

# 9:00 AM WORSHIP

GATHERING

"Be Thou My Vision"

Joel Raney

WELCOME

Rev. Rebekah Anderson

#### LENGTHENING OF LIGHT

#### **†CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: God of darkness and light,

All: our souls thirst for you.

One: Our hearts are dry and weary,

All: fill them with your peace.

One: Guide us to hear your word,

All: strengthen us to follow you. One: Our lips will praise you as long as we live;

All: let us worship God!

### **†"STEP BY STEP"**

David Strasser

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND HOPEFULNESS

Merciful God, though you lovingly tend us, we have not put forth the good fruits of your Spirit. Our consumption poisons the earth. Our violence threatens our neighbors. Our greed exploits the poor. Forgive us. Empower us to live differently and follow in your footsteps with love, peace, goodness, and faithfulness... (silent prayer)

#### **WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

**†SUNG RESPONSE** 

"Shine, Jesus, Shine"

**REFRAIN TO HYMN 192** 

#### **†**Time of Greeting

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barbara Gorsky

Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it along to those around you.

ISAIAH 55:1-9

MESSAGE

Rev. Rebekah Anderson

"Coming Back to Life: Exploring Darkness"

Scripture: Luke 14:25-35

SONG

"All I Have Is Christ"

Jordan Kauflin

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Barbara Gorsky

**SHARING OUR GIFTS** (See back for other giving options.)

"Lord, I Need You"

Matt Maher

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**†"Be Thou My Vision"** 

The Martins

**†CHARGE & BENEDICTION** 

Rev. Rebekah Anderson

Please stand as you are able.

Music: Sam Baker, guitar/vocals; Tom Kidera, drums; Chris Urban, piano

# WELCOME, GUESTS!

### Thank you for worshiping with us this morning.

Stop by the Welcome Center in the Narthex (lobby) to pick up information that will acquaint you with our church services and programs. You are also invited to join the conversation on Facebook, at facebook.com/firstpresah, X, at @FirstPresAh, and Instagram, at @firstpresah. We look forward to connecting with you again. Please scan the QR code to visit our website for more information.

#### CHILD CARE

Children of all ages are warmly welcomed and encouraged to participate in worship. Child care is available (infants through age four) in the Christian Education Wing (8:45 am - 11:45 am).

#### **CHILDREN'S WORSHIP ACTIVITY BAGS**

Activity bags for children are available at the Sanctuary and Chapel entrances. Please put used bags in the basket after worship.

#### **CLASSES FOR ALL AGES**

From September through May, Sunday morning Christian education classes are held for all ages. These include classes for preschool, elementary, middle school, and high school students, as well as education and discussion groups for adults. To learn more, visit firstpresah.org or call the church office at 847-255-5900.

#### SPECIAL ASSISTANCE

For worship in the Sanctuary, large print bulletins, and hearing amplifiers (some with T-Coil lanyard adapters) are available from the ushers.

#### IMPORTANT WORSHIP REMINDERS

Please silence cell phones and refrain from taking photos or recording the worship service. Services are webcast live at firstpresah.org/experience/ livestream. To download or listen to a podcast of today's sermon, search Apple podcasts for The Word @ First Pres. Past sermons are available at firstpresah.org/experience/sermons.

### **SOURCES FOR WORSHIP**

All liturgies are from *Call to Worship Year C*, PC(USA); scriptures are from the New Revised Standard Updated Edition (NRSVUE).



### **■ ● CODE FOR THE ONLINE GIVING PORTAL**

Please scan the QR code to access our online giving portal. Please select "General Fund" or other offering option. You may also text 11855 to 73256 to give. Thank you for your generous support!

# First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Organized in 1855



LENTEN SEASON 2025

"Only when we are brave enough to explore the darkness will we discover the infinite power of our light." —Brené Brown

# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 23, 2025 9:00 & 10:30 AM

Choose love. Be the light. Change the world.

