

**First Church of Lombard
United Church of Christ
March 26, 2023 – Fifth Sunday in Lent**

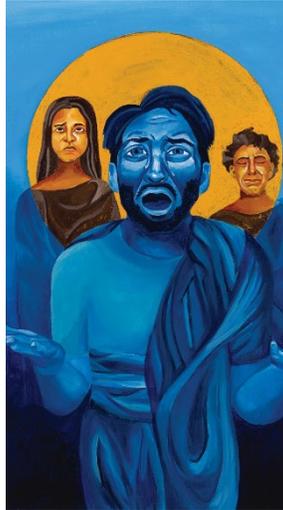


Image: "Unbind Me" by Lauren Wright Pittman
A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

All God's children — of all ages — are welcome in worship at First Church of Lombard. Children are invited to participate in worship with their families. For parents who need a quiet, calm place to go with smaller children, the Nursery is available across from the main office. The audio of the service -- as well as activities for infants and toddlers -- are accessible, but the room is not staffed.

PRELUDE

A Million Dreams
Josiah Reade Ringers

Ron Mallory

TIME OF SHARING & CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

GATHERING FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

***GATHERING SONG** *When Morning Gilds the Skies (NCH #86)*
When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries,
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer, one purpose I declare:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

New strength comes night or day when from the heart we say,
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Let sin and evil fear when this sweet chant they hear:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

*Discordant humankind, in this your concord find,
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Let all the earth around ring joyous with the sound:
May Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine,
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this the eternal song, through all the ages long:
May Jesus Christ be praised!*

***OPENING PRAYER (unison)**

God of all consolation and compassion, your Son comforted the grieving sisters, Martha and Mary; your breath alone brings life to dry bones and weary souls. Pour out your Spirit upon us, that we may face despair and death with the hope of resurrection and faith in the One who called Lazarus forth from the grave. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD

through scripture

John 11:1-7, 17-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus

began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

through an anthem

In Your Eyes
One Step Closer

Rob Leveridge

through a sermon

New Life in the Wilderness

through a hymn *Let Us Hope when Hope Seems Hopeless (NCH #461 (tune Hyfrydol)*

*Let us hope when hope seems hopeless, when the dreams we dreamed have died.
When the morning breaks in brightness, hunger shall be satisfied.
One who sows the fields with weeping shall retrace the sorrowing way
And rejoice in harvest bounty at the breaking of the day.*

*Faith and hope in love's compassion will survive though knowledge cease,
Though the tongues of joy fall silent, dull the words of prophecies.
Faith shall see and trust its object; hope shall set its anchor sure;
Love shall bloom in Love eternal. Faith and hope and love endure.*

*Like a child outgrowing childhood, setting childhood things away,
We will learn to live in freedom, in the life of God's new day.
Now we see as in a mirror. Then we shall see face to face,
Understand how love's compassion blossoms through amazing Grace.*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR GIFTS

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER SONG

*Be Still (NCH#743)
Be still and know that I am God (x3)*

PASTORAL PRAYER & PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for
Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

SENT FORTH TO PROCLAIM GOD'S GRACE

*PARTING SONG

Be Not Dismayed (NCH #460)

*Be not dismayed whate'er betide, God will take care of you;
Beneath God's wings of love abide, God will take care of you.*

Refrain:

*God will take care of you, through every day, o'er all the way;
God will take care of you, God will take care of you.*

*Through days of toil when heart grows frail, God will take care of you;
When dangers fierce your path assail, God will take care of you. [Refrain]*

*All you may need God will provide, God will take care of you;
Nothing you ask will be denied, God will take care of you. [Refrain]*

*No matter what may be the test, God will take care of you;
Lean, weary one, upon God's breast, God will take care of you. [Refrain]*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

***As you are able, please stand in body or in spirit.**

First Church of Lombard, UCC – Song Select and Broadcasting License # 48259180
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We acknowledge that First Church of Lombard UCC
is located on the traditional native lands of the
Kiikaapoi, Peoria, Bodewadmiakwen,
Miami and Oeeti Sakowin peoples.



