

- that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right;
 - that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream;
- that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged; that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others.

We believe that, in obedience to Jesus Christ, its only head, the church is called to confess and to do all these things, even though the authorities and human laws might forbid them and punishment and suffering be the consequence.

Jesus is Lord.

To the one and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.

Song for Centering & Call to Prayer #775 *I Want Jesus To Walk With Me* (vs.1)

I want Jesus to walk with me; I want Jesus to walk with me;
All along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

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 for Commitment #815 *Give to the Winds Thy Fears*

❖Charge and Benediction

❖Congregational Sung Benediction #543 *God Be the Love* (vs. 1)

God, be the love to search and keep me;
God, be the prayer to move my voice;
God, be the strength to now uphold me.
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

❖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

February 12, 2023

6th Sunday after Epiphany



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 (from *Psalms* 119:33-40)

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end.

**Give me understanding that I may keep your law
and observe it with my whole heart.**

Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; give me life in your ways.

See, I have longed for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life.

Let us worship God!

❖ Hymn of Praise #32 *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Generous God, we are baptized as your people, called to live and serve together as your church. We confess that we have sought to live for ourselves, not reaching out to others and honoring the divine image in all your children.

Forgive us, we pray. In your abundant mercy give us the grace to be your church, confessing our faults, offering forgiveness and working for reconciliation. Turn our hearts to your intentions that we may hold fast to one another and draw near to your presence. In Jesus, we ask it. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, in Jesus Christ, we have been fed God's grace and redemption. And that redemption gives us the strength to love our neighbors near and far, proclaiming in our words and deeds:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Passing of the Peace

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

Offertory Song – *Animato*

Cynthia Dobrinski

Upper Room Ringers; Libby Sternhagen, Director

Response of Gratitude #25 *O Lord Our God How Excellent* (vs. 5)

**O Lord, our God, how excellent, how glorious is your name,
Majestic in your holiness. We sing, and praise your fame.**

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 #458 *Thy Word Is a Lamp Unto My Feet* (refrain)

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Scripture *Matthew* 5:38-48 (NT pg. 5)

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 *Striving For...Perfection?*

Connie Bandy

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 *Within Thy Tabernacle* (*Psalms* 61)

music: *Bay Psalm Book* (1698); arr. Steven Darsey

An Affirmation of Faith (from *Belbar Confession*)

We believe that God has revealed himself as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;

•that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged

•that God calls the church to follow him in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;

•that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;

•that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly;

•that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering;

This Week

Sunday, February 12

- 9:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary
- 10:10 AM 2nd Sunday Brunch/Centennial Hall
- 10:15 AM Worship/Windsor of Savoy
- 1:00 PM APNC/Parlor

Monday, February 13

- 8:00 AM DREAAM/Rooms 105,109, 212
- 10:00 AM ELL In-Person/Room 204
- 1:00 PM GROW/Family Library
- 1:00 PM Prayer Ministry Team/Library
- 1:00 PM Knifty Knitters/Parlor & Zoom
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program/CE Building
- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall

Tuesday, February 14

- 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 8:00 AM DREAAM/Rooms 105,109, 212
- 9:30 AM ELL In-Person/Rooms 102, 103, 104, 201, 204, 205, 206, 207, Café
- 10:30 AM Church Staff/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:00 PM Classic Book Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program/CE Building
- 3:30 PM DREAAM Culinary Arts Club/Centennial Hall & Kitchen
- 4:30 PM Mission Committee/Parlor & Zoom
- 7:00 PM Worship Team/Parlor & Zoom

Wednesday, February 15

- 8:00 AM DREAAM/Rooms 105,109, 212
- 9:30 AM ELL In-Person/Rooms 102, 103, 104, 201, 204, 205, 206, 207, Café
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program/CE Building

Thursday, February 16

- 8:00 AM DREAAM/Rooms 105,109, 212
- 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program/CE Building
- 6:30 PM Bell Rehearsal/Bell Room
- 7:00 PM Session/Parlor & Zoom
- 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room

Friday, February 17 Church Office Closes at Noon

- 8:00 AM DREAAM/Rooms 105,109, 212
- 8:15 AM Men's Prayer/Zoom
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program/CE Building
- 7:30 PM Friday Night Lights/Zoom

Saturday, February 18

- 6:00 PM French Worship Service/Centennial Hall

Announcements

- We are glad you're here! Questions about First Pres, contact **Pastor Connie Bandy** or call the church office.
- Jane Alsberg** is our liturgist this morning. If you would like to serve, contact **Carol Miles**.
- The **flowers in the Sanctuary** this morning are given by **Jim Berger** commemorating Abraham Lincoln's birthday February 12, 1809.
- The Rev. Jean Oliver-Holder** will preach today's 10:15 AM service at the Windsor of Savoy.
- You can sign up on the flower chart in Westminster Hall near the Welcome Center to **donate flowers for Sunday worship** in memory of a loved one, for a celebration, or just because. Consider buying plants for Sundays instead of flower arrangements. **Remember no lilies!** You can donate money for the flowers too, make checks out to First Pres, specify that it is for flowers.
- Would you be willing to serve as a **greeter** on Sunday mornings? No experience required...just a warm welcome! Help is also needed, 15-20 minutes on Sunday mornings, to greet people and let them in the CE Building door, 9:55-10:15 AM. Once a month? Every week? Contact **Ginny Waaler** to serve as a Greeter before the services; contact **Mary Gritten** if you can help in CE Building.
- Join us this morning in Centennial Hall immediately following the service for our **Second Sunday Brunch**. No charge, but donations welcomed.
- No Sunday School** for children this morning. Families are encouraged to attend brunch after the service.
- The **Annual Meeting of the Congregation** will be held Sunday, February 26, immediately following the 9 AM service. For a zoom link for the meeting, contact the church office.
- If unable to attend church**, catch our 9 AM service live each Sunday morning at firstpres.live. The Sunday **sermon** is available on-line anytime or on WDWS 1400AM the next Sunday at 10:30 AM.
- For the next week, **in-person church office hours are 8:30 AM-2 PM**. After 2, you can email marcia@firstpres.church or call the church office phone 217.356.7238.
- The **Winter/Spring Small Group brochure** is now available in the kiosks, at the Welcome Center or on the church website. Check out the many opportunities to join a small group this winter/spring.
- If you or a loved one is **in the hospital or in need of a pastoral visit**, contact the church office.
- We need your help. **The Little Free Pantry** is a small but important way you can help our neighbors without an address (and others on financial hard times). We are currently low on supplies for our Little Pantry and are asking for food bars, snack bars, nut bars, dried goods, canned soups and meats with pull top lids, and other pantry items. Also socks, gloves and hats. Cold weather is a critical time for these items. Thank you for your generosity.
- The **February newsletter** is available in the kiosks or at firstpres.church/newsletter.
- Please **do not park** in the spaces marked Reserved 24/7 behind the law office on Sunday mornings. The spaces behind the law office belong to Meyer/Capel. They generously let us use the unmarked spaces on Sundays but need to reserve spots marked 24/7 for staff that work weekends.