First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights 302 N. Dunton Avenue • Arlington Heights, IL 60004 847-255-5900 • firstpresah.org • mail@firstpresah.org

# 10:30 AM WORSHIP

## GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

**PRELUDE** 

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" *Ron & Linda Sprunger* Chuck Beech, piano; Chris Urban, organ

The prelude is your invitation to quiet preparation for the worship of Almighty God.

WELCOME Rev. Rebekah Anderson

LENGTHENING OF LIGHT

**†**CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God of darkness and light,
All: our souls thirst for you.
One: Our hearts are dry and weary,
All: fill them with your peace.
One: Original years to be a proper years.

One: Guide us to hear your word, All: strengthen us to follow you.

One: Our lips will praise you as long as we live;

All: let us worship God!

 \$\Psi\ HYMN 415\$
 "Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy"

RESTORATION

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, though you lovingly tend us, we have not put forth the good fruits of your Spirit. Our consumption poisons the earth. Our violence threatens our neighbors. Our greed exploits the poor. Forgive us. Empower us to live differently and follow in your footsteps with love, peace, goodness, and faithfulness...

#### SILENT CONFESSION

(please pray a silent and personal prayer of confession during this time) ...in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

#### WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

One: Incline your ear and listen, so that you may live! God makes with us an everlasting covenant, the sure, steadfast love known to Moses, David, and the ancestors and revealed in Jesus upon the cross. Trust in the good news.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**PRESPONSE** (Refain: Hymn 377)

In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

**†**TIME OF GREETING

**COMMUNITY LIFE** 

Rev. Barbara Gorsky

Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it along to those around you.

### HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Barbara Gorsky

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 55:1-9

(Pew Bible, p. 598) Rev. Barbara Gorsky The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God!** 

ANTHEM

"What a Friend" arr. Jack Schrader
Text from Hymn 465

Men's Chorus; Jennifer Fick, director

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 14:25-35

(Pew Bible, p. 850) Rev. Rebekah Anderson The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God!** 

SERMON

Rev. Rebekah Anderson

"Coming Back to Life: Exploring Darkness"

**†**HYMN 438

"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

TOPLADY

## GIVING THANKS TO GOD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Barbara Gorsky

#### 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

CALL FOR OFFERING (See back for other giving options.)

OFFERTORY

"There's a Light A-Comin'"

David Lantz III

"There's a Light a-comin' to our darkness, there's a Light a-comin' our way. There's a Light a-comin' to our darkness, come, O Light and shine today. There's a King a-comin' for His kingdom, There's a King a-comin' to stay. There's a King a-comin' for His kingdom, come, O King, and show us the way. O brighter than the rising sun, the Son of God. To free us from our human sin, we wait for midnight clear. There's a Joy a-comin' from the heavens. There's Joy comin' down to earth. There's a Joy a-comin' from the heavens, come, O Joy, we long for Your light. God is near!"

Men's Chorus

**♦**RESPONSE (Hymn 662, vs. 1)

Christ, whose glory fills the skies; Christ, the true, the only light; Sun of Righteousness, arise; triumph o'er the shades of night; Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

#### ♦PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: You have shown us, O God, the sacrifice that you desire. Now use these gifts—and use or lives—to liberate the oppressed, to break the bonds of injustice, to feed the hungry, welcome the poor and unite the human family; all in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

## GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

**†**HYMN 800

"Sometimes a Light Surprises"

SALLEY GARDENS

**♦**CHARGE **&** BENEDICTION

Rev. Rebekah Anderson

CHORAL RESPONSE "The Lord Is My Light"

Frances Allitsen

"The Lord is my light, and my salvation. Whom, then, shall I fear?
The Lord is the strength of my life. Of whom, then, shall I be afraid?"
Men's Chorus

POSTLUDE

"Toccata"

Roland Erismann

Please stand as you are able.

