

**First Church of Lombard
United Church of Christ
January 28, 2024 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**



Children in preschool through 5th grade begin worship with their families and will be dismissed to Sunday School shortly. 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

To God be the Glory

arr. Mark Edwards

TIME OF SHARING & CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

GATHERING FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

***OPENING HYMN**

To You, O God, All Creatures Sing (NCH #17)

*To You, O God, all creatures sing, and all creation, everything, sings Your praises, alleluia!
Your burning sun with golden beam, Your silver moon with softer gleam
Sing Your praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

*To You, O God, day after day, Your planet earth in every way, sings Your praises, alleluia,
As savory fruit and fragrant flower, show forth Your glory and Your power,
Singing praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

*Now we who are of tender heart, forgiving others, take our part, sing Your praises, alleluia!
To You we lift our pain and care, receive the burdens that we bear,
Singing praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

***OPENING PRAYER (UNISON)**

Generous and loving God, who provides water in the desert, wine at a wedding, fish when there are no bites, bread when we are hungry, and answers when we are confused, be with us this morning, as you are always. Blow through us, that we might sense your presence. Wrestle with us, that we might discern your path. Love us that we might become who you call us to be. Amen.

Children in preschool through 5th grade are now dismissed to Sunday School; a teacher will be on-hand to guide them to their class. Sunday School students should be picked up by a parent or other responsible adult at 11:30 a.m. at the Resource Room (on the lower level).

THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD

through an anthem

Be Still
Chancel Choir

Karen Marriolli

through scripture

Psalm 111

Praise the Lord!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

Great are the works of the Lord,
studied by all who delight in them.

Full of honor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;
the Lord is gracious and merciful.

He provides food for those who fear him;
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the heritage of the nations.

The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy.

They are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

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

Holy and awesome is his name.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.

His praise endures forever.

through a sermon

Praise the Lord!

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN**

Praise, I Will Praise You, Lord

Praise, I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart.
O God, I will tell the wonders of your ways, and glorify your name.
Praise, I will praise you Lord, with all my heart.
In you I will find the source of all my joy. Alleluia!

Love, I will love you, Lord, with all my heart.
O God, I will tell the wonders of your ways, and glorify your name.
Love, I will love you Lord, with all my heart.
In you I will find the source of all my joy. Alleluia!

Serve, I will serve you, Lord, with all my heart.
O God, I will tell the wonders of your ways, and glorify your name.
Serve, I will serve you Lord, with all my heart.
In you I will find the source of all my joy. Alleluia!

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR GIFTS

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER SONG

I Need You Every Hour (vs. 1 NCH #517)

*I need you every hour, O God of grace;
The peace your voice affords, I now embrace.
I need you, how I need you! Every hour I need you;
O bless me now, my Savior; I come to you.*

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**

God Reigns o'er All the Earth (NCH #21)

*God reigns o'er all the earth! Green hills and valleys low,
The farms and towns in golds and browns God's grace and beauty show.
God reigns o'er all the earth! Stone banks and spreading plains,
In rainbow hues—reds, yellows, blues—of streams and country lanes.*

*God reigns o'er human life! Through youth and aging years,
In death, in birth, in grief, in mirth, in all our hopes and fears.
God reigns o'er human life! Our inspiration still.
Through all our schemes, in all our dreams, we see God's reigning will.*

*God reigns o'er time and space! In history's bygone days,
Christ's faithful folk in reverence spoke to bring God earnest praise.
God reigns o'er time and space! O'er galaxy and sun,
through timeless years the cosmos hears the heavenly music run.*

*God reigns! Emmanuel! God with us every day,
In all our past and to the last, our comfort and our stay.
God reigns! Emmanuel! Let praise to Christ be sung!
God's presence here makes all things dear. Let joyful bells be rung!*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Poor Wayfaring Stranger

arr. John Purifoy

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

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Everyone is welcome to Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall after worship.

If you would like to hear about upcoming events and receive the News and Notes via email, please email Bea Castillo at bcastillo@firstchurchoflombard.org. A limited number of hard copies are available in the narthex.

NEWS AND NOTES

FIRST CHURCH OF LOMBARD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Published Weekly

January 28, 2024

20 South Main Street
Lombard, Illinois 60148
No.1234

LENT SERIES: LOVERS AND FOOLS

This year, the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on Valentine's Day and concludes with Easter, on the day before April Fool's. This timing lends itself to our Lenten theme: Lovers and Fools. Throughout the season of Lent, we will look at stories from our faith that call us to deeper love and at times make us look like fools to those who do not understand.

HAVE A HEART FOR PADS

During February, the Wider Church team will be collecting cash donations to be used to order gift cards through "Raise Right" (formerly Scrip). These will be given to PADS to help their clients with basic needs as they move from the streets to interim housing and through their supportive services program to employment and permanent housing.

Last year we were able to donate 55 gifts cards (\$25 each). Donations can be directed to First Church of Lombard office or online through REALM or see one of us at Coffee Hour. Please note this is a "Miscellaneous" donation with a memo that it should be "for PADS". To learn more about PADS go to <http://www.dupagepads.org>.

