

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.
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 *Someone To Watch Over Me*

Gary Winder, clarinet; Yuxi Chen, piano

Gershwin

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 #101** *No Wind at the Window*

✠ **Charge and Benediction**

✠ **Congregational Sung Benediction #92** *While We Are Waiting, Come* (vs. 3)

✠ **Postlude** *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

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

Service Material References

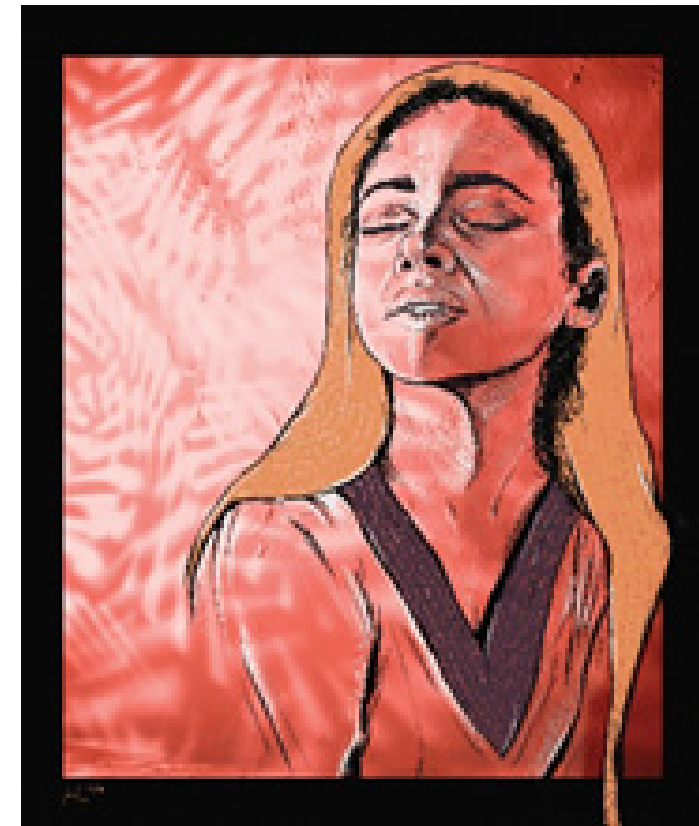
Sanctified Art: What Do You Fear? Words for Worship.

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

December 14, 2025 Third 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 *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

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

In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of peace?

**We see glimmers of peace in the quiet of early morning, when people shake hands,
when loved ones say they're sorry, and when the church sings together. You are right.
Even in a fearful world, peace is all around us.**

Today we light the candle of peace as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, peace is present. We only have to look for it.

Light candle

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Hymn #85 *Light One Candle to Watch For Messiah* (vs. 3)

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

Family of faith, God is at work!

**God is healing and creating,
redeeming and dreaming,
calling and sending,**
listening and loving.

Yes, indeed, God is at work!

So may we worship our God who never gives up.

May we worship our God who holds onto hope. Amen.

✠**Hymn of Praise #88** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

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

Prayer of Confession

**On-the-move God, we have every reason to hold onto hope. We have every reason to
believe that spring will come, that flowers will bloom, that the sun will rise.
And yet, too often hope slips through our fingers.**

**With anxious hearts we cry out to you, “Will change ever come? Will things ever get
better? Will I ever make a difference?”**

**Soothe our wandering hearts and show us the places where the sun is shining.
Show us the places where you are on the move. With open hearts we pray, amen.**

Silence is kept.

Kyrie *Kyrie for Advent* (text: Stephen Fearing 2015 – sung to *Veni 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.**

Assurance of Pardon

Family of faith, in our honesty,
we are heard.

In our worries,
we are held.

In our failings,
we are forgiven.

In our fear,
**we are not alone. Friends, this is the good news of the gospel! When we're running out
of hope, God is still at work.**

Thanks be to God!
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 *Jeremiah 1:4-10*

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

Scripture in English *Luke 1:26-39*

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

Message

Rev. Joe Lundy

✠**Hymn for Reflection #100** *My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout*

This Week

Sunday, December 14

9:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary

Monday, December 15

9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building & Café

1:00 PM GROW/Chapel

1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building

5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall

Tuesday, December 16

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/Hopscotch Bakery

1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building

3:30 PM Community Misison Deacons/Parlor & Zoom

5:00 PM Caroling Party/Gather in Church Parking Lot

Wednesday, December 17

9:00 AM Cuba Partners/Zoom

9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building & Café

11:00 AM New American’s Ministry Team/Church Library

1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building

4:30 PM DREAAM Family STEM Night/Centennial Hall

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room

7:30 PM Wednesdays We Gather/Zoom

Thursday, December 18

9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building & Café

12:30 PM Windsor of Savoy Bible Study/Windsor of Savoy

1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building

7:00 PM Session/Westminster Hall & Zoom

Friday, December 19 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 20

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.

●If you would like to serve as liturgist on a Sunday morning, 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.

●**Poinsettias will enhance our worship service beginning mid-December.** If you would like to donate a plant at \$10 each, please mark your check/cash contribution with whom you are giving in memory or honor of.

●Because of the extreme cold this morning, **Second Sunday Brunch is cancelled** for December.

●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 in Champaign.

●**It's the final day of Angel Tree!** If ornaments remain on the tree, there's still time to support the women and children at Courage Connection. Community Mission Deacons will collect gifts through the end of the week. To arrange pick up, please contact **Sarah Laufenberg** at lauf33@gmail.com. Thank you.

●The **Congregational Meeting for the Election of Church Officers** is postponed until next Sunday, December 21, at the 9 AM worship service.

●**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.

●**Blue Christmas Service** Sunday, December 21, 4 PM. An Advent service for those experiencing grief or for whom this season is a time of grieving. Members of the church and friends noted on *All Saints Day* along with those who have died more recently will be remembered.

●On Sunday, December 21, members and friends are invited to an **Open House** for cookies and coffee from 1-3 PM at the home of **Michael Hogue and Bruce Rainey**, 1104 West Clark in Champaign.

●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 **December 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.

Christmas Eve Wednesday, December 24

4 PM Family Service

Hear the Christmas story from scripture, sing Christmas carols, a wonderful storybook to convey our Christmas Eve message and the lighting of candles as our service ends. All are welcome to join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

8 PM Worship

Join us as we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child at a contemplative worship service with choir, communion and candlelight.