Fellowship Hosts: Deacons

Flowers: Mary Halatek—Remembering Walt on our anniversary

**Preaching:** Rev. Rebekah Anderson

Liturgists: (9:00 & 10:30 am) Rev. Barbara Gorsky

**Associate Director of Music and Organist:** Christopher Urban **Tech Support and Livestream:** Amy Senior and Jonah White

# WORSHIP NOTES

# **Prayer Requests**

## Healing & Comfort

First	Pres	Community
1 11 31	1 100	Continuently

Bill Dillon Mario Alberico Carole Anderson Don Johnson Judy Ayers Nancy Johnson Denise Beihoffer Connie Leach Sally Blaseck Mollie Lumsden Carl Burklund Stu Olin Laura Carlson Patty Richard Mary Clarbour Bea Sonderegger Margie Conner Terry Wade Nancy Conning

# Friends & Family John Hayes — friend of Mary

Sheila Hall

Kiepura
Judy — family of Mark Bishop
Monica Kotas — sister of Mario
Alberico
Bradford Leach — brother of Jeff
Leach
Lisa — daughter-in-law of Launa
Ismail
Phil Perillo — brother of Kristie
Cerniglia
Jim & Nancy Robinson — friends of

Betty Sanders — friend of the congregation
Jerry Shields — husband of Dianne Shields

James Vasiliades — brother-in-law of Carolyn Nunley

Dave Weiss — brother of Rev.

Barbara Gorsky

Pamela Wilson — daughter-in-law of Al & Karen Wilson

## Serving in the Armed Services

MU2 Wesley Carroll, Navy — son of Kevin and Amy Carroll, grandson of JoAnn Thompson

Lt. Col. Michael B. Ford, US Army Reserves — stepson of Kris Ford Brandon Latuzek — nephew of Elaine Chen

# **About First Pres**

#### **STAFF**

Interim Pastor / Head of Staff:
Laura Sherwood
Interim Associate Pastor:
Barbara Gorsky
Associate Pastor of Children, Youth
and Families: Rebekah Anderson

March 30

Associate Director of Music and Organist: Christopher Urban

Director of Children's Choirs: Nick Pulikowski

Worship Technicians: Amy Senior, Jonah White **Business Administrator:** 

Debbie Walter

Senior Administrative Assistant: Mary Fino

Administrative Assistant / Receptionist: Carol Vega

Director of First Pres PDO & Preschool: Coleen Anzalone

Nursery Coordinator: Beth Johnson

**Custodian/Facility Monitors:** 

Joe Webb (mornings) Iden Jajou (evenings)

# Save the Date

Guest Preacher, Oddny Gumaer

April 2	Wednesdays@Noon		
April 6	New Member & Visitor Lunch		
April 8	Restaurant Walk		
April 13	Palm Sunday		
April 13	Concert Series: Haydn's Creation		
April 13	Restaurant Walk		
April 17	Maundy Thursday at St. John UCC		
April 18	Good Friday		
April 19	Easter Egg Hunt		
April 20	Easter Sunday Worship: 6:30, 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am		
April 27	Children's Musical (One worship service 10:30 am)		
_	•		

PASTORAL CARE — If you have a death in the family, an anticipated surgery, the birth of a new baby, or if you or a loved one are struggling, your pastors and church family want to be there to support you. Please contact Rev. Barbara Gorsky, at barbaragorsky@firstpresah.org, or 847-255-5900, extension 225 or Rev. Laura Sherwood, at laurasherwood@firstpresah.org or 847-255-5900, extension 229 or call the office to share your pastoral needs.

LIVE WEBCAST & WORSHIP RECORDINGS — Services are webcast live at firstpresah.org/experience/livestream. To download or listen to a podcast of today's sermon, search Apple podcasts for The Word @ First Pres. Past sermons are available at firstpresah.org/experience/sermons. If you need help with technical problems, please send an email to webcasting@firstpresah.org.

