

## Celebration of the Lord's Supper

We are Invited

We give Thanks (sung to "Day Is Done" Ar Hyd Y Nos)

For the fruit of all creation, Thanks be to God.

For the gifts to every nation, Thanks be to God.

For the wonders that astound us, For the truths that still confound us.

Most of all that love has found us, Thanks be to God...

*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.

The Meal is Set (*Let us hold the elements and partake together*)

The Meal is Shared

We close in Prayer

### **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 for Commitment #110 *Love Has Come*

◆Charge and Benediction

◆Congregational Sung Benediction #105 *People Look East*

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.

◆Postlude

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

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# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

December 3, 2023 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 are presently worshiping in Westminster Hall while our elevator is being replaced.*

*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." 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 pads.*

### **Greeting & Announcements**

### **Lighting of the Advent Wreath/We light the candle of hope.**

**Sung Response: He came down that we may have hope ... hallelujah forevermore.**

### **♦Call to Worship (from *Luke 1:68*)**

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

**He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old...**

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, that we might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

**By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."**

Let us worship God.

**The Lord's name be praised!**

### **♦Hymn of Praise #104 *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?***

### **Call to Confession – Hymn #88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (vs. 1)**

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

### **Corporate Confession**

**Come, Lord Jesus, to ransom and redeem your wayward people. You are merciful.  
We confess that we have sinned against you. In your mercy, forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in**

**your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. O Come, O Come,  
Emmanuel. A M E N .**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were yet sinners, God greets us with a baby's cry from a Bethlehem manger.

### **Hallelujah!**

God's Messiah, Jesus the Christ, befriended us, taught us, challenged us, and walks with us. Jesus welcomes us into a new way of life.

**The old life is gone; the new life has begun.**

Believe the Gospel and be at peace:

**In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven. Alleluia!**

### **Passing of the Peace**

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

**Offertory *Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes***

Brandi Lowe, soloist

Mark Sirett

### **Response of Gratitude #648 *Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise***

**Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell everyone what God has done.**

**Let everyone who seeks the Lord rejoice and bear the name of Christ.**

**Send us with your promises and lead your people forth in joy**

**With shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

### **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 #83 *Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus***

**Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;**

**From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.**

### **Scripture *Luke 1:26-38* (NT, pg. 56)**

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 *How Can This Be?***

Matt Matthews

# Announcements

## This Week

### Sunday, December 3

- 9:00 AM Worship/Westminster Hall
- 10:00 AM Sunday School/CE Building
- 10:00 AM Session Meeting/Library
- 10:10 AM Easy English Fellowship/Rooms 204 & 207
- 10:10 AM Advent Study/Parlor
- 10:15 AM Worship/Windsor of Savoy

### Monday, December 4

- 9:15 AM ELL In-person/CE Building
- 1:00 PM Grow/Family Library
- 1:30 PM Women's Bible Study/Library
- 4:00 PM HR Meeting/Parlor & Zoom
- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall

### Tuesday, December 5

- 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:00 AM Small Group Leaders/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:15 AM ELL In-person/CE Building
- 10:30 AM Church Staff/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:00 PM Classic Book Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 5:00 PM DREAAM Martial Arts/Gym
- 7:30 PM Together on Tuesdays/Zoom

### Wednesday, December 6

- 9:15 AM ELL In-person/CE Building
- 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch/Parlor
- 3:30 PM DREAAM Youth Club/Centennial Hall
- 5:00 PM DREAAM Dance Group/Centennial Hall

### Thursday, December 7

- 11:00 AM Sign Language Review/Library
- 12:00 PM PW Christmas Gathering/Westminster Hall
- 12:30 PM Bible Study/Windsor of Savoy
- 4:00 AM Spiritual Formation/Zoom
- 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal/Bell Room
- 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room

### Friday, December 8 Church Office close at noon

- 8:15 AM Men's Prayer/Zoom

### Saturday, December 9

- 10:30 AM Music Sunday Rehearsal/Westminster Hall
- 2:00 PM Karch Internment/Memorial Garden
- 6:00 PM French Worship Service/Chapel

- We are glad you're here!** Questions about First Pres, contact **Pastor Matt Matthews** or call the church office. We are presently worshipping in Westminster Hall while our elevator is being replaced.
- Please wear your **nametag** to help new **Associate Pastor Joe Lundy** get acquainted.
- Gary Peterson** is our liturgist this morning. If you would like to serve, contact **Carol Miles**.
- Grab a cup of coffee and stop by the Parlor at 10:10 this morning for our **Adult Education/Advent Study**, *Holy Disruption* by Tracy Daub, based on the *Gospel of Mark*.
- Gale Brandner** will preach this morning's service at the Windsor of Savoy. **Judi Geistlinger** is in Gibson City this morning.
- We invite you to donate to the **Christmas decor** throughout the church in memory or honor of someone. With the change in worship location, we do not have the space for poinsettias this year. New greenery and other decor was purchased. If you would like to donate, mark your contribution "greenery" and indicate who it is in honor or memory of. All contributions will be noted in an upcoming bulletin.
- The **Angel Tree/Advent Offering** support The Refugee Center and will be received throughout December. Monetary donations will go towards a refugee's first month's housing. Our church and other organizations will be collecting household items needed. We have a collection box in Westminster Hall. Items needed: full sheet set; twin sheet set; 1 tall trash can and one box of trash bags; 4 towel/washcloth sets; 2 small waste baskets; 1 set of pots and pans; 1 12+ piece dinnerware set; 1 kitchen utensil set; 2 can openers; 1 pack-n-play.
- The **Christmas Joy Offering** will be received on Christmas Eve and again on Sunday, December 31.
- All are cordially invited to the **Christmas Gathering hosted by Presbyterian Women** on Thursday, December 7 at 12 noon in Westminster Hall. Uni High Madrigals will be performing during the program. A delicious lunch will follow! Please RSVP to church office.
- Sunday, December 10, at 3 PM Blue Christmas service.** This is an advent service for those experiencing grief or for whom this season is a time of grieving. The service will offer a space to express feelings but also to experience the hope we find in Christ.
- Please join us for a **Christmas Charcuterie Brunch** on Sunday, December 10 immediately following the service. **Christmas Caroling** will take place on Sunday, December 17 from 3-5 PM. Please meet at the church at 2:30 PM.
- Cuba 2024?** Are you interested in joining a delegation to our sister church in Cuba probably between March 9-18. Deadline to commit is December 7. To travel you must be a member or staff of a Presbyterian Church, have a US passport valid until at least December 17, 2024. Please contact Mission Coordinator Pastor Rachel for further details at [rachel@firspres.church](mailto:rachel@firspres.church).
- 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 [firspres.church/newsletter](http://firspres.church/newsletter).
- Please **do not park** in the spaces marked Reserved 24/7 behind the law office on Sundays.
- If unable to attend church**, watch our 9 AM service live each Sunday at [firspres.church/live](http://firspres.church/live). The Sunday **sermon** is available on-line anytime or on WDWS 1400AM the next Sunday at 10:30 AM.