

## **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.*

**Anthem** *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus* (tune Stuttgart)

arr. Alan MacMillan

**Song for Centering & Call to Prayer #92** *While We Are Waiting, Come* (vs. 1)

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

**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 #104** *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?*

❖ **Charge & Benediction**

❖ **Congregational Sung Benediction #106** *Prepare the Way, O Zion* (vs. 1)

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!  
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.  
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.

❖ **Postlude**

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

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**

November 27, 2022      1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent



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**

Come to worship, all who seek and search for truth and justice.

**The light will guide your way to wisdom.**

Come to worship, all who wonder, wander, and wait for Jesus.

**The light will show you the way.**

Come to worship, to find comfort, rest, and peace.

**God is in the shadows, find peace under God's wings.**

Come to worship, all who seek safety from scary things.

**God is in the hiding places, and the darkness is safe.**

We gather to worship in light and in darkness.

**God is here among us. Let us worship God!**

#### **❖Hymn of Praise #105 *People Look East***

### **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Carol Ann Green & Diane Mortensen

### **Call to Confession**

### **Prayer of Confession**

**Light of the World and Shadow of Safety,  
we humble ourselves to pray.**

**You created us to be reflections of your love and justice,  
but we often reflect our own fears and prejudices.**

**Forgive us, God.**

**If we are mirrors of your great brilliance,  
help us sparkle when the world is gray.**

**Amen.**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

God is faithful to turn us around and place us on healthy paths when we acknowledge our unloving and unjust selves. Rest in the assurance you are forgiven, loved, and ready to begin again.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### **Passing of the Peace**

*(Please greet one another in the peace of Christ.)*

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

Sora Shepherd

### **Response of Gratitude #93 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* (vs. 1)**

**Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold the King of glory waits;**

**The king of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.**

### **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 #110 *Love Has Come* (vs. 3)**

**Love has come and never will leave us! Love is the life everlasting and free.**

**Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace of our hearts seeking.**

**Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.**

**Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!**

### **Scripture *Isaiah 2:1-5* (OT pg. 631); *Matthew 24:36-44* (NT pg. 27)**

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 *Get Ready***

Judi Geistlinger, Commissioned Lay Pastor

# Announcements

●We are glad you're here! Questions about First Pres, contact **Pastor Matt** or call the church office.

●**Pat Phillips** is our liturgist this morning. If you would like to serve, contact **Carol Miles**.

●**Sunday School** for children this morning at 10 AM. Sign in children at the Welcome Center 8:45-9. After worship, they will be escorted to their class. Meet your child or children in the library in the Education Building at 11. Transportation is not being provided at this time.

●**Faith in the Real World** this morning at 10:15 AM will feature **John Hecker**, manager of Stipes Publishing. John also oversees the local Crime Stoppers.

●**Poinsettia plants will decorate the Sanctuary in December.** Plants are \$15 each and given be given in memory or honor of someone. We will be ordering them December 1<sup>st</sup>. Please send donations marked poinsettia to FPC before November 28.

●**Judi Geistlinger** will preach today's 10:15 AM service at the Windsor of Savoy. **Gary Peterson** is preaching in Ashmore this morning as part of our Amateur Preacher's program.

●**If unable to attend church**, catch our 9 AM service live each Sunday morning at [firstpres.live](http://firstpres.live). The Sunday **sermon** is available on-line anytime or on WDWS 1400AM the next Sunday at 10:30 AM.

●If you or a loved one is **in the hospital or in need of a pastoral visit**, contact the church office.

●The **November newsletter** is available in the kiosks or at [firstpres.church/newsletter](http://firstpres.church/newsletter).

●The **Welcome & Affirmed Series** continues with their zoom sessions on Wednesday, November 30, at 6:30 PM. Join us online for a safe Christian space to better understand how to communicate sensitively and to welcome and affirm. To obtain a zoom link: [info@firstpres.church](mailto:info@firstpres.church) or 217.356.7238.

●Westminster Presbyterian Church invites you to attend a **Taizé service** in their sanctuary on Wednesday, November 30, at 7 PM. (Taizé is a form of Christian prayer originating from the ecumenical Christian community of Taizé in France. Participants are invited to rest in God through the singing of psalm verses and other simple chants, alternating with periods of silent reflection.)

●Join us for the Presbyterian Women's **Christmas Tea**, Thursday, December 1, at 12 noon in the Sanctuary featuring the Uni High Madrigals followed by a reception in Westminster Hall.