GET CONNECTED — Join the conversation on Facebook, at facebook.com/ firstpresah; X, at @FirstPresAH; and Instagram, at @firstpresah. Download the free ACS Church Life app or visit the website to access the church directory or manage your giving online. We look forward to connecting with you!



Choose love. Be the light. Change the world.

First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights 302 North Dunton, Arlington Heights, IL 60004

302 North Dunton, Arlington Heights, IL 60004 847-255-5900 / www.firstpresah.org / mail@firstpresah.org

# Church Life

### March 23, 2025

We believe in building the kingdom of God in this world. We strive to be a welcoming and inclusive church that celebrates the diversity existing in our community. That means bringing good news to the poor, freedom to the oppressed, welcoming the stranger, and loving one another as Jesus loves us. We do this by choosing love and being the light that changes the world. Thank you for worshiping with us in this spirit.

SHADOW PRAYER BOX — Throughout the season of Lent, we invite you to write down a personal prayer and place it in the Shadow Prayer Box. These prayer cards are a place where you can share a prayer for yourself, for others, or for the world, that may be difficult to speak. You can tell the truth about a hurt or wound, ask for forgiveness, and allow hurt, grief, and concern to pour out of you freely. The prayers in the box will remain private and the pastors will hold all in their weekly prayers during Lent. You can find a Shadow Prayer Box near the Welcome Center and in the Chapel.

NEXT WEEK: GUEST PREACHER, ODDNY GUMAER — Sunday, March

30 — Oddny is from Levanger in Trøndelag, Norway. She co-founded *Partners Relief & Development* and the *Novi Community* with her American husband, Steve. These humanitarian organizations have provided emergency aid and development work in Myanmar's ethnic areas, the Middle East and Ukraine for 30 years. They have assisted thousands with emergency relief, education, healthcare and mental health support. She is a sought-after international speaker and her speeches often draw from her experiences, her leadership role in a growing organization, her life as a mother and humanitarian, and her reflections as a questioning Christian and a woman striving to be compassionate but often falling short. Her talks are typically humorous, personal and filled with wisdom and principles that resonate universally.

NEW MEMBER & VISITOR LUNCH — Sunday, April 6 / 11:45 am / Boardroom — Our next new members class will take place on Sunday, April 6, at 11:45 am in the Boardroom. All recent visitors are invited to attend. No RSVP needed, please join us! For more information, contact Pastor Laura Sherwood at laurasherwood@firstpresah.org.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING COLLECTION — through April 20 — Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors-inneed around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry and support for the poor and oppressed. This Lenten season, please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing.

#### March 23—Third Sunday in Lent

8:45 am – 11:15 am — Child care (infants – 4 years) — Room 205/207 (Blue Room), Main Floor Christian Education (CE) Wing

9:00 am Worship — Chapel

10:00 am Adult Choir Rehearsal — Choir Auditorium

10:00 am Fellowship Time — Parlor, Narthex

10:30 am Worship — Sanctuary

11:30 am Fellowship Time — Parlor, Narthex

4:00 pm Dance Rehearsal — Sanctuary

# **Upcoming Events**

Family FAMILY NIGHT PROGRAMMING — Wednesdays / 6:00-8:00 pm / September through May — Come and share dinner and fellowship with families from First Pres and the broader community. This program includes dinner, adult education and programs for children and youth.

#### Weekly Schedule:

6:00-7:00 pm: Drop-in dinner time for all ages 6:30-7:00 pm: Children's Choir (grades K-5) 7:00-8:00 pm: Classes and programs, including:

- ENGAGE & ENCOUNTER adult Christian education
- Kids Connect (grades K-5)
- Middle School Youth Group (grades 6-8)

ENGAGE & ENCOUNTER CLASS: Spiritual Practices — Wednesdays, April 2 & 9 / 7:00-8:00 pm / Chapel / Instructor: Rev. Barbara Gorsky — During the season of Lent, we will explore "spiritual practices". In this class, we will sample different ways to connect with God and how these connections can deepen our sense of God's presence in our everyday lives. Be open, be willing and be prepared to see God in new and exciting ways!

