



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

Sunday, March 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Experience God. Grow Disciples. Transform Lives.

*PLEASE STAND

BOLD TYPE INDICATES CONGREGATIONAL SPEAKING OR SINGING

BELL PRELUDE - *Fairest Lord Jesus*

Silesian Melody, arr. Venita MacGorman

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. 630** - *Fairest Lord Jesus*

CRUSADERS' HYMN

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, 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 - Ephesians 2:10 and Colossians 3:23 (New Testament pages 192 and 202)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON - *The Practice of Awe: Visual Design*

Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein

HYMN OF INVITATION, NO. 506 - *Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table!*

COPELAND

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 - *Ave Verum Corpus* (sung in Latin)

W. A. Mozart

Hail, true body, born of the virgin Mary,
Who has truly suffered, and was sacrificed on the cross for us,
Whose side was pierced, whence flowed water and blood,
Be for us a foretaste of heaven, during our final trial.
Have mercy on me. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God, we thank you for this table, for the bread and the cup. We know that you have met us and fed us here. May the meal we shared together today strengthen us for our days ahead.

Thank you for your gift of faith. Thank you for your gift of hope. Thank you for your gift of love. Amen.

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.

BELL OFFERTORY - *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

arr. J. Wayne Kerr

*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. 742, sing twice** - *We Will Walk with God*

SIZOHAMBA NAYE

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** - *Let Us Break Bread Together*

Spiritual, arr. Charles Callahan

TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein, Preaching

Rev. Jeff Lehn, Pastoral Liturgist

Bob Bobesink, Liturgist

Peggy Massello, Music Director and Organist

Youth Bells

Chancel Choir

Wonee Kim, Accompanist

Ethan Holtermann, Livestream Engineer

John Phelan, Sound Technician

Ray Hopkins, Usher

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.

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



Common Life Week of March 10, 2024

WELCOME & CONNECTION

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).

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](#) your plans to attend.

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 or by mail). Forms must have arrived in the church office on or before Sunday, March 24.

MISSION

Contribute Contents for 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. Please consult the [complete list of needs](#) for details.

Sort or Assemble Care Packages

Volunteers from a variety of local organizations and churches will gather for two day-long events, first to sort contributions and later to assemble the care packages described in the preceding announcement. Join others at St. John's Lutheran Church in Wilmette on Monday, March 11 to sort or Thursday, March 14 to pack. Sign up for a two-hour shift [online](#) or call the church office (847-256-3010).

Nurture the Love of Reading in C24/7 Kids

Please consider supporting a C24/7 book drive by placing new or gently used children's books in the collection box inside the east (parking lot) entry or purchasing a gift card from The Book Stall in Winteka. Learn more about the book drive and gift cards through the [flyer](#) or by calling the church office.



Common Life Week of March 10, 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 plus a QR code to [register](#) your plans to attend.

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 16 in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center and continue with a program. Weekly breakfasts and programs will continue into May. Contact Steve Polkoff with questions (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) 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) 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) 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/

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 10, 2024

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
10:15 am	Children's Chapel	Chapel
11:00 am	Fellowship Hour	Church Lounge
5:00 pm	Tower Senior High Fellowship	Tower
6:30 pm	Tower Senior High Dinner	WMFC

MONDAY, MARCH 11

12:30 pm	Pierian Club Meeting	WMFC
7:00 pm	Investment Club Meeting	Church Lounge
7:00 pm	Troop 5 Meeting	WMFC
7:30 pm	Crew 5 Meeting	Yellow Room

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Church Lounge
12:00 pm	Communications Committee Meeting	Church Lounge
6:00 pm	Pack 5 Meeting	WMFC
7:00 pm	Session Meeting	Upper Room

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

10:00 am	Letourneau Organ Co. Site Visit	Sanctuary
11:30 am	Women's Lunch Group Meeting	Church Lounge
5:00 pm	Children's Musical Rehearsal	WMFC
6:00 pm	Church Family Dinner	WMFC
6:30 pm	Youth Bells Rehearsal	Music Room
7:00 pm	Troop 5 Gear Pull	Garage and Parking Lot
7:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Music Room

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

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	Troop 5 Advancement Session	WMFC

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

9:00 am	Peckham Media Productions Recording Sessions	Sanctuary
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SATURDAY, MARCH 16

8:00 am	Men's Council	WMFC
9:00 am	Children's Musical Rehearsal	Sanctuary

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

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