

and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage.
Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Anthem Brandi Lowe, soloist

Song for Centering #408 *There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in This Place*

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

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 #410 *God Is Calling Through the Whisper* (tune of *Infant Holy*)

◆Charge and Benediction

◆Congregational Sung Benediction #306 *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

◆Postlude

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

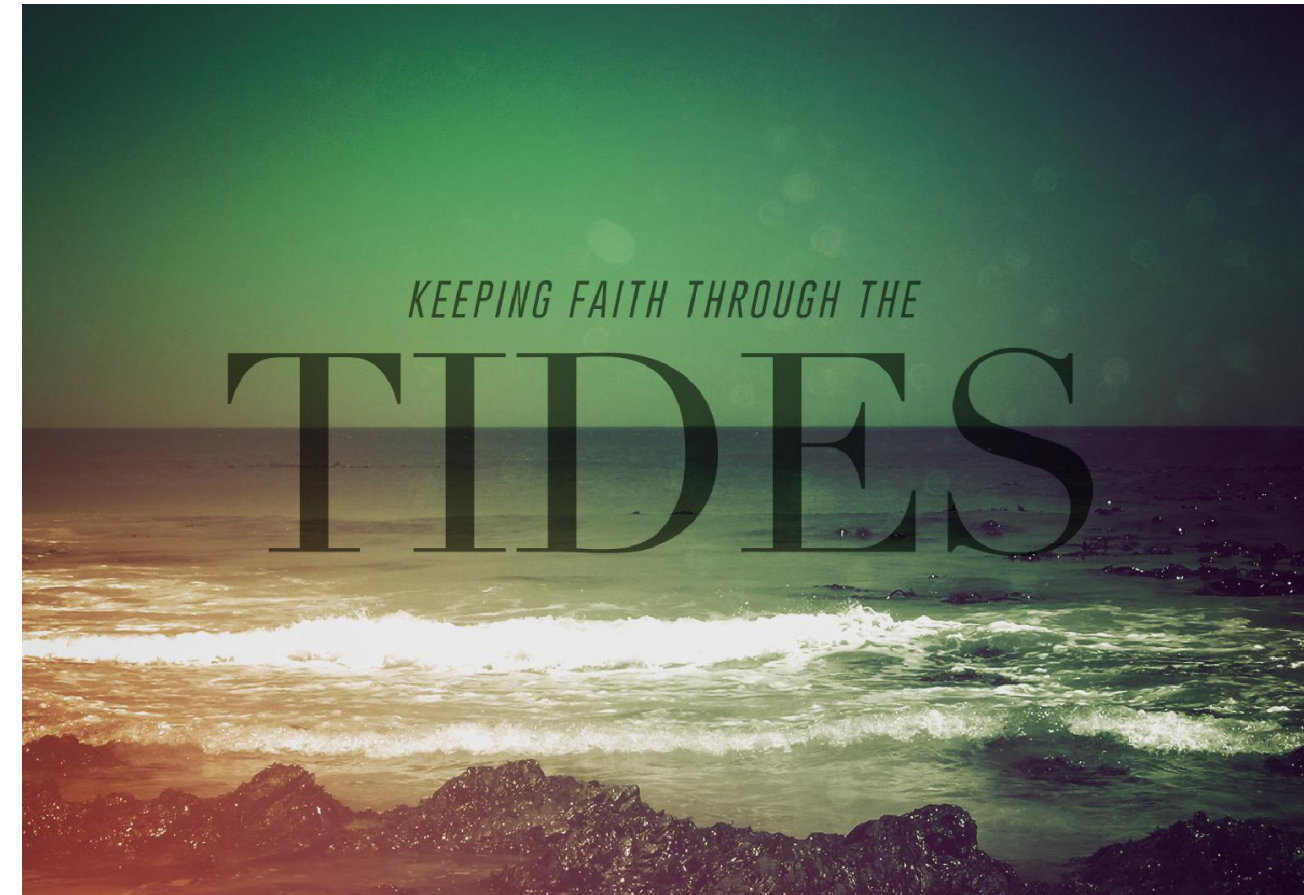
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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

January 21, 2024

3rd Sunday after Epiphany



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 worship space, please be mindful of the silent prayers of those around you.

We are presently worshiping in Westminster Hall while our elevator is being replaced.

We invite you to share your contact info in the Friendship Pad when passed,

then to stay 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 pads.

Greeting & Announcements

♦Call to Worship (adapted Habakkuk 3:17-19)

Though the fig tree does not blossom and no fruit is on the vines,

though the produce of the olive fails and the fields yield no food,

though the flock is cut off from the fold and there is no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord;

I will exult in the God of my salvation.

God, the Lord, is my strength.

Praise the Lord.

♦Hymn of Praise #725 O Jesus, I Have Promised

Call to Confession

Because of such great mercy,

God is ready to forgive all the ways we fail to live in faithfulness.