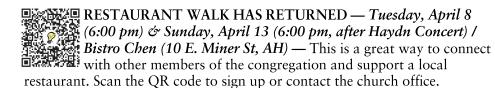
SIGN-UP FOR THE CHILDREN'S MUSICAL — Our children will perform a musical on Sunday, April 27, at the 10:30 am worship service (only one service this day). This time of music, drama and crafts is open to all children K-5th grade. Our rehearsals will begin during Family Night, April 2, and continue for four weeks. Contact Rev. Rebekah Anderson to register.

FAMILY NIGHT SCHEDULE NOTE — Family Night will <u>not</u> meet on Wednesdays, March 26 (Spring Break) and April 16 (Holy Week).

WEDNESDAYS@NOON — Wednesday, April 2 / 12:10 pm / Sanctuary — Join us for an afternoon recital featuring Matthew Doran, organ. Matthew is from St. Peter Lutheran Church in Arlington Heights.

SAVVY SENIORS: 69+ — Friday, April 4 / 6:00 pm / Arlington Ale House — Join us for two hours of fun, conversation, a trivia game and good food as we gather at the Arlington Ale House, 111 West Campbell Street, Arlington Heights. Take the elevators in the lobby up to the 3rd floor. To RSVP, please contact Susan Carroll by phone 847-956-4086 or email tcarroll60@aol.com. Please bring a dish to share:

Last name begins with A - H: please bring a dessert to share. Last name begins with I - Z: please bring an appetizer.



CONCERT SERIES: HAYDN'S CREATION — Sunday, April 13 / 4:00 pm / **Sanctuary** — The oratorio depicts and celebrates the creation of the world as narrated in the Book of Genesis. We'll also celebrate First Pres' 170th anniversary with an Illinois premiere of *Tributum*, for bagpipes and orchestra.

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT — Saturday, April 19 / 10:00 am — Children of all ages are invited to join us for our annual Easter egg hunt! We will begin in Fellowship Hall and separate children by age groups. Join us to hunt for eggs and enjoy a light breakfast. Register at firstpresah.org/ experience/special-events/.

# Serving, Giving, and Growing

LENT - SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY — Sundays, through April 13 / 9:00 am / Boardroom — For many, Lent is a time to "give up," or sacrifice something as a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice. This year, we invite you to ADD something for Lent. Put an extra hour a week on your calendar to read the Bible stories of the season and reflect on them. Together, see these familiar stories with fresh eyes. We can find new meanings for our lives today. There will be no homework and you are welcome to attend as many times as you can. Join us, and make Lent a time for new ideas and new hope.

LENT - COFFEE: GROUNDS FOR DISCUSSION & SERVICE — Sundays, April 6 & 13 / 10:30-11:30 am / Room 110 — Coffee Grounds is a memberled study group open to ALL adults, of ALL ages. A World Worth Saving: Lenten Spiritual Practices for Action: by George Hovaness Donigian. For anyone who dismisses Lent as a seemingly endless time of self-sacrifice and introspection, this study for Lent offers a breath of fresh air. It connects prayer and other inner spiritual practices with outward actions of mercy and compassion. George Donigian guides you to grow in your prayer life by praying about daily news reports, discovering the needs around you and responding with love and compassion.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL: COMING BACK TO LIFE — The focus of the devotional is that in spring, after a long winter's nap, an amazing thing happens the world comes back to life! This devotional is full of ideas and activities that can help us wake up, too, preparing our hearts, minds and communities for Easter's great celebration. Available in the literature racks or online through our website.

