

Anthem *O God Beyond All Praising* (Theme from Gustav Holst, *The Planets*)
arr. Dan Forrest; text Michael Perry

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 #425 *Son of God, Whose Heart Is Peace*
 - ♦Charge and Benediction
 - ♦Congregational Sung Benediction #558 *Amen*
 - ♦Postlude
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- ♦Please stand if able. Remain seated if need be.



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN**

February 18, 2024 1st Sunday in Lent



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

♦Call to Worship (*A Wee Worship Book* – Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona, Scotland)

In the beginning, before time, before people, before the world began,

God was.

Here and now among us, beside us, enlisting the people of earth for the purpose of heaven,

God is.

In the future, when we have turned to dust and all we know has found its fulfillment,

God will be.

Not denying the world, but delighting in it, not condemning the world, but redeeming it,
through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit,

God is, God was, God will be. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

♦Hymn of Praise #17 *Sing Praise to God, You Heavens*

Call to Confession & Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we admit that being your son's disciples can be inconvenient. As we seek clarity in our call, forgive us when we seek ease. And as we ponder the 'inconveniences' of discipleship, may we ponder such matters as the inconvenience of your crucifixion. Forgive us, O Lord, and help us serve with glad hearts. AMEN

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Passing of the Peace

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

Offertory – Kristina Engberg

Response of Gratitude #623 *I've Got Peace Like a River*

I've got peace like a river; I've got peace like a river;

I've got peace like a river, in my soul. I've got peace like a river, in my soul.

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 #314 *Longing for Light* (refrain)

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Scripture *1 Peter 3:18-22* (Contemporary English Version)

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 *Ten Foot Pole*

Matt Matthews

Affirmation of Faith (from *The Confession of 1967*)

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful people. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which all people stand convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all people.

God's reconciling act in Jesus Christ is a mystery which the Scriptures describe in various ways. It is called

the sacrifice of a lamb,

a shepherd's life given for his sheep,

atonement by a priest;

again it is

ransom of a slave,

payment of debt,

vicarious satisfaction of a legal penalty, and

victory over the powers of evil.

These are expressions of a truth which remains beyond the reach of all theory in the depths of God's love for man. They reveal the gravity, cost, and sure achievement of God's reconciling work.

This Week

Sunday, February 18

- 9:00 AM Worship/Westminster Hall
- 10:00 AM Easy English Fellowship/Room 204 & 207
- 10:10 AM Sunday School/CE Building
- 10:10 AM Adult Ed/Parlor
- 10:15 AM Worship/Windsor of Savoy

Monday, February 19

- 1:00 PM Grow/Family Library
- 1:30 PM Women’s Bible Study/Library
- 3:30 PM DREAAM Mentoring/Room 206, 212, Gym
- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall

Tuesday, February 20

- 8:00 AM Men’s Breakfast Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:00 AM PW Coordinating Team/Zoom
- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building
- 10:30 AM Church Staff/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:00 PM Classic Book Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 4:30 PM Community Mission Team/Parlor & Zoom
- 5:30 PM DREAAM Parent Titans/Cafe
- 5:30 PM DREAAM Tiny Titans/Gym
- 7:30 PM Together on Tuesdays/Zoom

Wednesday, February 21

- 9:00 AM Cuba Partners/Zoom
- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building
- 3:30 PM Youth Bible Club/Centennial Hall & Kitchen
- 5:00 PM DREAAM Effective Black Parenting/Various rooms

Thursday, February 22

- 9:00 AM Women’s Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 10:30 AM Circle of Joy/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:30 PM Bible Study/Windsor of Savoy
- 1:00 PM Circle of Faith/Parlor & Zoom
- 6:00 PM Bell Choir/Bell Room
- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir/Choir Room
- 7:00 PM Circle of Peace/Parlor & Zoom

Friday, February 23 Church Office closes at noon

- 8:15 AM Men’s Prayer/Zoom

Saturday, February 24

- 1:00 PM David Hunter Memorial Service/Westminster Hall
- 1:30 PM DREAAM SAT Prep/Cafe
- 6:00 PM French Worship Service/Chapel

Announcements

- 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 our **Associate Pastor Joe Lundy** get acquainted.
- Miriam Chenault** is our liturgist this morning. If you would like to serve, contact **Carol Miles**.
- We welcome **Kristina Engerg** as our guest pianist this morning.
- Judi Geistlinger** will preach this morning’s service at the Windsor of Savoy.
- Sunday School classes for children K thru 8th grade from 10:15-11!** Walk across the alley, go upstairs, and see what’s happening. Youth will be escorted to their class.
- Beginning this morning throughout Lent **Adult Education** will be studying *Pause - Spending Lent with the Psalms* by Elizabeth Caldwell. This book guides us on a different sort of Lenten pilgrimage, lingering with the ancient words of the Psalms and uncovering layers of personal meaning from the diving poetry. Books are available at a cost of \$10 each. Grab a cup of coffee and join us in the Parlor immediately following worship.
- You can sign up to donate flowers for Sunday worship on the **flower calendar** on the bulletin board just outside Westminster Hall. Donate flowers in honor, memory or for a celebration of family or friends.
- You can pick up your copy of the **Small Group Spring 2024** brochure this morning. Join a small group this Spring!
- Copies of the **2023 Annual Report** are available in print in the kiosks or online at <https://firstpres.church/newsletters-reports>.
- 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 **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 Sundays.
- If unable to attend church**, watch our 9 AM service live each Sunday at firstpres.church/live. The Sunday **sermon** is available on-line anytime or on WDWS 1400AM the next Sunday at 10:30 AM.
- Plans are well underway for Bible Club on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5 PM DREAAM middle school youth and staff on our campus will join us. Can you help out on our kitchen team or serve as a table partner? Contact **Gary Peterson** (amer-swede@yahoo.com or 217-398-8504) or **Bob Kirby** (rwk3213@gmail.com or 217-621-5915) for more information or to sign up.
- We’re having a **Chili Cook-off!** Consider entering a crock pot of your fav chili or dessert on Sunday, February 25, at 3 PM. Be creative! Entry forms are available in Westminster Hall or via the link in Matt’s Friday Email.



Collecting for Cuban Adults & Children

“Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.” *Romans 12:13*

A delegation of five will visit our sister congregation in Cuba in mid-March. They will be carrying special gifts to help their mutual musical learning and playing of bells together. They also will take your donations for everyday needs so scarce in Cuba. Remember we would like to take things for both children and adults.

Please consider donating any of the following items dropping them off at the library adjacent to Westminster Hall or the church office. Or call the church office for pick up. Or, you can make a financial donation to the church in the memo: “Cuba”

- 1. Small clear empty medicine containers. We will clean off the labels.
- 2. Over the counter medicines Analgesics: aspirin, acetaminophen (Tylenol), ibuprofen (Motrin)... Decongestants: phenylephrine, pseudoephedrine (Sudafed)....Vitamins: multivitamins
- 3. Hygiene items
Feminine hygiene products, shampoo, bathing soap, deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste (Your dentist may have free samples.)
- 4. Adult diapers small, medium, and large
- 5. Wet wipes for babies and adults
- 6. Insulin syringes and insulin
- 7. Materials for Sunday School
glue sticks and liquid like Elmer’s glue, pencils, crayons, erasers, construction paper...



Upcoming Services for Holy Week & Easter

Palm Sunday, March 24

9 AM Worship

Maundy Thursday, March 28

5:30 PM Worship and light supper in Centennial Hall

Good Friday, March 29

7 PM Worship with First Methodist Church at the Methodist Church

Easter Sunday, March 31

9 AM Worship
10:30 AM Worship