



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

Sunday, March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday

Experience God. Grow Disciples. Transform Lives.

*PLEASE STAND

BOLD TYPE INDICATES CONGREGATIONAL SPEAKING OR SINGING

PRELUDE - *Music for Brass and Organ*

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**

Joyful is the sound we make this morning! For this day liberates us from doubt and fear.

Thankful is the song we sing! For this day moves us past bewilderment and despair.

Hopeful is the prayer on our lips! For this day awakens in us long-awaited new life.

Jesus promised, "I will be with you always, even to the end of the age."

The tomb is empty, light has illuminated darkness, and new creation has dawned.

The living Christ is with us here and now, at this hour, in these pews, setting us free to love and serve.

Friends, Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed! Hallelujah!

***OPENING HYMN NO. 232, verses 1, 2, and 4** - *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

EASTER HYMN

CALL TO CONFESSION

When the women first encountered the empty tomb and the risen Christ, they were flabbergasted. "How could this be?" they wondered. They were afraid, yet they summoned their faith. They were doubtful, yet they persevered. In the same spirit, let us confess our brokenness, yet strive for our Easter faith, first in silent prayer.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and gritty God, even as we sing of Christ's resurrection and the promise of new life, we know things are not the way they are supposed to be in your world. We have hurt ourselves and others. We have chased after appearance, affluence, and achievement. We have missed the life that is truly life. We have been complicit in hoarding more than our share. Please forgive us. Please empower us. Open up a new and hopeful future. Enter our hearts and lies with your self-giving love and transform us into new people. We are yours, now and always. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Christ is alive and all things are being made new! Because of Christ, the old is gone and the new has come. Because of Christ, grace is really true. Because of Christ, peace and universal flourishing is possible. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!

Christ is risen! Thanks be to God.

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE NO. 587 - *Alleluia!*

CELTIC ALLELUIA

The image shows two staves of musical notation for a congregational response. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8. The melody is written on a treble clef. The first staff has the lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!" with chords A, E, D E A, D, E above it. The second staff has the lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!" with chords A, E, Bm E A, D, E A above it.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Today is a Family Worship Sunday; children, please stay in worship with your families. Children's Chapel will resume next week.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of all life, we come to worship on Easter morning eager to hold the old and familiar words of hope. Save us from letting those words fall too soft and easy because they are so familiar. Like the lilies before us, may we open our hearts wide to hear them fresh. We don't ask them to be emptied of mystery. We ask only that we might stand under their wonder. In Christ our risen Lord, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING - Mark 16:1-8 (New Testament page 54)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON - *The Practice of Awe: Epiphanies*

Rev. Jeff Lehn

ANTHEM OF RESPONSE - *Ukrainian Alleluia*

Craig Courtney

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (drawn from 1 Corinthians 15)

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. Christ is alive, the first and the last, the one who defeated death a long time ago and gives new life to all today. Amen.

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.

ANTHEM - *Rise, Shine!*

Spiritual, arr. M. Garrett and T. Trenney

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE - The Doxology**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Alleluia, Alleluia. Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Abundant God, we know it is more blessed to give than to receive. All things belong to you and you ask us to be stewards of your gifts for a time. It's our joy to return a portion of what you've entrusted to us. May our gifts do awesome things in your world, for the last, the lost, and the least, things only you can imagine. All we have is yours this Easter. We are yours. Amen.

***HYMN** - *Hallelujah Chorus* from Messiah

G. F. Handel

A copy may be found in the pew rack. Please return it there at the end of the service.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

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.

POSTLUDE - *Music for Brass and Organ*

Please take part in a special Fellowship Hour
in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center between today's two services.

TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Rev. Jeff Lehn, Preaching

Rev. Kara Smith-Laubenstein, Pastoral Liturgist

Arianne Lehn, Liturgist, 9:00 am

Bob Neuhaus, Liturgist, 11:00 am

Peggy Massello, Music Director and Organist

Wonee Kim, Accompanist

Chancel Choir

Brass Quintet:

Steven William Ehrhardt and Samantha Kovach, Trumpets

Sarah Fleming, French Horn

Adam McLimans, Trombone

Nick Collins, Tuba

Ethan Holtermann, Livestream Engineer

John Phelan, Sound Engineer

Ray Hopkins and Frank Panzica, Ushers, 9:00 am

Julie Fogarty, Will McGrath, Steve Reinhart, and Bill Sharp, Ushers, 11:00 am

Diane Baer and Rick Baer, Greeters, 9:00 am and 11:00 am

Paula Balthazar and Sevan Hovakimian, Nursery

Armando De Lacruz, Facilities



Image of the stained glass window gifted to the 16th Street Baptist Church (Birmingham, Alabama) by the people of Wales after the bombing of the church on September 15, 1963.



Common Life Week of March 31, 2024

WELCOME & CONNECTION

Attend Gallimaufry, a Musical Kaleidoscope

Register now for one of the last remaining tickets to 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.