WRITE NOTES OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR CONFIRMANDS — As Confirmands embark on new journeys of faith, we invite you to share words of encouragement and love with each of them. Starting Sunday, April 6, decorated paper bags with the names of both our 8th grade Celebrants and our 10th grade Confirmands will be placed in the Parlor before and after worship and in Fellowship Hall during Family Night. We invite you to share words of encouragement, prayers and kindness to uplift our Confirmands. These will be given to them in worship on Celebration Sunday, May 4.

WE NEED VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AND MISSIONFACTORY **VOLUNTEERS** — We need volunteers of all ages—youth and adults—to make VBS and MissionFactory happen! VBS and MissionFactory will take place July 7-11. Youth in grades 7 through 12 are invited to help with VBS and youth in grades 9 through 12 are invited to help with MissionFactory. Are you a college student who is home for the summer? We'd love your help! Mark your calendar, VBS and MissionFactory training will take place on Sundays, June 22 and June 29, following worship at 11:45 am in the Boardroom, and on Tuesdays, June 24 and July 1, at 6:30 pm in the Boardroom. We appreciate your generosity and hope you can join us!

JOIN THE FIRST PRES GOLF LEAGUE — The First Pres Golf League is organizing teams for the 2025 season at Palatine Hills Golf Course. During May through August, we will have Tuesday evening tee-times for 9-hole rounds. Whether you are already a great golfer or just learning how to play, you are welcome to join the league. We also need substitutes! Please contact Arlene Bullerman at 847-670-0319 or abullerman@earthlink.net for additional information.

# Worship Next Sunday

March 30, 2025: Fourth Sunday in Lent

9:00 am — Worship (Chapel) Music: Bruce Blanck Jazz Trio

10:30 am — Worship (Sanctuary)

Music: Chancel Choir

*Preacher:* Oddny Gumaer, guest

Scriptures: Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Sermon Title: "Coming Back to Life: Ambassadors of Reconciliation"

If you give electronically but would like to put something in the offering plate, we invite you to use the laminated bookmarks available in the pew rack in front of you. We will be keeping you abreast of your generosity.

Bookmarks	\$1,541.00
-----------	------------

GIVING OPPORTUNITY: Dia Nuevo — Our first quarter bookmarks will go to the support of Dia Nuevo, a Spanish speaking, new worshipping community of the Chicago Presbytery in Hanover Park. Dia Nuevo is comprised of first generation immigrants from Colombia, Venezuela and Guatemala.

WEDDING & FUNERAL GUILD VOLUNTEERS WANTED — Please consider joining our newly created Wedding & Funeral Guild and be a part of something special. For more information, please contact Rev. Barbara Gorsky at barbaragorsky@firstpresah.org.



PADS NEEDS HELP! JUST ONE SHIFT! — On January 14, we opened our doors to clients. Now we need your help! We are a church that has supported PADS for over 30 years, and we need volunteers to step up and sign up to work the various shifts. If everyone agreed to

work just one shift, we would be set for the season. We need you! The QR code will direct you to the sign up page. Thanks! Pastor Barbara



影響器 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HOST SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP TIME — Fellowship Time takes place after worship services for about 30 minutes. Anyone can host! Gather your family, a group of families, a group of friends, your book club, or your committee and scan the QR code to sign-up.

FAMILY NIGHT HELP WANTED — There are many ways to help support this vital ministry to church and community members. Please consider ways you could help:

- Sponsor the full or partial cost of dinner for one night (average cost is \$400 for 100 people). Contact Debbie Walter in the Church office or choose "Family Night" from the dropdown on our Giving page.
- **Bring Dessert**
- Wash Dishes & Cleanup
- Attend! Your presence is the best gift of all!!

FOOD BARREL COLLECTION — The Mission Committee has voted to direct the donation of nonperishable food items to the Wheeling Township Food Pantry. Please place items in the barrels located in the Narthex and outside the Chapel. The next time you are at the grocery store, why not pick up a few healthy nonperishable items to donate? Thank you for your past and continued support!