

**First Church of Lombard
United Church of Christ
In-person and Virtual Worship
May 16, 2021 – Ascension Sunday**



The nursery is closed until further notice. Families with young children are invited to worship in Hatfield Hall, where rocking chairs are available for your use.

Children head directly to Sunday School, rather than starting in worship with their families. A parent or another responsible adult should pick up children at 11:00 a.m., which may be a few minutes after the conclusion of the worship service. Today, at the conclusion of Sunday School, children will be brought over to the Little Free Library on the north (chapel) end of the church for our "Grand Opening" celebration.

PRELUDE

Meditation
Janette Rodriguez - piano

Michael Card

TIME OF SHARING & CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY

GATHERING FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

GATHERING SONG

*Hail the Day that Sees Christ Rise
Hail the day that sees Christ rise, Alleluia!
To a throne in paradise, Alleluia!
Christ, the Lamb for sinners given, Alleluia!
Enters now the highest heaven, Alleluia!*

OPENING PRAYER

One: Mysterious God, on this day, you drew Jesus to your side— promising his companions your spirit, power, mission, and purpose; calling his disciples to trust a future that they could not yet see. As we look to Jesus this day, give us the same hope to trust a future that we too are yet unable to see. Guide us into your depths, that we may glimpse the Spirit already at work in our lives— revealing your truth and empowering us to bear witness to the risen Christ. We pray this in the name of Jesus, your Mystery, your Wisdom, and your Glory. Amen.

SIGNS OF PEACE

THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD

through a mission moment Bread for the World Offering of Letters

through scripture Luke 24:44-53

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

through a sermon Footprints of God

through an anthem *Amazing Grace* Arr. John A. Dempsey
Lawrence Underwood - oboe



RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR GIFTS

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

*Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing
Rejoice, give thanks and sing; your Sovereign God adore!
For Christ has robbed death's sting and triumphs evermore.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

When We All Get to Heaven
Lawrence Underwood - oboe

Arr. Gary Lanier

REMINDER

**There is a Church Council meeting tomorrow,
Monday, May 17th at 7:00 PM via Zoom.**

**Contact the office at info@firstchurchoflombard.org if you would like the
link for the meeting.**

NEWS AND NOTES

FIRST CHURCH OF LOMBARD

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Published Weekly

May 16, 2021

220 South Main Street

Lombard, Illinois 60148

No.1100

TIME FOR SHARING IDEAS

Today at 11:15 AM we will be given a chance to meet with the Joyful Connections group to share ideas of what we would like the church to be like as we plan to gather again. This morning's focus group will discuss Parish Life. Come to Hatfield Hall to listen and to be heard concerning ways that we can keep our church family strong and functioning in a way that will help us to serve each other and our community.

The following meetings are planned for the future.

Spirituality/Worship

Thursday, May 20th, 7 PM - Solely Zoom

Sunday, May 23rd, 11:15 AM - Solely in-person

Parish Life

Thursday, May 27th, 7 PM - Solely Zoom

Wider Church

Sunday, June 6th, 10:30 AM - Solely in-person

If there are questions, please contact Council Moderator, Becky Kirsh, at 630-234-8732.

OFFERING OF LETTERS

Anyone who missed the opportunity to participate in the Bread for the World's Offering of Letters on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 16th will be another chance. Not coming in person to worship and still want to participate electronically? Simply go to <http://www.bread.org/ol> click on the set of bars in the upper right, and then click on "Email letter." Put in your information and, if you choose, personalize the form letter with edits, and send off your letter to members of Congress. Pretty simple to express your support--Love of Children and Love of Neighbor.

DEDICATION OF OUR LITTLE LIBRARY

Everyone is invited to attend the ceremony commissioning our little library on the lawn just outside Hatfield Hall at 11 AM today. The gathering will be brief but will give everyone a chance to see our newest addition for the reading public of Lombard.

SUMMER SCHEDULE

Beginning after Memorial Day, worship will start at 9:30 AM We will kick off summer by holding worship outdoors (weather permitting) on Sunday, June 6th, at 9:30 AM. Summer office hours will be Monday-Friday from 8 AM to 2 PM. Staff continues to be available via phone and email.

FAITH EXPLORATION

Sunday, May 16th, at 9 AM is the final session of "Embracing an Adult Faith" and it may be viewed in person or on Zoom. Please contact Val Sutton for the Zoom link This week's video and discussion will look at "How do we practice our faith?" As part of the class, we will always watch at least a portion of the video with Marcus Borg's teaching, but anyone wanting to watch in advance may do so at <https://youtu.be/qqr50AcgP0>.

IN TOUCH WITH OUTREACH

There is a continued need for items for the little ones who count on our First Things First infant needs program to serve them. Gently-used spring and summer clothing, newborn to 5T, like-new board books, read-to-me and early reader books, infant and early childhood toys including all pieces, and baby equipment such as playpens, play mats, high chairs, etc. Unfortunately, we are unable to accept car seats, cribs, used stuffed animals or strollers.

The Outreach House is open for accepting donations Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 9:30 AM until noon. If those times don't fit the donor's schedule, please contact Kris DeSmedt, Outreach Coordinator, at kdesmedt@firstchurchoflombard.org for more convenient times.

P.A.D.S. HOMES

DuPage United is seeking people who are willing to be landlords to clients of the P.A.D.S. program. A number of these people who are experiencing homelessness have financial backing but are unable to find a landlord who would welcome them into their homes. Anyone aware of someone who would be available is asked to contact Amanda Reilly-Sokoli at 484-513-6337 or <http://dupageunited.org/>

BOOK DISCUSSION, MAY 19TH

Pilgrim at Tinker Creek by Annie Dillard is a Pulitzer Prize winner and is the focus of discussion at the "Beyond Words" book discussion group at 6:45 PM this Wednesday, May 19th. The author shares her love of nature as she experienced it in Virginia's Roanoke Valley in a whole year or making her way through the valley, much of it on foot. Books are still available for \$12 in the office. Please feel welcome to come, even if there hasn't been time to finish the book.

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

This afternoon we welcome **Cecelia Mae Perkins** into the family of faith through baptism. Cecelia is the daughter of **Steve** and **Katie Perkins**, sister of **Sam Perkins**, granddaughter of **Kim** and **Jenny Perkins**. We are saddened by the death of **Cheryl Cizek** on May 10th after a brief struggle with pancreatic cancer. We keep the Ivey family in our prayers in the death of Lorinda's father, David "Doc" Hittle.