

That we may find joy in the study of Scripture and growth in exposure to new ideas;

O God, be our strength.

That we may be part of neighbor churches as we share in the great mission, which you have set before us, and always seeking the common good;

O God, be our strength.

That we may find in your church a prod to our imaginations, a shock to our laziness, and a source of power to do your will;

O God, be our strength.

O God, who gave us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise; send your Spirit among us; that, confronted by your truth, we may be free to worship you and serve you as you have called us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Anthem *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning* (Traditional Spiritual, Hymn #350)

Song for Centering #466 *Come and Fill Our Hearts*

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia!

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; 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 #623** *I've Got Peace Like a River*

◆ **Charge and Benediction**

◆ **Congregational Sung Benediction #647** *Give Thanks*

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;

Give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.

And now let the weak say, "We are strong";

Let the poor say, "We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!"

Give thanks. Give thanks.

◆ **Postlude**

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

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

November 19, 2023

25th Sunday after Pentecost



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 (Natalie Sleeth *God of Great and God of Small*)

God of great and God of small,

God of one and God of all,

God of weak and God of strong,

God to whom all things belong:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise be to your name.

♦Hymn of Praise #367 *Come Ye Thankful People, Come*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

(adapted from John de Gruchy, *Cry Justice: Prayers, Meditations, and Readings from South Africa*)

Lord, it is easy to say "I love," but not to practice what it means.

Forgive us, Lord. Hear our prayer.

When we see your love and the extent to which such love is prepared to go, we know our love is paltry and self-seeking.

Forgive us, Lord. Hear our prayer.

When we consider your love, as evidenced in the cross and manger, and when we consider your forgiveness, which overwhelms us and heals us, we know our love is often cheap, and our forgiveness is empty, judgmental, and graceless.

Forgive us, Lord. Hear our prayer.

Lord, help us use our gifts to your glory, and guide our steps.

Teach us to love you with heart, soul and mind, to love our neighbor and our enemy.

Teach us to forgive as you have forgiven us in Jesus Christ.

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 #582 *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son,

Whose grace has pardoned me,

And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

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 #688 *Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart*

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;

Wean it from earth; through all its pulses move;

Stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art,

And make me love thee as I ought to love.

Scripture *Matthew 25:14-30* (NT, pg. 28)

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 *Invest!*

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.

Litany for the Church (adapted from *The Worshipbook* 1970)

That we may accept the responsibility of our freedom, the burden of our privilege, and so conduct ourselves as to set an example for those who will follow after;

O God, be our strength.

That we may not be content with a secondhand faith, worshiping words rather than the Word;

O God, be our strength.

This Week

Sunday, November 19

- 9:00 AM Worship/Westminster Hall
- 10:10 AM Sunday School/CE Building
- 10:10 AM Advent Study/Parlor
- 10:15 AM Worship/Windsor of Savoy

Monday, November 20

- 1:00 PM Grow/Family Library
- 1:30 PM Women's Bible Study/Library
- 3:30 PM Environmental Team/Parlor & Zoom
- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall

Tuesday, November 21

- 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:00 PM Classic Book Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 5:00 PM DREAAM Martial Arts/Gym
- 7:30 PM Together on Tuesdays/Zoom

Wednesday, November 22 Church Office closes at noon

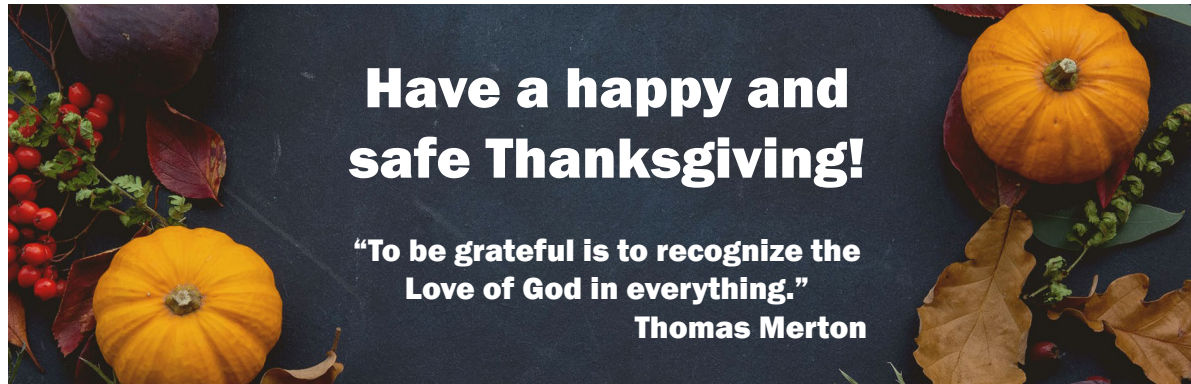
Thursday, November 23 Church Office closed

Friday, November 24 Church Office closed

- 8:15 AM Men's Prayer/Zoom

Saturday, November 25

- 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 new **Associate Pastor Joe Lundy** get acquainted.
- Mary Jane Kelley** is our liturgist this morning. If you would like to serve, contact **Carol Miles**.
- Sunday School classes for children K thru 8th grade from 10:15-11 this morning.** Walk across the alley, go upstairs and see what's happening. Youth will be escorted to their class.
- Grab a cup of coffee and stop by the Parlor at 10:10 this morning for our **Adult Education/Advent Study, Holy Disruption** by Tracy Daub, based on the *Gospel of Mark*. *Holy Disruption* presents a fresh understanding of the holiness of Christmas grounded, not in a conventional cozy Christmas message, but through Mark's disquieting gospel. The *Gospel of Mark* doesn't have a nativity story. Where's the Advent message? It's in the Incarnation, God comes to earth in human form to be baptized, teach, heal, eat, and die. Mark shows us God's disruptive but transformative love for us and our world. What we celebrate at Christmas is every aspect of Jesus' life, to his death and beyond.
- Dr. Rachel Matthews** will preach this morning's service at the Windsor of Savoy.
- All are cordially invited to the **Christmas Gathering hosted by Presbyterian Women** on Thursday, December 7 at 12 noon In Westminster Hall. Uni High Madrigals will be performing during the program. A delicious lunch will follow! Please RSVP to church office.
- Sunday, December 10, at 3 PM Blue Christmas service.** This is an advent service for those experiencing grief or for whom this season is a time of grieving. The service will offer a space to express feelings but also to experience the hope we find in Christ.
- Join us for a **Christmas Caroling Party** on Sunday, December 17, at 3 PM. Save the date and watch for more information!
- Cuba 2024?** Are you interested in joining a delegation to our sister church in Cuba probably between March 9-18. Deadline to commit is December 7. To travel you must be a member or staff of a Presbyterian Church, have a US passport valid until at least December 17, 2024. Please contact Mission Coordinator Pastor Rachel for further details at rachel@firspres.church.
- 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 **November newsletter** is available in the kiosks or at firspres.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 firspres.church/live. The Sunday **sermon** is available on-line anytime or on WDWS 1400AM the next Sunday at 10:30 AM.