

We will reach for each other. We will look for God in our midst. We will sing songs of joy. We will proclaim: “Unto us, love is born.”
We have seen the longest night, and we have seen unimaginable love. So still, we believe. Amen.

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

Offertory *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

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.*

Connecting with our Community

✚ Hymn for Commitment #105 *People, Look East* (vs. 1,4,5)

✚ Charge and Benediction

✚ Congregational Sung Benediction #92 *While We Are Waiting, Come* (vs. 1)

✚ Postlude *Invention No.8 in F Major* J.S. Bach

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

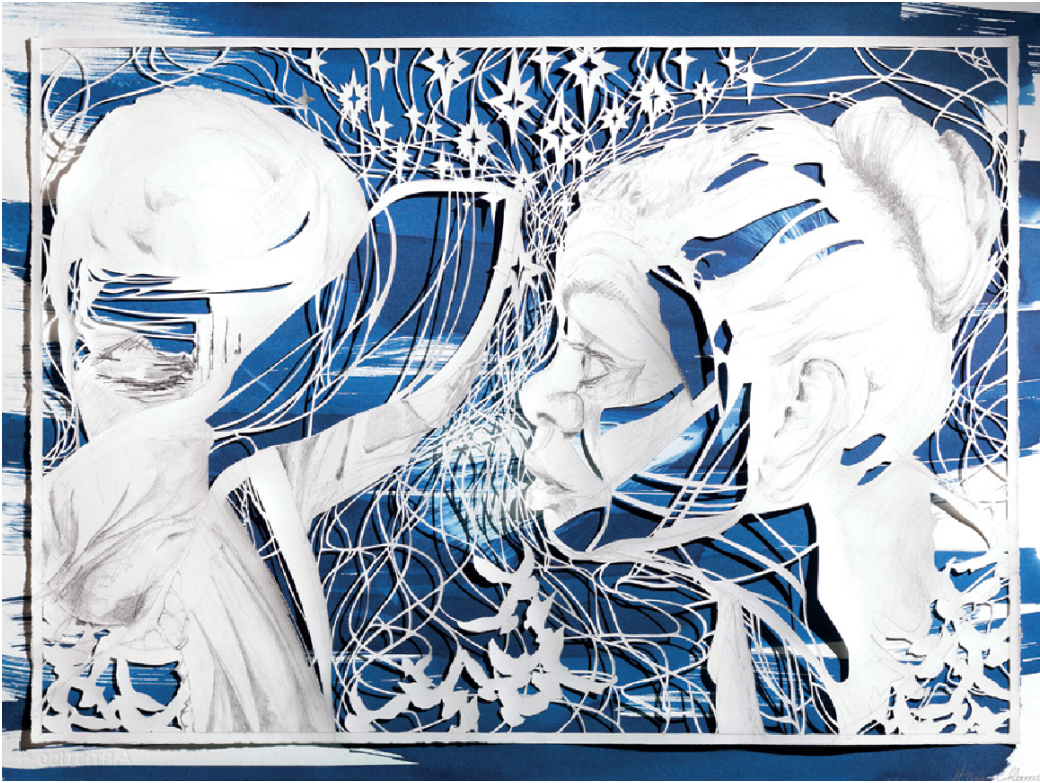
Service Material References

Sanctified Art: What Do You Fear? Words for Worship.
A note about cover artwork: *Zechariah and the Angel* by Hannah Garrity; Inspired by *Luke 1:5-13*, 32"x20" Paper lace & graphite drawing, backed with cyanotype print



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH** OF CHAMPAIGN

November 30, 2025 First 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 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 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

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.

Candle Lighting #85 *Light One Candle to Watch For Messiah* (vs. 1)

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

On Sundays and Mondays,

on good days and bad days,

early in the morning and very late at night,

here in this room, and out in the world, God, we long for you to break in.

Meet us in this space.

Surprise us with your presence.

Fill this room with your good news.

With hope, we sing, we worship, we pray. Amen!

✠**Hymn of Praise #82** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

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

Prayer of Confession

Ever-present God, we long to feel you close.

We long to feel your presence in our lives.

We long for you to break through the chaos and suffering of this world.

However, if we're honest, we rarely stand still long enough to feel you in our midst.

Forgive our rushing and distractions.

