

July 5, 2020 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

[illegible]

Strengthen the Church

Arr. Gary Lanier

*O Come to me, you weary, and I will give you rest.
The blessed voice of Jesus, which comes to hearts oppressed.
It tells of benediction, of pardon, grace, and peace,
Of joy that has no ending, of love which does not cease.*



OPENING PRAYER

*One: Come to us, Holy One, and immerse us in the beauty of life with you!
Come to us, Holy One, and enliven our community with the intensity of your love
Come to us, Holy One, and embolden our community with the urgency
of your justice in the name of the One who calls us to play and to work in community,
Jesus, our beloved. Amen.*

THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD

through scripture

Matthew 11:25-30

At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

through a sermon

through an anthem

The Promised Land
Lawrence Underwood - oboe

Arr. Michael Ware

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR GIFTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayer Requests

Prayers of the People – Pastoral Prayer

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION PRAYER (repeat after me)

One: God, there is no lockdown on your blessing.

All: God, there is no lockdown on your blessing.

One: There is no quarantine on grace.

All: There is no quarantine on grace.

One: Send your Spirit of life and love,

All: Send your Spirit of life and love,

One: Upon every table where your child shelters in place,

All: Upon every table where your child shelters in place,

One: That this Bread may be broken and gathered in love.

All: That this Bread may be broken and gathered in love.

One: And this Cup poured out to give hope to all.

All: And this Cup poured out to give hope to all.

One: Risen Christ, live in us, that we may live in you.

All: Risen Christ, live in us, that we may live in you.

One: Breathe in us, that we may breathe in you.

All: Breathe in us, that we may breathe in you.

One: Jesus is risen! Alleluia. Amen.

All: Jesus is risen! Alleluia. Amen

BREAKING THE BREAD AND POURING THE CUP

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.

SHARING THE GIFTS

Response is "We are one in Christ in the bread we share."

Leader: Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the Bread of Heaven.

Unison: **We are one in Christ in the bread we share.**

Response is "We are one in Christ in the cup we share."

Leader: Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the Cup of Blessing.

Unison: **We are one in Christ in the cup we share.**

PRAYER AFTER THE MEAL

One: *Spirit of Christ, you have blessed our tables and our lives. May the eating of this Bread give us courage to speak faith and act love, not only in church sanctuaries, but in your precious world, and may the drinking of this Cup renew our hope even in the midst of pandemic. Wrap your hopeful presence around all whose bodies, spirits and hearts need healing, and remind us to live with the hope of resurrection. Amen*

SENT FORTH TO PROCLAIM GOD'S GRACE

PARTING SONG

God's Eye is on the Sparrow

*Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come,
Why should my heart be lonely, and long for heaven and home,
When God is ever my portion? My constant friend will be:
God's eye is on the sparrow, and know God watches me;
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.
I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Deep River
Lawrence Underwood – oboe

Arr. Daniel Kelley
Traditional Spiritual

NEWS AND NOTES

FIRST CHURCH OF LOMBARD

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Published Weekly

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220 South Main Street

Lombard, Illinois 60148

No. 1061

TOWER HILL

Our beloved Tower Hill camp in Sawyer, Michigan, will be 100 years old in 2023! Of course, the pandemic closed the camp for weeks, and it has lost the revenue from various bookings. However, it is open again for families to rent cabins and for people to reserve and "pick up" (virtually) "camp boxes" with activities while camping "at home." For information and to reserve boxes (and stays), visit the website at il.outdoorministries.org. Much-needed donations can be made at towerhill.campbraingiving.com

SUNDAY "LOOKING FOR LIGHT" ADULT EDUCATION

Plan on joining the group that gathers at 9 AM on Sundays to discuss a topic chosen by one of the participants, often with a video as the springboard for sharing. It's all done via Zoom, so please contact Val Sutton, Educational Ministries Coordinator, at vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org for the link that makes participation a reality. Please let Val know if you would like to facilitate our discussion on a Sunday.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Join with fellow First Church Family members at 10:15 AM on Sundays by going to www.fcol.org to see Pastor Jill give her pre-recorded message of inspiration and prayers and hear the sharings of our talented musicians. Listen to some of our members as they tell of listening to the service more than once, getting something new with each listening. It would also be a good idea to invite friends to join the family "at church" via this method.

OUTDOOR COFFEE HOUR AND FUTURE WORSHIP

Coffee Hour may be experienced in person on July 19th, 26th, and August 2nd at 11:15 AM by coming to church at 11:15 AM with a lawn chair, coffee/lunch, and a mask. If the weather isn't being friendly we will revert to a Zoom gathering. A pre-recorded worship service will continue to be available online.

Our target date for resuming in-person worship is August 9th. The time leading up to this date will be used to prepare the building and review reopening procedures. As the date moves closer, we will communicate what to expect when arriving for worship. Reopening will be postponed if we do not feel ready or do not believe that we can reopen safely.

Please communicate with Pastor Jill or Gary Cation, Council Chair, if there are questions or concerns.