Relying on that mercy,

let us join in one voice as we confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Passing of the Peace

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

Offertory – Sora Shepard

Response of Gratitude #300 *We Are One in the Spirit*

We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;

We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,

And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;

Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Prayer of Dedication & Thanksgiving

We Gather Around God's Holy Word

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 #314 *Longing for Light* (refrain)

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Scripture *Habakkuk 3:17-19*

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 *Rejoicing – and Following – When Times Are Tough*

Matt Matthews

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.

Affirmation of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit,

we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,

whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

In sovereign love God created the world good

and makes everyone equally in God's image,

male and female, of every race and people,

to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.

Ignoring God's commandments.

we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth,

exploit neighbor and nature,

This Week

Sunday, January 21

- 9:00 AM Worship/Westminster Hall
- 10:00 AM Easy English Fellowship/Room 204 & 207
- 10:10 AM Sunday School/CE Building
- 10:10 AM Adult Education/Parlor
- 10:15 AM Worship/Windsor of Savoy

Monday, January 22

- 9:00 AM Compassion, Peace & Justice/Zoom
- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building
- 1:00 PM Knifty Knitters/Parlor & Zoom
- 1:00 PM Grow/Family Library
- 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study/Library
- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall

Tuesday, January 23

- 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:00 AM PW Coordinating Team/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building
- 10:30 AM Church Staff/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:00 PM Classic Book Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 4:30 PM World Mission/Parlor & Zoom
- 5:30 PM DREAAM Parent Titans/Cafe
- 5:30 PM DREAAM Tiny Titans/Gym
- 7:30 PM Together on Tuesdays/Zoom

Wednesday, January 24

- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building
- 3:30 PM Youth Bible Club/Centennial Hall & Kitchen

Thursday, January 25

- 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 10:30 AM Circle of Joy/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:30 PM Bible Study/Windsor of Savoy
- 1:00 PM Circle of Hope/Parlor & Zoom
- 6:00 PM Bell Choir/Bell Room
- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir/Choir Room
- 7:00 PM Circle of Peace/Parlor & Zoom

Friday, January 26 Church Office close at noon

- 8:15 AM Men's Prayer/Zoom

Saturday, January 27

- 6:00 PM French Worship Service/Chapel

Announcements

- **We are glad you're here!** Questions about First Pres, contact **Pastor Matt Matthews** or call the church office. We are presently worshipping in Westminster Hall while our elevator is being replaced.
- Please wear your **nametag** to help our new **Associate Pastor Joe Lundy** get acquainted.
- **Judi Geistlinger** is our liturgist this morning. If you would like to serve, contact **Carol Miles**.
- **Judi Geistlinger** will preach this morning's service at the Windsor of Savoy.
- Grab a cup of coffee and join us this morning at 10:10 AM in the Parlor for **Adult Education**. **Noni Ledford** is our guest speaker this morning.
- You can sign up to donate flowers for the coming year on the **flower calendar** on the bulletin board just outside Westminster Hall. Donate flowers in honor, memory or for a celebration on a Sunday morning.
- If you or a loved one is **in the hospital or in need of a pastoral visit**, contact the church office.
- Check out the **book cart** in Westminster Hall. Donate a book for others to enjoy and take some.
- The **January newsletter** is available in the kiosks or at firstpres.church/newsletter.
- Please **do not park** in the spaces marked Reserved 24/7 behind the law office on Sundays.
- **If unable to attend church**, watch our 9 AM service live each Sunday at firstpres.church/live. The Sunday **sermon** is available on-line anytime or on WDWS 1400AM the next Sunday at 10:30 AM.
- **Year-end reports** from groups and committees are now due. You can see a copy of last year's Annual Report at <https://firstpres.church/newsletters-reports/>. Scroll to the bottom of the page on the website for the 2022 Annual Report. Reports should be emailed to marcia@firstpres.church by January 22, 2024.
- In the next month the newly formed **CYF and Outreach committees** will be meeting, so if you have any input or questions for those groups let **Joe Lundy** know!
- Plans are coming together for Bible Club on Wednesdays from 3 to 5 PM with a tentative start date of January 24. DREAAM middle school youth and staff on our campus will join us. Will you join a list of people interested in serving? Can you help out on our kitchen team or serve as a table partner? Table partners greet guests and facilitate conversation while eating with DREAAM tweens and staff. Contact **Gary Peterson** (amer-swede@yahoo.com or 217-398-8504) or **Bob Kirby** (rwk3213@gmail.com or 217-621-5915) for more information or to sign up.
- C-U at Home **One Winter Night on February 2-3** is the annual fundraiser to support men and women on their journey out of addiction, mental health and/or trauma. C-U at Home operates two residential homes that are staffed 24/7 to provide intensive case management and resources for clients. Go to the C-U at Home's website (www.cuathome.us) and sign up to be a part of the outdoor challenge on Friday, February 2 or to donate.
- We're having a **Chili Cook-off!** Consider entering a crock pot of your fav chili or dessert on Sunday, February 25, at 3 PM. Be creative! Enter through the on-line link in Matt's Friday Email.