Forgive our wandering hearts, and center us in this space.

Remind us that even in the time of Herod, even on the longest nights, you are always there. Amen. *Silence is kept.*

Kyrie *Kyrie for Advent* (text: Stephen Fearing 2015 – sung to *Venti Emmanuel*)

Forgive us Lord, for time when hope was lost,

and moments when we never thought to trust,

For times when we despair and forget that you are where all joy and truth have met.

Forgive, forgive, forgive us all our sins and help us hope and trust you without end.

Words of Forgiveness

Family of faith, even when we doubt God's presence, even when we fail to notice God's fingerprints in this world, God is always moving closer to us. Hear and believe the good news this Advent season:

Nothing can keep God's love away. We are seen. We are forgiven. We are not alone.

Amen.

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

Scripture in French *Lamentations 3:55-57*

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

Music for Reflection *Old Irish Blessing*

Chancel Choir

Denes Agay

Scripture in English *Luke 1:5-13*

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

Message *We Long for God to Break In!*

Rev. Beth Wagner

✠**Hymn for Reflection #102** *Savior of the Nations, Come*

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**

We have seen the valley. We have seen a sky without stars. We have seen the longest night, and still we believe.

We believe in a with-us God. We believe in the hope of tomorrow. We believe that good news is louder than fear. We believe this good news is for all people.

So even when our knees shake, even when our voice trembles, even when fear is all around us, we will hold onto that good news.

This Week

Sunday, November 30

- 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, December 1

- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building & Café
- 1:00 PM GROW/Chapel
- 1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building
- 4:00 PM HR Team/Zoom
- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall

Tuesday, December 2

- 8:00 AM Men’s Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building & Café
- 10:30 AM Church Staff/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:00 PM Classic Book Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 1:00 PM Tea with Beth/Hopskotch Bakery
- 1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building
- 3:30 PM Environmental Team/Zoom

Wednesday, December 3

- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building & Café
- 1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building
- 4:30 PM DREAAM Family Meal/Centennial Hall
- 5:15 PM Children’s Ministries/Zoom
- 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room
- 7:30 PM Wednesdays We Gather/Zoom

Thursday, December 4

- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building & Café
- 11:30 AM Christmas Gathering/Sanctuary & Westminster Hall
- 12:30 PM Windsor of Savoy Bible Study/Windsor of Savoy
- 1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building
- 2:30 PM Congregational Care Deacons/Parlor & Zoom
- 3:00 PM Transition Team/Library
- 4:00 PM Spiritual Formation/Zoom

Friday, December 5 Church Office closes at 12 noon

- 8:15 AM Men’s Prayer/Zoom
- 10:00 AM Korean Choir Rehearsal/Chapel
- 12:00 PM New American’s Ministry/Chapel
- 1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building
- 7:00 PM French Prayer/Zoom

Saturday, December 6

- 9:30 AM DREAAM Mentoring/Centennial Hall
- 3:30 PM Music Sunday Rehearsal/Sanctuary
- 6:00 PM Francophone Bethesda Fellowship/Chapel

Announcements

- The flowers this morning are from the **family of Gary Bowen** whose Memorial Service was held Saturday.
- 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.
- Laura Aull Johnston** 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.
- Join us Tuesdays in December for **Tea with Beth** 1-3 PM at Hopscotch Bakery on John Street in Champaign.
- 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 **Lessons and Carols with brass** at the 9 AM worship service...a great start to the holiday season.
- Today kicks off the 2025 Angel Tree!** This year, our Community Mission Deacons have chosen **Courage Connection**, which supports mothers and children breaking free of domestic violence. Please visit the tree in Westminster Hall, choose an ornament, purchase the listed gifts, and return them to the church by **December 14**. Thank you for supporting this important mission!
- Annual Christmas Caroling Tuesday, December 16, at 5 PM.** Meet at the church; we will then carpool to Windsor of Savoy and Carriage Crossing to *deck the halls* with joyful singing. We will return to the church for hot chocolate and cookies.
- 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.
- Scam Alert** ... Please know that your pastors will **never** send a text, email or voicemail asking you to help them by purchasing gift cards. **This** is a scam, you should immediately delete the message. **If** you are unsure please reach out to the pastors directly to confirm the request is real.