FILLING HOLES

There are several holes in the materials in the archives, so if you've been spending time avoiding the cold outside by clearing out boxes, files, etc., please consider bringing things in and letting us decide to store or recycle them. Especially needed are annual reports (early to mid-1990s and a few others) and Church Council meeting packets especially for the past few years. Get things to Dan Jares or leave them in the office with his name on them, please. The future thanks you!

LOVE IS LOVE IS LOVE SUNDAY MORNING ADULT FAITH EXPLORATION

Join in any Sunday through March 24 at 9:00 a.m. for FCL's Sunday Morning Adult Faith Exploration! This is a weekly discussion that will center around the theme of "Love is Love is Love." Love has been a favored topic of philosophers, poets, writers, and scientists for generations. A variety of facilitators will present a piece of media (video, article, etc.) that fits this theme and ALL are welcome to enjoy the conversation that ensues! Come to the North Conference Room or attend via Zoom any week you can make it!

The topic changes weekly; if you have questions or would like to be sent the weekly topic and Zoom links, contact vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org.

GENDER IDENTITY SERIES GOING ON NOW!

All are invited to gather at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays through February 7 for First Church's series about Gender Identity. Our hope is to ensure that discussions about gender and identity at First Church are informed by a baseline of shared language and information. All sessions will be held in the North Conference Room (on the lower level) and will be available via Zoom. Each week will have a new presentation with new information, so you are encouraged to join us for as many sessions as your schedule allows. For Zoom links, questions, or if you would like to participate in our panel of people who are gender variant or are related to someone who is gender variant, please contact Val Sutton, Educational Ministries Director, at vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org.

BUY PIZZA FOR THE SUPER BOWL OR VALENTINE'S DAY TO SUPPORT LOVE INC

Buy take and bake round or heart shaped pizzas, salads and/or cupcakes to enjoy while watching the Super Bowl or celebrating Valentine's Day. Orders need to be placed by Monday, February 5 and will be available for pick up after church on Sunday, February 11. Go here to order <https://bit.ly/Love-1stCofLombard>. Home Run Inn will donate 30% of the sales to our ministry partner, Love INC.

ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF

The Annual Chili Cook-Off will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 10 in Hatfield Hall! This fun, delicious event will feature a huge array of chilis just waiting to be taste-tested... and voted the best! Cornbread, hot dogs, desserts and more will round out the options available. Come to Hatfield Hall to enjoy music, amazing food, and a chance to socialize as we help raise funds for the Youth Community Summer Mission Trip (location TBA!). Tickets will be available at the door for \$8 each or \$30 per family. You can also try your luck in a Split-the-Pot, or try to stack the deck by buying "extra votes" for your choice of spiciest, tastiest or most unique chili.

CHILI CHEF SIGN-UPS HAVE BEGUN!

The Annual Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 10 in Hatfield Hall! This fun, delicious event raises funds for our Youth Community Summer Mission Trip (location TBA). As always, this event will feature a huge array of chili just waiting to be taste-tested... Do YOU have what it takes to be voted the best? Sign up to submit a delicious chili starting Sunday, January 21 after worship... and will continue on January 28 and February 3. You can also email vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org to sign up. Tickets for the event on February 10 will be available at the door for \$8 each or \$30 per family.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE, FEB. 14

The Ash Wednesday service will be held at 7 PM on Wednesday, February 14 in the Maple Street Chapel. This service will start our Lenten journey with the imposition of ashes and holy communion.

DONATIONS NEEDED

Amos Project along with allies Immigrant Solidarity Dupage & ComeUnity will be helping St. Mark's with this rapid response as well a donations for urgent clothing...clean & only gently used! Please bring to church and put in the **big blue bins** the following:

All sizes!

- Coats
- Gloves/mittens
- Hats
- Scarves

***Please make sure these items are new or gently used.

If you have any questions, please contact Jeri Shaw at 630-936-6668.

COFFEE HOUR

Coffee Hour has become very popular, and we love having everyone get together after worship, greet friends, and make new friends! Please remember everyone is welcome to bring food items and/or make a donation as Coffee Hour is self-supporting and not part of the church budget. See you there!

| Volunteers for Sunday, January 28, 2024 | Volunteers for Sunday, February 4, 2024 |
|--|--|
| <u>Liturgist</u> Linda Bertani | <u>Liturgist</u> Matt Kirsh |
| <u>Ushers</u> Jason Cooper | <u>Ushers</u> Becky & Matt Kirsh Marianne McGuire Mark Meyer |
| <u>Coffee Hour</u> Corinne Flemm Judy Kline Lynda Wilson | <u>Coffee Hour</u> Jean Reneau |
| <u>Church Opener</u> Rick Hennessey | <u>Church Opener</u> Scott Garrett |
| <u>Sound</u> Charlie Peterson | <u>Sound</u> Charlie Peterson |
| <u>Live Streaming</u> Eric Wilson | <u>Live Streaming</u> Eric Wilson |

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

Charlie Peterson - Porter

Bea Castillo - Administrative Secretary

Phone: 630-629-2630

www.FCOL.org

