

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; 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.

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

Offertory *Abide With Me* (Spiritual)

Hogan

◆ **Response of Gratitude**

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold;
Take myself and I will be ever, only, all for thee, ever, only, all for thee.

◆ **Prayer of Dedication & Thanksgiving**

◆ **Call to Prayer #66** *Every Time I Feel the Spirit* (Spiritual)

Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray. (Repeat)

Prayers of the People with 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

Moment for Ministry – Salt & Light

◆ **Hymn for Commitment #852** *When the Lord Redeems the Very Least*

◆ **Charge and Benediction**

◆ **Congregational Sung Benediction #741** *Guide My Feet* (vs. 1; Spiritual)

Guide my feet while I run this race; guide my feet while I run this race;
Guide my feet while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain!

◆ **Postlude**

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

Office: 302 West Church, Champaign, IL 61820 ♦ 217.356.7238
info@firstpres.church ♦ Rev. Beth Wagner (beth@firstpres.church) ♦ Rev. Joe Lundy (joseph@firstpres.church)
www.firstpres.church ♦ Facebook: fb.com/firstpreschampaign



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH** OF CHAMPAIGN

February 23, 2025

7th 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 worship space, please be mindful of the silent prayers of those around you.

We are presently worshipping 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." How wonderful it is to be so loved! Our natural response is worship.

Prelude

Act of Friendship & Sharing of 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.

Greetings & Welcome (♦Please stand as you are able in body or spirit.)

Threshold Moment

♦Call to Worship

We are called to be merciful,

Just as our God is merciful,

We are called to forgive,

Just as we have been forgiven,

We are called to love our enemies,

and to do good to those who hate us.

We are called to do to others as we would have them do to us. Let us pray: ...

♦Hymn of Praise #543 *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me*

Call to Confession by Rev. Peter W. Nimmo (*Congregation may be seated.*)

Prayer of Confession

Let us pray.

Great God of the Universe with joy, and with hope, we gather to worship you. You are the eternal God who is at work through your creation to bring life from death, good from evil and power from weakness. You have created all things and hold in being all that is; yet you know one of us intimately, and are with us even in difficult times. We confess that we, too often, are overwhelmed by difficulties. We see evil at work in the world and feel helpless against it. We go through times of suffering and distress that make us doubt your faithfulness. We are tempted to anger, to seek revenge of wrongs, to speak harsh words and treat others badly for such is the way of the world. But the example of Jesus Christ is before us – a life lived for others, not for selfish gain, and a faith that good will prevail. We pray you will forgive our failings to strengthen our hope in you. Amen. *Silence is kept.*

Kyrie *Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us*

Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon by Rev. Peter W. Nimmo

Hear the words of Jesus our Father is merciful:

So may we be merciful too.

Our Father does not judge us

So may we not judge others either.

Our Father does not condemn us

May we not condemn other people.

Our Father forgives us

So may we forgive others too.

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 #386 *Come, Worship God* (vs. 4)

Now let us listen, for you speak among us; open our hearts to receive what you say.

**Peace be to all who remember your goodness, trust in your word,
and rejoice in your way!**

Scripture *Luke 6:27-38*

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

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

Message

Joe Lundy

♦Hymn for Reflection #445 *God, How Can We Forgive*

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 *The Confession of Belbar*

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;

This Week

Sunday, February 23

- 9:00 AM Worship/Westminster Hall
- 10:10 AM Easy English Fellowship/Rooms 204, 206, 207
- 10:10 AM Children's Sunday School/CE Building
- 10:10 AM Adult Discussion/Parlor
- 4:00 PM Chili Cookoff/Centennial Hall

Monday, February 24

- 9:15 AM ELL In-Person Classes/CE Building & Café
- 12:00 noon Lunch & Learn/Centennial Hall
- 1:00 PM GROW/Family Library
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program/CE Building
- 3:30 PM Environmental Team/Parlor & Zoom
- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall

Tuesday, February 25

- 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:15 AM ELL In-Person Classes/CE Building & Café
- 9:30 AM PW Board/Zoom
- 10:30 AM Staff/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:00 PM Classic Book Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program/CE Building
- 5:00 PM DREAAM Learning Lab/Centennial Hall
- 5:00 PM DREAAM Mentoring/Café
- 6:00 PM DREAAM Praise Dance/Chapel

Wednesday, February 26

- 9:15 AM ELL In-Person Classes/CE Building & Café
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program/CE Building
- 3:30 PM DREAAM Bible Club/Centennial Hall
- 7:30 PM Together on Tuesdays/Zoom

Thursday, February 27

- 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:30 AM ELL Conversation/Café
- 10:00 AM Beth's Coffee Shop Hours/Bakelab at Lodgic (1807 South Neil Street)
- 10:30 AM Circle of Joy/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:30 PM Bible Study/Windsor of Savoy
- 1:00 PM Circle of Faith/Parlor & Zoom
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program/CE Building
- 7:00 PM Circle of Peace/Parlor & Zoom
- 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room

Friday, February 28 Church Office Closed

- 8:15 AM Men's Prayer/Zoom
- 10:00 AM Christ Community Church Korean Choir/Chapel
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program/CE Building

Saturday, March 1

- 10:00 AM DREAAM/Café & Gym
- 6:00 PM French Worship Service/Chapel

Announcements

●**We are glad you're here!** Questions about First Pres, see **either pastor** after the service or contact the church office (info@firstpres.church). We are presently worshipping in Westminster Hall while the elevator to our historic Sanctuary is being replaced.

●Please wear your **nametag** to help our **staff** get acquainted.

●**Jeannie Snoeyink** is our liturgist this morning. If you would like to serve, contact **Carol Miles**.

●We are collecting royalties each time we sing or hear a **Spiritual** in our service. Royalties were never paid for this music. The royalties we collect will go to the DREAAM Choir. The donation box can be found in the Welcome Center.

●Grab a cup of coffee and join us for this morning's **Adult Discussion** in the Parlor immediately following worship. A guest speaker from Salt & Light will join us this morning.

●Join **Paster Beth** for coffee Thursdays from 10-12 at Bakelab at Lodgic (1807 South Neil Street).

●In February, you are invited to **“Lunch and Learn”** on Mondays from 12-1:30 PM in Centennial Hall. Bring a lunch from home and come with a mind to learn! **February 24** – AI. What is it? And how do we live with it now that it is here?

●The **DREAAM middle school youth and staff** will again join us on our campus for fun activities, a Bible study, and to share a meal. We meet Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5 p.m. The next date is February 26, and the remaining dates are March 26, April 16 & 30, and May 14. For more information, contact **Peter Yau** pmyau@illinois.edu (217-621-0448) with questions or to sign up to help in the kitchen. Please contact **Bob Kirby** rwk3213@gmail.com if you can serve as table host for the February 26 date only. For questions or to sign up for the later dates to serve as one of the 4-6 table partners, contact **Holly Ewan Nordheden** hnordheden@gmail.com (217-621-3450). Put the dates on your calendar and sign-up NOW!

●Join the Nurture Committee for the **2nd Annual Chili Cook Off** today at 4 PM in Centennial Hall. Registration required.

●**Ash Wednesday, March 5, marks the beginning of Lent.** Join us at 5 PM for a meaningful and peaceful start to a season of growth and transformation.

●During **inclement weather** the church office follows the closure of Parkland College. If Parkland College cancels classes or closes their offices, the church office will be closed.

●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 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 **sermon** is available on-line anytime or on WDWS 1400AM the next Sunday at 10:30 AM.