

against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
Therefore, we reject any ideology which would legitimate forms of injustice and any doctrine which is unwilling to resist such an ideology in the name of the gospel.
To the one and only God, Parent, Child, and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.

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

Offertory *How Beautiful Are the Feet* (from Handel's *Messiah*) Claudia Espinoza Portocarrero

Response of Gratitude #609 *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*

Prayer of Dedication & Thanksgiving

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (pg. 35; *in the language and wording most familiar to you.*)

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.*

Moment for Mission – Angel Tree Sarah Laufenberg

Connecting with our Community

✚ **Hymn for Commitment #367** *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

✚ **Charge and Benediction**

✚ **Congregational Sung Benediction #549** *May the Love of the Lord*

✚ **Postlude** *Sing to the Lord of Harvest*

✚ Please stand as you are able in body or spirit.

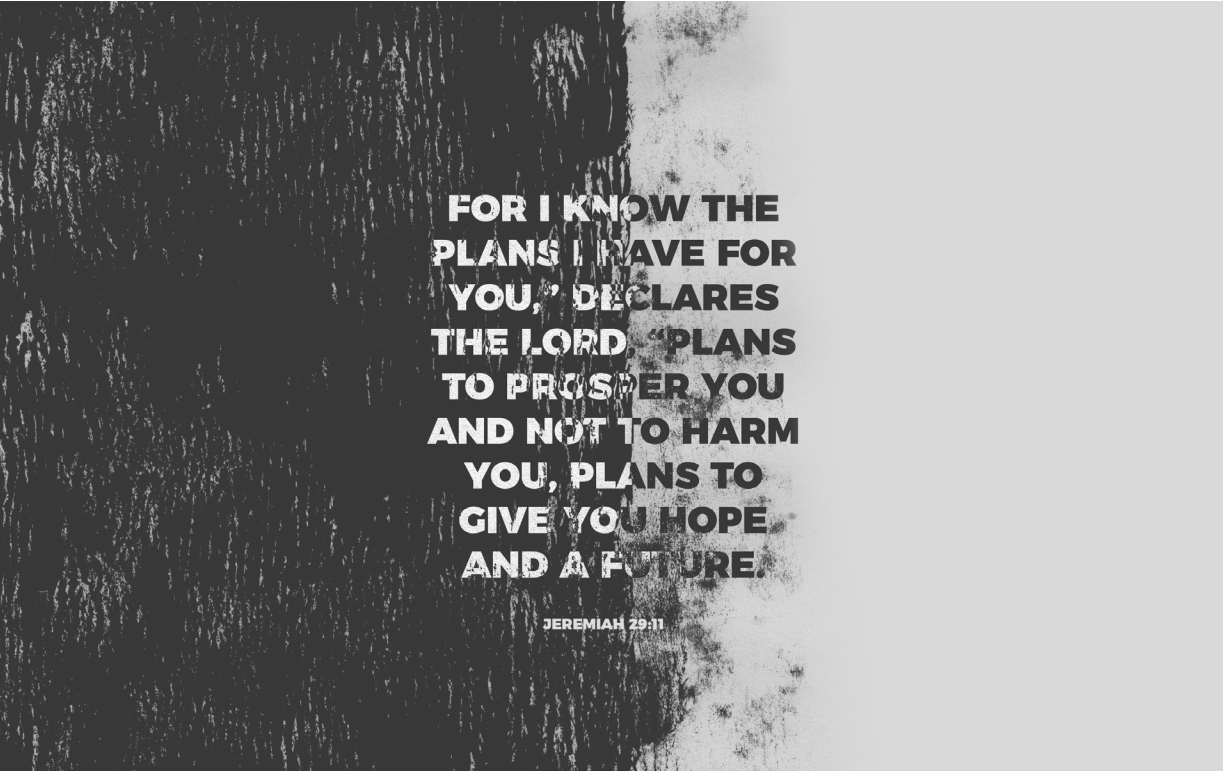
Service Material References
Liturgy written by Jimmy Hoke; revgalprayerpals.blogspot.ca

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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH** OF CHAMPAIGN

November 23, 2025 Christ the King



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

Prelude *We Gather Together*

Chiming of the Hour on Tower Bell

Greetings & Welcome/Act of Friendship & Prayer Concerns

Please pass the Friendship Pad, noting with whom you are sitting, and list prayer concerns on the prayer request cards in the pads.

✠**Call to Worship** (✠Please stand as you are able in body or spirit.)

We gather to worship God, who looks favorably on all the humans they created.

We sing blessings to God, who stands with us for justice and salvation.

We gather to worship God, who worked with many prophetic humans in every time and place.

We sing blessings to God, who makes faithful promises, to us and our ancestors.

We gather to worship God, whose tenderness we see shimmering in the breaking of dawn.

We sing blessings to God, who guides our feet on paths of peace.

