office@fpcw.org](mailto:office@fpcw.org) [www.fpcw.org](http://www.fpcw.org)