

anxiety.”⁴⁹ He said to them, “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?”

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”)

Message *Chosen Home* Judi Geistlinger, Commissioned Lay Pastor

Prayers of Thanksgiving and 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.

***Hymn** *Chosen Home* (tune *Adestes Fideles* see insert)

***Benediction**

***Congregational Sung Benediction #132** *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* (v. 2)

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soil and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven’s door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

***Postlude**

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

Prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org
Artwork from Chosen Home by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH** OF CHAMPAIGN

December 26, 2021

First Sunday After Christmas



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.

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

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.

*If you are visiting, please stop by the Welcome Center downstairs in Westminster Hall after the service, mingle with other friends and guests, and learn how this congregation can become your church home. **Welcome!***

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

Greeting & Announcements

*Call to Worship

Jesus said,
 “This is my Father’s house.”
So come into this space
 just as you are.
Come into this space
 speaking your truth.
Come into this space
 with your authentic self.
This is God’s home.
 This is our home.
Let us worship God.

*Opening Hymn #134 *Joy to the World*

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

We could offer welcome,
 but we often choose judgment.
We could choose action,
 but we often choose silence.
We could choose truth,
 but we often choose ignorance.
We could choose God,
 but we often choose ourselves.
Forgive us, gracious God, for the moments when we chose poorly.
 Open our hearts to choose you, to choose community, to choose love.
 Gratefully we pray, amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Family of faith, no matter how we choose, we cannot lose God’s love. It is undeserved, overwhelming, ever-present, and always with us. So may we accept God’s grace, and use it as fuel for better days.

Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

No matter how many times we walk away, God always welcomes us home. We are loved. We are forgiven. We are invited. Thanks be to God, amen.

*Passing of the Peace (no touches)

*Response of Gratitude #113 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

Act of Friendship & Sharing of Prayer Concerns

Please pass the Friendship Pad and list prayer concerns on the prayer request cards in the pew.

Christmas Carol Sing – 1st verse each

#110 *Love Has Come*
#115 *Away In a Manger*
#119 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*
#121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*
#122 *Silent Night, Holy Night*
#128 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*
#129 *Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming*
#132 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*
#133 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

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

Offertory

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Prayer of Dedication

Prayer for Illumination

A Reading from the Gospels *Luke 2:48-49*

⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, “Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great

Poinsettias

Thank you to the following who donated poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary during this special Christmas season...

- Jim and Nancy Bell** in honor of Midge Miller, Faye Reid, and Joyce Wittler and in memory of Charlie Wittler,
Jean Brunson and family in memory of Bob Brunson, Conner Skwarsan, also in memory of Ken and Mary Stotler;
Richard and Helen Coddington in loving memory of Richard and Norma Coddington, and John and Marian Rodemer;
Ron Deering in memory of Nancy and John Deering;
Sue Anne Fischer and sons, Jason, Adam, and Timothy in honor and in memory of Dr. Don A. Fischer, loving husband and father;
Judy Geistlinger in memory of Bob and Mary Rose;
Dan Harmon in memory of William L. Smith, Billie Smith, Harley H. Harmon, Vivian Harmon, and Collin Jay Harmon;
Mark and Judy Hendrickson in memory of Jack and Helen Hendrickson and Paul and Jean Bates;
Itch and Sue Jones in memory of Jiggs and Rosine Jones, Gratton and Helen Hill;
Mary Jane Kelley in memory of Paul Kelley;
Nancy Martin in memory of Bob and Betty Eisner and in honor of Lisa and Vivian Shroeder;
Matt and Rachel Matthews in honor of Joseph, Ben, and John Mark;
George and Liz Miley in honor of Jim and Leland Andrews;
Dianne Mortensen and family in memory of Paul Mortensen and in honor of the church staff;
The Nicolette and Born families in memory of Bob Nicolette, Jill Nicolette Izzi, and Beth and Hal Dawson;
Bruce Rainey and Michael Hogue in memory of Arlene Rainey, Bruce’s mother, and Gary and Peggy Lietz;
Stacey Roux, Wendy Chao, and Kelly Sansone along with their father, Ken Travers, in memory of Janny Quinn Travers;
Kurt and Lola Ruthmansdorfer in memory of Daniel and Edith Ruthmansdorfer;
Mark and Kathleen Schoeffmann in celebration of Christ’s birth;
Cathy Schowengerdt and family in loving memory of Bill Schowengerdt;
Annilee Shaul in memory of loved ones;
Linda Tauber Olson in memory of her father, Karl Tauber;
Luke Waaler in honor of our parents, Jack and Ginny Waaler.

Announcements

- We are glad you’re here!** Questions about First Pres, contact **Pastor Matt** or call the church office.
- Thank you to **Professor Charlotte Mattax** for serving as our organist and to **Brandi Lowe** for leading the carol sing. **Mary Jane Kelley** is our liturgist this morning.
- Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the **Christmas Joy Offering**, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. Please mark “Joy” on your check or envelope with your contribution.
- Everyone **must wear a mask** indoors for safety.
- If unable to attend church**, catch our 9 AM service live each Sunday morning at firstpres.live. The Sunday **sermon** is available on-line or on WDWS 1400AM the next Sunday at 10:30 AM.
- Judi Geistlinger** will preach at this morning’s 10:15 AM service at the Windsor of Savoy.
- Wednesdays, January 5, 12, 19, and 26 from 7-8 PM, **we will look with fresh eyes at the history, culture and hopes of Presbyterians in Cuba**, our hermanamientos. This will be a zoom study only. If you are interested in praying with and for our brothers and sisters in Cuba, if you are interested in dreaming about a future trip to Cuba, if you are wanting to experience a little Cuban culture, this will lift your spirits during January. Sign up and join us. Send your email address to info@firstpres.church to get the zoom link.
- Styrofoam recycling** will be held in a drive through drop-off on Saturday, January 8, 2022 from 9 to 11, in Doxology Lane. The container in the southwest corner of Westminster Hall is for weekly deposits, but Christmas often brings large pieces of Styrofoam packaging and take-out containers.
- If you or a loved one is **in the hospital or in need of a pastoral visit**, contact the church office.
- The **December newsletter** is available in the kiosks or at firstpres.church/newsletter.

The church office will be closed
Monday, December 27, Friday, December 31, and Wednesday, December 29
in observance of the holidays.
May the joy and peace of Christmas be with you all through the year.
Wishing you a season of blessings. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!