✠**Opening Prayer**

✠**Hymn of Praise #263** *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!*

Call to Confession *(Congregation may be seated.)*

Prayer of Confession

O God of justice and mercy, you call us to be shepherds who gather and protect those more vulnerable than ourselves. We speak of your justice, but our actions continue to leave others scattered on the edges of society. In the name of our own safety, we shield ourselves from others, push them away with closed doors, hostile looks, and insensitive questions. Even as we protest the actions of the rich and powerful, we have still absorbed their desire for king-like power. We remain tempted by the dream of the Good Life, where goodness for some only comes at the expense of many. Raise us up, O God, from our willful ignorance; bring us back into the fold; help us shepherd in the genuine change that reflects your just promises. *Silence is kept.*

Confession Response #555 *O Lamb of God*

Assurance of Pardon

Passing of the Peace

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 #709 *God, We Honor You*

Scripture in French *John 14:27*

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

Anthem *By the Waters of Babylon*

Chancel Choir

Scripture in English *Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14*

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

Message

Rev. Beth Wagner

✠**Hymn for Reflection #662** *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies*

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.

✠ **An Affirmation of Faith** (from the *Belhar Confession* and updated with gender-expansive language)

We believe in the triune God, Parent, Child, and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects, and cares for the church through the Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.

We believe

- that God has revealed themselves as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people
- that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor, and the wronged
- that God calls the church to follow them in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry
- that God frees the prisoner, supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, and blocks the path of the ungodly
- that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive

This Week

Sunday, November 23

- 9:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary
- 10:10 AM Sunday School/CE Building Classrooms
- 10:10 AM Easy English Fellowship/Rooms 204 & 207
- 10:10 AM Advent Study/Parlor

Monday, November 24

- 1:00 PM GROW/Chapel
- 1:00 PM Don McKay Memorial Service/Sanctuary & Westminster Hall
- 2:00 PM DREAAM Staff Training/CE Building
- 3:30 PM Environmental Team/Parlor & Zoom
- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall

Tuesday, November 25

- 12:00 PM Classic Book Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 2:00 PM DREAAM Staff Training/CE Building
- 4:30 PM World Mission/Parlor & Zoom

Wednesday, November 26

- 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room
- 7:30 PM Wednesdays We Gather/Zoom

Thursday, November 27 Church Office closed in observance of Thanksgiving

Friday, November 28 Church Office closed for Thanksgiving break

- 8:15 AM Men's Prayer/Zoom
- 7:00 PM French Prayer/Zoom

Saturday, November 29

- 1:00 PM Gary Bowen Memorial Service/Sanctuary & Westminster Hall
- 6:00 PM Francophone Bethesda Fellowship/Chapel



Announcements

●**Large print bulletins** available for use on Sunday mornings. Ask an usher if you cannot find one.

●With our return to the sanctuary, we have access to our hearing assistant loop. This technology allows people with hearing aids equipped with **T-Coil technology** to hear the service through their hearing aids. If you know you have T-coil technology, plan to turn on the T-coil via your phone each Sunday morning.

●**Betty Hollister** is our liturgist this morning. If you would like to serve as liturgist, contact **Carol Miles**.

●**We are glad you're here!** Questions about First Pres, see **either pastor** after the service or contact the church office (info@firstpres.church).

●Please wear your **nametag** to help our **staff** get acquainted.

●The Spiritual Formation Committee has chosen *A Surprising God – Advent Devotions for an Uncertain Time* for this year's **Advent Study** this morning immediately following worship. Books can be purchased at class.

●We are collecting royalties each time we hear a **Spiritual** in our service. Royalties were never paid for this music. Money we collect will go to the DREAAM Choir. A donation box is on the Welcome Center.

●**NO Coffee and Conversation** this week. Join us Tuesdays in December for **Tea with Beth** 1-3 PM.

●**Christmas Gathering** hosted by Presbyterian Women Thursday, December 4, 11:30 AM in the Sanctuary followed by a light lunch in Westminster Hall. The program will feature the **Uni High Madrigals** led by **Rick Murphy**. All are welcome!

●Join us Sunday, December 7, for a **Lesson in Carols with brass** at the 9 AM worship service...a great start to the holiday season.

●**Angel Tree** starts next week! Our church is supporting Courage Connection, which assists mothers and children escaping domestic violence. Please visit the tree next weekend in Westminster Hall, choose an ornament, purchase the listed gifts, and return them to the tree by December 14. Thank you for supporting this important mission!

●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 firstpres.church/newsletter.

●Please **do not park** in the spaces marked Reserved 24/7 behind Meyer/Capel Law office on Sundays.

●**If unable to attend church**, watch our 9 AM service live each Sunday at firstpres.church/live. The Sunday **service video** is available on-line this week; audio sermon available the following Sunday at 10:30 AM on WDWS 1400AM.