First Church of Lombard
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

NEWS AND NOTES

FIRST CHURCH OF LOMBARD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Published Weekly

March 26, 2023

220 South Main Street
Lombard, Illinois 60148
No.1190

HOLY WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH OF LOMBARD

Sun. April 2, 10:15AM - Palm Sunday

Palm Procession led by the children (no Holy Communion this day,
communion will be served on Maundy Thursday and Easter)

Thur. April 6, 6:30PM - Maundy Thursday

Reflective Service with Holy Communion

Thur. April 6, 7:30PM - Passover Seder

Learn about the traditional Jewish celebration

Fri. April 7, 7:00PM - Good Friday

Joint Service at First United Methodist Church

Sun. April 9, 10:15AM - Easter Sunday

Indoor Service with a Brass Ensemble and Holy Communion

SUNDAY SCHOOL

All God's children — of all ages — are always welcome in worship at First Church of Lombard. Due to Spring Break for the next two Sundays (March 26 and April 2), all kids are welcome to worship with their families. Children will also remain in worship for Easter Sunday, April 9. Sunday School will resume the following Sunday, April 16.

ATTENTION ALL BRASS PLAYERS!

We would love to have you join our Easter FCL Brass Ensemble. Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned performer, we will have something you can play. The ensemble will be accompanying the hymn Christ the Lord is Risen Today during our Easter Sunday program. We welcome everyone to join, but we ask that you register [HERE](#) by April 6th.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

An Ecclesiastical Council for Susan Steinmiller will be held on Thursday, March 30 at 7:30PM at First Church. This is one of the last steps in the ordination process. Email the office to receive the Zoom link or plan to attend in person. Let us show our support for Susan!

GREEN TEAM

The Green Team will next meet on Tuesday, April 4, 7:00 in the North Conference Room. All are welcome to attend. Earth Day is coming!

JARS NEEDED FOR EARTH DAY EVENT ON SATURDAY, APRIL 15

The Faith Exploration Team is organizing an all-family Earth Day event to be held Saturday, April 15 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. This fun event for kids of all ages will be focused on learning about composting. For one of our activities, we are in need of CLEAN glass jars with lids in a larger size (think pickle jars). Jars can be brought to the church office; contact vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org for details.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR "DIGGING DEEP" EARTH DAY EVENT

Want to help make FCL's family event on Saturday, April 15 a reality? Head to <https://amzn.to/3TfCDTx> (PLEASE NOTE CORRECTED LINK) for a "Wish List" of needed items, make a purchase, and those supplies will be headed our way!

Monetary donations are also needed; donations can be made payable to First Church of Lombard, with "Digging Deep" on the memo line.

AMERICAN HERITAGE CONCERT SUNDAY, APRIL 16 AT 3:00 P.M.

The concert will be highlighted by the world premiere of the suite Yellowstone - Nature's Symphony (composed by Ken Bohl), describing the mountains, geysers, canyon, wildlife, Mammoth Springs, and the park's rebirth after the fires of 1988.

The program also includes Festival Overture on the National Air, Themes from Jurassic Park, The Ragtime Dance, and The Last Spring.

Admission \$20

For more information visit MapleStreetChapel.Org or call 630-627-0171.

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our condolences are with the family and friends of Ed Pishko who died on March 8. Ed and his wife, Ellen, were very involved members of First Church prior to their move to Minnesota. Contact the office for the address to send a card to express your sympathy to the family.

Our deepest sympathies go out to Chuck Threewitt and his family and friends, with the passing of Chuck's mother, Mildred Threewitt, this past week. Please keep them in your prayers.

Church Office Hours

Tuesday & Thursday

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Sunday

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Monday & Wednesday

Available by appointment

Friday & Saturday

CLOSED

STAFF

Rev. Dr. Jill Terpstra - Senior Minister

Val Sutton - Director of Educational Ministries

Janette Rodriguez - Director of Music Ministries

Lawrence Underwood - Children and Youth Music

Coordinator

Rae Piper-Coder – Community Engagement Coordinator

Charlie Peterson - Porter

Bea Castillo - Administrative Secretary

Phone: 630-629-2630

www.FCOL.org