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR DAY

The Christian Church of Villa Park, St. John's Lutheran Church in Lombard, and other area churches will be working together again this year to host the 6th Annual Love Your Neighbor Day on Saturday, September 19th with safety precautions in place.

Applications are now being accepted from homeowners in the Villa Park/Lombard area who are having difficulty keeping up with work around their homes because of financial or physical limitations and who could benefit from a group of people volunteering at their home for a day. This year, all work will be in the yard or on the exterior in the home to protect both the homeowner and the volunteers. The work will be done by small groups of volunteers from local churches and the community who sign up to work together. Homeowners can rest assured that no one will be going into their home, and all volunteers will be practicing social distancing. Anyone with a personal need or knowing someone with a need is encouraged to apply now.

Applications and more information can be obtained on the Christian Church of Villa Park website at www.ccvponline.net, by sending an e-mail to loveyourneighbor15@yahoo.com, or by leaving a message at 630-833-7262. The deadline for submitting homeowner applications is August 28th. Individuals interested in forming a small volunteer group for Love Your Neighbor Day can also obtain volunteer sign-up sheets on the website or by e-mailing the above address.

PASTOR JILL'S AGAPE FROM AFAR

Each week has a Wednesday, and each Wednesday has an "Agape from Afar" from Pastor Jill as she shares the scripture passage that will be the basis of her Sunday message. Reading the scripture is a good first step to understanding what Pastor Jill is saying, but she also adds some thoughts for pondering so that there can be an even deeper appreciation of the message.

WEEKLY SEEDS SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

Come any week to these Wednesday evening studies, which continue through August on Wednesdays at 7 PM. Zoom makes that gathering possible for anyone who wants to attend (friends are welcome!), so please contact Val Sutton for the link to join the group. The Bible passage will be chosen from the weekly lectionary (a worldwide guide for Sunday scripture) and will correlate with the passage chosen by Pastor Jill for the basis of her message.

CROP WALK

Yes, it will be a virtual walk this year, but it is even more important than ever as a fundraiser for hunger. Hester Bury, leader of the walk, is asking for team leaders and walkers to set aside Sunday, October 4th, as a day to join with members of a faith-based organization or community group to walk alone or on their grounds or in their neighborhoods so that social distancing can protect all participants from illness.

In addition to providing funds to help alleviate hunger throughout the world, five local food pantries will also benefit from the walk..

To step up to be a virtual team leader, please plan on joining a Zoom meeting on Tuesday, August 11th, for information on how to create a team and help them participate. Donation online will be encouraged, but there will also be opportunities for cash or check donations on walk day.

Please go to the website www.crophungerwalk.org/lombardil

IN TOUCH WITH OUTREACH

Since we began modified services in mid-March, our Outreach House Team has aided 343 families from the community with emergency needs. Our First Things First Team has provided over 22,200 diapers and together we have touched the lives of 1,566 neighbors.

Thank you to all the volunteers and donors who have made these services possible!

PASTOR JILL'S INVITATION

Pastor Jill is continuing to extend an invitation to anyone who would like to participate in the worship service by reading scripture or some other portion of worship. It requires a phone or computer with video recording capabilities, but anyone is welcome to contact Pastor Jill at pastorjill@firstchurchoflombard.org to let her know of interest.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

While the church office will be open from 9 AM to 2 PM Monday through Thursday and 9 AM until noon on Friday, we are still trying to limit the number of people coming in and ask that anyone needing to enter call 630-629-2630, ext. 210 before coming to the building. Staff will be able to be reached via phone and email during regular working hours.

WHITE PRIVILEGE

Join people from across the country, beginning this coming week, as our denomination, the United Church of Christ, holds gatherings led by trained facilitators covering discussions of white privilege. Sessions will be scheduled at a number of times each week through August, so the family schedule will be able to accommodate at least one of them. Contact steesbassoon@gmail.com to sign up for a time and date that works for you.

VBS

Parents are asked to be sure to register their children (preschool and elementary students) for Café Hope Carry Out, a special “take-home” version of VBS! Please reserve your kits TODAY so we know how many kits to prepare for pickup on Monday, July 13th, from 9-11 AM. The take-home boxes will include games, activities, and other facets of the usual VBS day, all prepared for easy use at home to help kids “Cook Up a Better Tomorrow.” Registration may be done through our website, www.fcol.org

AGAPE PHOTOS

Val Sutton is pleased with the response to her request for pictures of people wearing either of the two Agape design shirts, whether from the past or present times. Her creative genes are working on a presentation that is sure to be pleasing...and original. Please share photos with her at vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org

FOOD PANTRY BOXES

Since so many people are ordering things online for delivery, there can be an abundance of boxes available for use at the Food Pantry. Please bring them (collapsed) to the parking lot doors on Wednesdays between 2 and 5 PM, making sure that they aren't any larger than 12x18x9. If it's raining, the back doors will be open so that the boxes may be left in the stairwell area. Contact vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org with questions.

SUMMER SCHEDULE

The next News and Notes will be on July 19th, with additional issues coming every two weeks.