

We Respond to God's Word

As God invites us to be disciples of his Son, we prayerfully respond to God with affirmations of faith and acts of self-giving, commitment, and thanksgiving.

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Concern

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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

We Go Out In God's Name

*Having gathered together in God's name and been fed by God's Holy Word,
we go out in God's name bearing the peace of Christ to the world.*

❖ Hymn for Commitment #649 *Amazing Grace*

❖ Charge and Benediction

❖ Congregational Sung Benediction #766 *The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound* (vs. 1)

The church of Christ cannot be bound by walls of wood or stone.
Where charity and love are found, there can the church be known.

❖ Postlude

❖ Please stand if able. Remain seated if need be.

Liturgy adapted from prayers by Sarah Are Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Cover art *Inexplicable Joy* by Hannah Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Office: 302 West Church, Champaign, IL 61820 ♦ 217.356.7238
info@firstpres.church ♦ Rev. Matt Matthews (matt@firstpres.church)
www.firstpres.church ♦ Facebook: fb.com/firstpreschampaign



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

March 27, 2022

Fourth Sunday in Lent



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church
Bienvenue à La Première Eglise Presbytérienne de Champaign
Bienvenidos a La Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana

삼페인 제일 장로교회에 오신것을 환영합니다.

Si vous souhaitez que le service soit traduit en français,
procurez-vous un récepteur et des écouteurs à l'arrière du sanctuaire.

Welcome to worship!

When you enter the sanctuary, please be mindful of the silent prayers of those around you.

*We invite you to share your contact info in the Friendship Pad when passed, then to stop by our Welcome Center downstairs in Westminster Hall after the service for coffee and fellowship. Mingle with other friends and guests and learn more about this congregation's ministry. **Welcome home!***

We Gather Together In God's Holy Name

God calls us together as "children." Wonderful it is to be so loved! Our natural response is worship.

Prelude

Chiming on the Hour of Tower Bell

Act of Friendship & Sharing of Prayer Concerns

Please pass the Friendship Pad and list prayer concerns on the prayer request cards in the pen.

Greeting & Announcements

❖Call to Worship

God's reach is endless.

God's mercy is unstoppable.

God's grace is lavish.

God's love is constant.

God's wisdom is vast.

God's hope is stubborn.

God's presence is here—

with us, among us, moving through us.

Breathe easy. Breathe deeply.

We are in God's house.

Let us worship the One who welcomes us home.

❖Hymn #804 *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

The prodigal son isn't given a name, but we know his name. It sounds like ours.

And we know his story. It sounds like ours.

For who among us hasn't burned a bridge?

Who among us hasn't forgotten that we belong to one another? Who among us has not ached for home?

The prodigal son isn't given a name, but we know his name. Forgive us God. We want to come home.

Assurance of Pardon

Family of faith, the word 'prodigal' can be defined as wasteful or imprudent, hence the name, "Prodigal Son." However, 'prodigal' can also be described as extravagant and excessive.

Friends, we worship a prodigal God—a God who is extravagant in mercy and excessive in grace.

For no matter how many times we run, no matter how far we go or how lost we get, God is standing at the end of the driveway waiting for us. The doors are open. The feast is for you. This grace is extravagant. Thanks be to God, Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Invitation to the Offering *We are invited to return God's tithes and give our offering.*

Offertory

Sung Response #595 *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you!

My heart knows how to say to you: you are holy, Lord!

Prayer of Dedication

We Gather Around God's Holy Name

At the center of Christian life and worship is God's Word incarnate in Christ and God's Word as recorded in scripture. We hear the story of God's love in scripture and sacrament and we say, "Thanks be to God!"

Word with Children

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel *Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32* (NT pg. 78)

This is the Word of the Lord./**Thanks be to God!**

Ceci est la Parole du Seigneur./**Gloire à Dieu** (pronounced "glow-ah ah dew")

Sermon *Extravagance: The Story of the Prodigal and Elder Sons, and Their Incredible Father*

Matt Matthews

Anthem *I Would Be True* (text by Howard Walter)

Undine Smith Moore

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in a God who waits in the driveway for us.

We believe in a God who leaves the porch light on and throws a feast when we are found.

We believe in a God who doesn't stop looking for us when we get lost. We believe in a God of prodigal grace— excessive, extravagant, over-the-top grace.

In response to this grace, we hold tighter to each other.

We remember that humans are not meant to go through life alone;

so we look for ways to welcome each other in, to live like we are family, and to lead with grace—excessive, extravagant, over-the-top grace.

