

Anthem *O Praise the Lord with Heart and Voice*
(from oratorio *The Creation*) Joseph Haydn

Sermon *Playbill: Esther and Mordecai on Faithful Living*
The Rev. Dr. Rachel Matthews



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

September 26, 2021
18th Sunday after Pentecost

9 AM

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

**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.**

Commissioning Members & Friends For Service

Thanking God for the service of our ESL Director
Jeanette Pyne as she moves.

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 #753**

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

❖ **Charge and Benediction**

❖ **Congregational Sung Benediction #726**

Will You Come and Follow Me (The Summons)

**Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your
name?**

**Will you quell the fear inside and never be the
same?**

**Will you use the faith you've found to reshape
the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you
and you in me?**

❖ **Postlude Fanfare**

Jacques Lemmens

You may wish to be seated for the postlude.

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

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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 the Welcome Center downstairs in Westminster Hall after the service. Mingle with other friends and guests, and learn how this congregation can become your church home. *Welcome!*

We Gather Together In God's Holy Name

God calls us together as "children."

How wonderful it is to be so loved! Our natural response is worship.

Prelude Trio Josef Rheinberger
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 pew.

Greeting & Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship

Sing! Sing a new song!

Sing of that great day when all will be one!

God will reign, and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love.

Sing of that great day when all will be one!

Let us worship the LORD who is worthy of all praise.

Alleluia! Praise God!

Call to Confession

In confidence of God's enduring love and forgiveness
let us confess our sins to God.

Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry,
too real to hide, and too deep to undo.**

**Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what
our hearts can no longer bear, and what has
become for us a consuming fire of judgment.**

**Set us free from a past that we cannot change;
open to us a future in which we can be
changed; and grant us grace to grow more and
more in your likeness and image.**

Assurance of Pardon

Because of God's everlasting love, know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

Thanks be to God.

The old life is gone; the new life has begun.

Alleluia!

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven.

Invitation to the Offering

We are invited to return God's tithes and give our offering.

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication & Thanksgiving

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

Scripture Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22 (NRSV)

¹So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. ²On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." ³Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me — that is my petition — and the lives of my people — that is my request. ⁴For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king." ⁵Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" ⁶Esther said, "A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

⁷Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." ¹⁰So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

^{9:20}Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, ²¹enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, ²²as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

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

This Week

Sunday, September 26

- 9:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Sunday School/Gather in Westminster Hall
- 10:15 AM Faith in the Real World/Sanctuary
- 10:15 AM Worship/Windsor of Savoy
- 11:15 AM The Gathering/Chapel

Monday, September 27

- 10:00 AM ESL/Zoom
- 1:00 PM Knifty Knitters/Parlor & Zoom
- 1:00 PM GROW/Family Library
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program
- 3:00 PM Environmental Team/Parlor & Zoom
- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall

Tuesday, September 28

- 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Study/Zoom
- 10:00 AM ESL/Zoom
- 10:30 AM Staff Meeting/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:00 PM Classic Book Study/Chapel & Zoom
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program
- 4:30 PM Community Mission/Parlor & Zoom

Wednesday, September 29

- 10:00 AM ESL/Zoom
- 1:30 PM Pakistan Study/Zoom
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program
- 6:00 PM Bell Choir/Bell Room
- 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal/Westminster Hall

Thursday, September 30

- 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 10:00 AM ESL/Zoom
- 12:30 PM Bible Study/Windsor of Savoy
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program

Friday, October 1 Church office closes at noon

- 8:00 AM Men's Prayer/Zoom
- 7:30 PM Friday Nite Lights Study/Zoom

Saturday, October 2

- 6:00 PM French Prayer/Zoom

Worship

- We welcome children of all ages to worship. Childcare is available for children 4 years and younger in the education building 8:45 AM-12:15 PM. **Sunday School** is at 10:15 this morning.
- Liturgist this morning is **Linda Peterson**. Contact **Carol Miles** to serve as a liturgist. Thank you to **Jose Pukuta** for reading our scriptures in French.
- Vaccinated and unvaccinated people **must wear a mask** indoors for their safety and the safety of others.
- This morning's **sermon** will be available online early this week or on WDWS 1400AM next Sunday at 10:30 AM.
- If unable to attend church, you can catch our 9 AM service live each Sunday morning at firstpres.live
- We have checked with the City of Champaign and have been given **approval to park Sunday mornings ONLY** where meters are bagged on State Street and Church Street.

Connect

- We are glad you're here! Questions about First Pres, contact **Pastor Matt** or call the church office. After the service, join us for coffee and conversation in Westminster Hall.
- Plan to stay after this morning's service for our **Faith in the Real World** series at 10:15 AM in the Sanctuary. Today's speakers are **Lisa Ainsworth** and **Andrew Leakey**. More people, fewer forests and more land cultivation, new plant diseases and insects which thrive as climate changes, drought and floods, changes in the composition of the atmosphere; how will populations survive? The research of **Lisa Ainsworth** and **Andrew Leakey** focuses on these challenges and how crops can adapt. Join us for this enlightening discussion.
- Please mark your calendar for Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering on October 7 at 11:30 AM. CU Public Health District Director **Julie Pryde** will be our featured guest speaker.
- We now have a **Free Little Pantry** on Church Street. Anyone can take from it and anyone can give to it. Suggested items to contribute: small cereal boxes, self opening cans, protein or granola bars, water bottles, small Kleenex packs, wet wipes, nuts and dried fruit. Thanks for helping us keep it stocked.
- Keep up with the latest news...**September newsletter** available in the kiosks or at firstpres.church/newsletter.