



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

Sunday, March 24, 2024

Palm Sunday

Experience God. Grow Disciples. Transform Lives.

*PLEASE STAND

BOLD TYPE INDICATES CONGREGATIONAL SPEAKING OR SINGING

PRELUDE - *Processional on "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"*

David Lasky

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**

On this Palm Sunday, we give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

Let all God's people say, "His steadfast love endures forever!"

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

We open our eyes to see his glory. We open our ears to hear his wisdom.

We open our hands to offer him gifts. We open our mouths to sing his praise.

We open our hearts to offer him our love. All glory, laud, and honor to you, O God! Holy and awesome is your name!

***OPENING HYMN NO. 196** - *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

CALL TO CONFESSION

As we begin Holy Week, we know the only way out is through. In this most important week of the Christian year, we ask for stamina and wisdom and grace. We want to experience the agony of Good Friday and the jubilation of Easter Sunday. But we begin today with Palm Sunday, with Jesus entering Jerusalem some two thousand years ago. We picture the palm branches, the colt, the shouts of "hosanna." Understanding who Jesus is and knowing who we are, let us confess our sins together to our gracious and merciful God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of all hopefulness, on this Palm Sunday and through this holiest of weeks, our Lenten journey finds its completion through pain, sorrow, despair, losses of all kinds, through fear, anger, disappointment, and grief. Through an examination of the ways we work against you - against your hopes and dreams for creation - we seek your forgiveness, yearn for your guidance, and desire your compassion. Fill us, we pray, with the ability to turn to you, kneeling before your grace. Open our spirit that we may take you into our hearts and minds, to be transformed by you and for you. May we become a new people this Holy Week, a hopeful people, a gentle people, a people of love and

compassion, born anew from our deepest sorrow through the breadth of your forgiveness. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, our God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The first and last word with God is grace - grace to heal and make new, grace to propel us forward. This is the good news of the gospel - we are loved, forgiven, and set free to transform the world.

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 - Matthew 21:1-11 (New Testament page 23)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON - *The Practice of Awe: Collective Effervescence*

Rev. Jeff Lehn

HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 635 - *Sing, Praise, and Bless the Lord*

LAUDATE DOMINUM (Taizé)

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 - *Prepare the Royal Highway*

Allen Pote

***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. 223** - *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

HAMBURG

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** - *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

J. P. Kirnberger

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

TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Rev. Jeff Lehn, Preaching
Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein, Pastoral Liturgist
Kathy Weyrens, Liturgist
Peggy Massello, Music Director and Organist
Chancel Choir
Wonee Kim, Accompanist
Ethan Holtermann, Livestream Engineer
John Phelan, Sound Engineer
Kevin McJoynt and Frank Panzica, Ushers
Guyneth Sharp and Bill Sharp, Greeters
Paula Balthazar and Sevan Hovakimian, Nursery
Armando De Lacruz, Facilities

TODAY'S FLOWERS are given to the glory of God in memory of Robert "Bob" Dunn from his family.

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



John August Swanson, *Entrance into the City* (1990)



Common Life Week of March 24, 2024

WELCOME & CONNECTION

Join Us for Worship on Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday

Gather for a Service of Tenebrae at 7:00 pm on Maundy Thursday, March 28, in the Chapel. Arrive at 6:15 pm for a supper of soup and bread in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center beforehand. On Easter Sunday, worship services in the Sanctuary will begin at 9:00 am and 11:00 am. We will announce which service will include a livestream during the week beginning Monday, March 25. The Nursery will be open for infants and very young children during both services.

Attend Gallimaufry, a Musical Kaleidoscope

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 [register](#) your plans to attend.

Save the Date for the Tower Benefit

Don't miss the 2024 dinner and silent auction beginning at 5:00 pm on Sunday, [April 14](#). Watch for more information on tickets and how you can contribute to the fundraiser and fun.

Provide a Warm Welcome this Spring

[Sign up](#) to serve as a Greeter before a worship service or during Fellowship Hour.

SHARE, SUPPORT, GROW

Contribute to Sanctuary Flowers on Easter Sunday

Beautify the Sanctuary with lilies and hydrangeas by ordering one 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 an order form found on the usher's table and in the church office; also access the form [online](#). Deliver the form to the church office today or send a scanned copy to office@fpcw.org. The opportunity to order will close on Monday, March 25 at 9:00 am.

MISSION

Contribute Contents for Care Packages

We continue to seek travel-sized toiletries, especially toothpaste, toothbrushes, pain relievers, first aid kits, and sanitary wipes, as well as feminine hygiene products, for just-arrived migrants waiting for shelter placement. Please place contributions in the collection box inside the east entry (off the parking lot).

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 Winnetka. Learn more about the book drive and gift cards through the [flyer](#) or by calling the church office.



Common Life Week of March 24, 2024

PERSONNEL

Seeking a Director of Church & Community Engagement

The holder of this new position will focus on connecting our current and prospective members with opportunities to engage more deeply in the life of our church through mission, community events, faith formation, and fellowship. This paid, part-time position will report to Associate Pastor Kara Smith-Laubenstein and is open to members and non-members alike. Direct inquiries and suggest candidates through email addressed to office@fpcw.org.

Preparing for Sabbatical

Senior Pastor Jeff Lehn leaves on a three-month sabbatical April 14. He will pursue the spiritual practice of play as a theme for this period of study, rest, and renewal. Rev. Judy Watt will serve as part-time sabbatical pastor beginning April 14. The Personnel Support Committee and Session approved these plans, consistent with the Terms of Call, late last fall. Please pray for Jeff as he will pray for you during this time.

ADULT GROUPS

Come for Men's Council on Saturdays in April

Men's Council will begin with breakfast at 8:00 am on Saturday, April 6 in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center and continue with a program on learning disabilities. Weekly breakfasts and programs will continue through April and into May. Contact Steve Polkoff with questions (odyssey1516@gamil.com).

Begin a New Adult Faith Formation Series After Easter

Participants will lead weekly discussions using chapters and themes from *Grounded: Finding God in the World* by Diana Butler-Bass, a leading commentator on religion, politics, and culture. The series will start at 8:45 am on Sunday, April 6 in the Church Lounge. Contact the church office with questions or to begin receiving weekly adult faith formation updates and optional readings (office@fpcw.org | 847-256-3010).

Participate in the Book Group

The Book Group will gather to discuss Christina Butler Kline's *Orphan Train*, a novel filled with little-known history and compelling characters, on Wednesday, April 17 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 24, 2024

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

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

MONDAY, MARCH 25

7:00 pm	Mission Committee Meeting	Church Lounge
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TUESDAY, MARCH 26

10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Church Lounge
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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

10:00 am	Spoke Bible Study	Westminster Place
7:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Music Room

THURSDAY, MARCH 28

10:00 am	Bible Study	Church Lounge
6:15 pm	Soup Supper	WMFC
7:00 pm	Service of Tenebrae	Chapel
7:00 pm	Men's Hour	Church Lounge

FRIDAY, MARCH 29

No Events Scheduled

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

No Events Scheduled

SUNDAY, MARCH 31

8:45 am	Nursery Care for Ages 0-3	Nursery
8:55 am	Livestream Worship Service*	YouTube
9:00 am	In-Person Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:00 am	Fellowship Hour	WMFC
10:45 am	Nursery Care for Ages 0-3	Nursery
11:00 am	In-Person Worship Service	Sanctuary

WMFC = Wallace Moore Fellowship Center

*One worship service will include a livestream; please call the church office to confirm the livestreamed service time.

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-Friday 9:00am-5:00pm

CHURCH STAFF

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