We believe that this is our call. Let it be so. Amen.

This Week

Sunday, March 27

- 9:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary
- 10:15 AM Sunday School/Gather in Westminster Hall
- 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School/Sanctuary
- 10:15 AM Human Sexuality & Faith Series/Parlor
- 10:15 AM Worship/Windsor of Savoy
- 11:00 AM Easy English Fellowship/Zoom
- 11:15 AM The Gathering/Chapel
- 1:00 PM APNC/Parlor

Monday, March 28

- 9:00 AM ESL Classes/Zoom
- 1:00 PM GROW/Family Library
- 1:00 PM Knifty Knitters/Parlor & Zoom
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program/CE Building
- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall

Tuesday, March 29

- 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Study/Zoom
- 9:30 AM ESL Classes/Rooms 204, 205, 206, 207, Café
- 10:30 AM Staff Meeting/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:00 PM Classic Book Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program/CE Building
- 5:30 PM DREAAM Dance-Cheer Clinic/Gym

Wednesday, March 30

- 9:00 AM ESL Classes/Zoom
- 12:00 PM Bach Concert/Sanctuary
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program/CE Building
- 5:30 PM DREAAM Dance-Cheer Clinic/Gym
- 6:00 PM Bell Choir/Bell Room
- 7:00 PM Adult Choir/Choir Room

Thursday, March 31

- 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:30 AM ESL Classes/Rooms 204, 205, 206, 207, Café
- 12:30 PM Bible Study/Windsor of Savoy
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program/CE Building
- 4:30 PM DREAAM Brotherhood Dinner/Centennial Hall Kitchen & Dining

Friday, April 1 Church Office closes at noon

- 8:30 AM Men's Prayer/Zoom
- 7:30 PM Friday Nite Lights Study/Zoom

Saturday, April 2

- 6:00 PM French Prayer/Zoom

Announcements

- **We are glad you're here!** Questions about First Pres, contact **Pastor Matt** or call the church office.
- **Bruce Rainey** is our liturgist this morning. We would love to have you serve as a liturgist! If interested, please contact **Carol Miles**.
- **Coffee is back on Sunday mornings!** Stop by after this morning's 9 AM service and mingle with friends and guests. If you enjoy the coffee on Sunday mornings, please consider signing up for coffee cleanup. A sign-up sheet is at the Welcome Center each Sunday morning. Thank you!!
- **Sunday School is back meeting in person!** Children will gather in Westminster Hall to meet with their teachers and walk over to the CE building. Lessons begin at 10:15 AM. Pick up is at 11:05 AM in the alley by the CE door. Masks must be worn over the nose and mouth at all times while indoors.
- **Human Sexuality and Faith Series** begins today and continues Sundays, April 3 and 10 in the Parlor at 10:15 AM. Hosted by **Mindy Watts-Ellis**, the purpose of the series is to help you reflect on your own experiences of sexual education, to give you guidance in ways to respond to questions posed to you by children about human sexuality in a way that is both affirming and consistent with your faith values, and to provide you with resources that can further your understanding of human sexuality and relationships.
- Just 24 hours. From sundown to sundown. The world was changed. Our world is changed. This morning following worship in the sanctuary join us for **Adult Sunday School** at 10:15 AM in the Sanctuary. Throughout Lent, we will look at what Jesus did in his last 24 hours on earth and how those hours "changed the world."
- The **Rev. Dr. Rachel Matthews** will preach at this morning's 10:15 AM service at the Windsor of Savoy.
- **If unable to attend church**, catch our 9 AM service live each Sunday morning at firstpres.live. The Sunday **sermon** is available on-line anytime or on WDWS 1400AM the next Sunday at 10:30 AM.
- **Two beautiful bouquets will decorate the Sanctuary on Easter morning.** If you would like to donate towards the cost and give a contribution in honor or memory of someone, please drop your check in the offering plate marked "Easter flowers" along with a note who the contribution is in honor or memory of.
- Pick up a **Lenten Daily Devotional**, *Full to the Brim*, this morning from one of the kiosks or at the Welcome Center.
- **Bach Concerts** presented by the U of I Choral Department will be held Wednesdays at 12 noon in the Sanctuary. Join us March 30; and April 6 and 20. Concerts are free and open to the public.
- If you or a loved one is **in the hospital or in need of a pastoral visit**, contact the church office.
- The **March newsletter** is available in the kiosks or at firstpres.church/newsletter.
- Copies of the **2021 Annual Report** are available at the Welcome Center or in kiosks around the church.