Share Lunch and Learn About the Seraj Library Project

The Lunch Group for Women invite you to attend a light Mediterranean lunch followed by speakers and a slide presentation about the Seraj Library Project and the current situation in the West Bank on Wednesday, April 10; lunch 11:30 am to 12:15 pm, speakers 12:15 pm to 1:30 pm in the Church Lounge.

Purchase Tickets for the Tower Benefit

Don't miss the 2024 dinner and silent auction beginning at 5:00 pm on Sunday, April 14. Tickets available for purchase after today's worship services and on April 7 and 14. Contact Pastor Kara Smith-Laubenstein (ksmithlaubenstein@fpcw.org) with questions about tickets and how you can contribute to this important fundraiser.

Remembering Trudy Ronnel

Beloved church member Trudy Ronnel passed away on March 10th. Please keep her family in your prayers for God's comfort and peace as they grieve her death. A memorial service is planned for a later date; read about Trudy's extraordinary life in [her obituary](#).

SHARE, SUPPORT, GROW

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 7 in the Church Lounge. Contact the church office with questions or to begin receiving weekly email updates and optional readings.

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, detailed in this [position description](#), 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.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 31, 2024

SUNDAY, MARCH 31

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

MONDAY, APRIL 1

Easter Monday Church Holiday; church office closed		
7:00 pm	Troop 5 Meeting	WMFC
7:30 pm	Crew 5 Meeting	Yellow Room

TUESDAY, APRIL 2

10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Church Lounge
12:00 pm	Communications Committee Meeting	Church Lounge

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 4

10:00 am	Bible Study	Church Lounge
5:15 pm	Una Voce Recital	Chapel
6:00 pm	Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting	Upper Room
7:00 pm	Men's Hour	Church Lounge

FRIDAY, APRIL 5

6:00 pm	MAD Tweens Meeting	Various
7:00 pm	Gallimaufry	Chapel

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

7:30 am	Troop 5 Parent Troop Leadership Meeting	Upper Room
8:00 am	Men's Council	WMFC

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

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
2:30 pm	Troop 5 Advancement Session	WMFC
5:00 pm	Tower Senior High Fellowship	Tower
5:30 pm	Troop 5 Patrol Leaders' Council Meeting	Upper Room
6:30 pm	Tower Senior High Dinner	WMFC

WMFC = Wallace Moore Fellowship Center

EASTER FLOWERS GIVEN IN APPRECIATION

GIVEN BY

IN APPRECIATION OF

Jane Brumitt.....	Her Family and Friends
Jim and Marsha Fox.....	Their Children
Nancy Freeman.....	The Wednesday Lunch Group
Robert Hariman and Jane Rankin	Rev. Jeff Lehn
Arianne and Jeff Lehn	Tacey Braithwaite
Marisa and Blair Lock.....	The Lehn Family
The Bruce Lyon Family.....	Denny Pryor
Sal and Emily Karottki	Barbara Beattie
Sal and Emily Karottki	Sandra Karottki
abby mohaupt and Juniper.....	Their Family
Carol Moss.....	Peggy Massello
Anita Thies.....	Nancy Freeman
Anita Thies.....	Mary Watt
Anita Thies.....	Bonnie Wehrenberg
Anita Thies.....	Kathy Weyrens
Mary and Bill Watt	The Church Staff

EASTER FLOWERS GIVEN IN MEMORY

GIVEN BY

IN MEMORY OF

Rick and Diane Baer	Rick's mother, Jean Baer
Jane Brumitt.....	Bob and Marj Brumitt
Danielle Reese and Jesse Cox.....	David Cox
Danielle Reese and Jesse Cox.....	Susan and Walter Reese
Jim and Marsha Fox.....	Their Parents
The Karottki Family.....	Donald and Florence Sands
The Karottki Family.....	John V. Sullivan
Joyce Knauff.....	Linda Kuhles Lellinger
Joyce Knauff.....	Ed and Jo Kuhles
Joyce Knauff.....	Ken Kuhles
Arianne and Jeff Lehn	Dr. Tom Braithwaite
The Bruce Lyon Family.....	Tom and Barbara Lyon
The Bruce Lyon Family.....	Alice Pryor
Bob and Linda Malstrom	Charles L. and Helen Aslaksen
Bob and Linda Malstrom	Charles M. Aslaksen
Bob and Linda Malstrom	Bob and Betty Malstrom
Amy Miller	John, Gwen, and Ken Miller
Jeff and Karen Miller	Janice S. Miller
Eva Neuhauser.....	Claudia Colorado
Eva Neuhauser.....	Gabriele Pless
Sharon Panzica	Alice Panzica and Betsie Zerlin
Bill and Guyneth Sharp	Their Parents and Siblings
Rachel Springer.....	Gary Burke
Judy and Vern Squires	Karen Mericle
Judy and Vern Squires	Elizabeth Squires
Treiber/Smith Families	Betty Treiber
Mary and Bill Watt	Trudy Ronnel
Anonymous	Eve Lawrence

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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