●We have some **special musical offerings** coming up in early December! On Saturday, December 3, at 7 PM in our sanctuary, the Springfield *Bells in Motion* bell choir will provide a **Christmas concert**. Our own bell director **Libby Sternhagen** is a member of this group.

Sunday, December 11, during the 9 AM worship service, the choir will present our **Christmas Music Sunday**. We will feature a selection of Christmas anthems and carols accompanied by **Sora Shepard** on piano and organ and a chamber ensemble of strings and woodwinds.

The finale is **Christmas Day**, a medley of carols by Gustav Holst. We hope to see you there!

●The response to the **Angel Tree** gifts to Kemmerer Village last year was so great that when the invitation came to help their 200 children have a better Christmas this year, the Community Mission Deacons unanimously agreed to set up the Angel Tree this year for Kemmerer Village. The Angel Tree is up for you to choose an ornament with a child's wishes on it. We will need to send the gifts to Kemmerer Village by December 11.

●Set aside Sunday, December 11. In the morning we will celebrate the holidays with Christmas Music Sunday at our 9 AM service presented by our Chancel Choir. That afternoon will be a Caroling Party starting with an open house at the home of **Michael Hogue and Bruce Rainey**, 1104 West Clark, Champaign, from 1-3 PM. At 3, we will walk/drive the neighborhood between Clark Street and the church and carol.

●Enduring the holidays can be tough if you have recently lost a family member. **Surviving the Holidays** will meet again on Wednesdays, December 21 and January 4, at 5 PM in the Parlor. This week's meeting on Wednesday will meet from 5-7 PM in the Parlor while December's meeting will start in the Parlor then end the evening at *The Longest Night* worship service in the Sanctuary. Contact **Rachel Matthews, Sherry Marble** or **Sallie Hutton** with questions.

●**Laetitia Kyungu**, one of our guest singers throughout the year, will hold a free concert *I Surrender* on Saturday, December 17, at 5 PM at the Independent Media Center, 202 South Broadway Avenue Suite 203, Urbana.

# This Week

## Sunday, November 27

- 9:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Easy English Fellowship/Room 204
- 10:15 AM Faith in the Real World/Parlor
- 10:15 AM Worship/Windsor of Savoy

## Monday, November 28

- 8:00 AM DREAAM/Rooms 105,109, 212
- 9:00 AM ELL (English Language Learners)/Zoom
- 1:00 PM Knifty Knitters/Parlor & Zoom
- 1:00 PM GROW/Family Library
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School/CE Building
- 5:00 PM DREAAMette Dance Team/Gym
- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall
- 7:00 PM ELL (English Language Learners)/Zoom

## Tuesday, November 29

- 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Study/Zoom
- 8:00 AM DREAAM/Rooms 105,109, 212
- 9:00 AM Building & Grounds/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:30 AM ELL In-Person/CE Building
- 10:30 AM Church Staff/Sanctuary
- 12:00 PM Classic Book Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School/CE Building
- 5:30 PM DREAAMette Cheer Team/Gym

## Wednesday, November 30

- 8:00 AM DREAAM/Rooms 105,109, 212
- 9:00 AM Cuba Steering Committee/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:30 AM ELL In-Person/CE Building
- 10:00 AM ELL/Zoom
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School/CE Building
- 5:00 PM DREAAMette Dance Team/Gym
- 5:30 PM DREAAM Robotics/201, 204, 205, 206, 207
- 6:30 PM Welcomed & Affirmed/Zoom
- 7:00 PM ELL/Zoom

## Thursday, December 1

- 8:00 AM DREAAM/Rooms 105,109, 212
- 10:00 AM ELL/Zoom
- 12:00 PM PW Christmas Tea/Sanctuary & Westminster Hall
- 12:30 PM Bible Study/Windsor of Savoy
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School/CE Building
- 2:30 PM Congregational Care Deacons/Parlor & Zoom
- 4:00 PM Spiritual Formation/Zoom
- 6:30 PM Bell Rehearsal/Bell Room
- 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room

## Friday, December 2 Church Office Closes at Noon

- 8:00 AM DREAAM/Rooms 105,109, 212
- 8:30 AM Men's Prayer/Zoom
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School/CE Building
- 7:30 PM Friday Night Lights/Zoom

## Saturday, December 3

- 5:00 PM Central Illinois Bells in Motion Bell Concert/Sanctuary
- 6:00 PM French Worship Service/Centennial Hall

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