

## **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** *Lenten Meditation (#218 Ab, Holy Jesus)*

Larry Fleming

### **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.  
Hear our prayer, O Lord.

### **Commissioning of Delegation to Cuba**

Brandi Lowe, Matt Matthews, Libby Sternhagen, Andrew Schwenk and John Warren

## **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 #803** *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

♦ **Charge and Benediction**

♦ **Congregational Sung Benediction #211** *Hear, O Lord, My Plea for Justice*  
Hear, O Lord, my plea for justice; listen to my heartfelt prayer.  
In your just deliberation may I find redemption there.

♦ **Postlude**

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



# **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN**

March 10, 2024

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent



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.

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## **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** (from *Psalms* 107)

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

**for his steadfast love endures forever.**

Let the redeemed of the LORD say so.

**Alleluia! Amen! Alleluia!**

God has gathered us in from the lands,

**from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.**

God sent out God's word and healed us,

**Let us thank the LORD for this steadfast love,**

Let us worship God.

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

#### **♦Hymn of Praise #610** *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

#### **Call to Confession** (*Psalms* 51:10)

Create in me a clean heart, O God.

**Put a new faithful spirit deep within me.**

As we offer our hearts to God,

**Let us confess our sins . . .**

#### **Prayer of Confession** (adapt from the *Belhar Confession*)

**While You, O God, have entrusted Your church with Your message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ, we confess we sometimes align with systems of sin and death. Forgive us when our words and attitudes espouse hatred, bitterness, and enmity instead of Your life-giving Word and Spirit . . . Help us always to fix our sights on your son, Jesus, who knows the way and, by your Holy Spirit, guides our steps. AMEN.**

#### **Assurance of Pardon** (from *Ephesians* 2:4-9)

God is rich in mercy. Even though our sin makes us dead, God enlivens us with the immeasurable riches of grace and kindness in Christ Jesus. For by grace, we have been healed; this is God's gift, not the result of our efforts.

Believe and trust the Gospel: God loves us no matter what. God forgives us. God calls to and equips us for service. God walks with us.

**Thanks be to God!**

#### **Passing of the Peace**

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

**Offertory** – Sora Shepard

#### **Response of Gratitude #637** *O Sing to the Lord*

**O sing to the Lord; O sing God a new song.**

**O sing to the Lord; O sing God a new song.**

**O sing to the Lord; O sing God a new song.**

**O sing to our God; O sing to our God.**

#### **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 #288** *Spirit of the Living God*

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

#### **Scripture** *Numbers* 21:4-9; *John* 3:14

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** *Wholeness, Healing, Heaven*

Matt Matthews

# This Week

## Sunday, March 10

- 9:00 AM Worship/Westminster Hall
- 10:10 AM Second Sunday Brunch/Centennial Hall
- 10:15 AM Worship/Windsor of Savoy

## Monday, March 11

- 9:00 AM Compassion, Peace, Justice/Zoom
- 1:00 PM Knifty Knitters/Parlor & Zoom
- 1:00 PM Grow/Family Library
- 3:30 PM DREAAM Mentoring/Room 206, 212, Gym
- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall

## Tuesday, March 12 Cuba Trip Departs

- 8:00 AM Men’s Breakfast Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 10:30 AM Church Staff/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:00 PM Classic Book Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:30 PM DREAAM Board Mtg/Chapel & Zoom
- 4:30 PM Mission Team/Parlor & Zoom
- 5:30 PM DREAAM Parent Titans/Cafe
- 5:30 PM DREAAM Tiny Titans/Gym
- 7:00 PM Worship Team/Parlor & Zoom
- 7:30 PM Together on Tuesdays/Zoom

## Wednesday, March 13

## Thursday, March 14

- 9:00 AM Women’s Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:30 PM Bible Study/Windsor of Savoy
- 4:30 PM Finance Team/Parlor & Zoom
- 6:30 PM Nurture/Parlor & Zoom
- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir/Choir Room

## Friday, March 15 Church Office closes at noon

- 8:15 AM Men’s Prayer/Zoom

## Saturday, March 16

- 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 worshiping in Westminster Hall while our elevator is being replaced.
- Please wear your **nametag** to help our **Associate Pastor Joe Lundy** get acquainted.
- Linda Sandquist** is our liturgist this morning. If you would like to serve, contact **Carol Miles**.
- The Rev. Dr. Rachel Matthews** will preach this morning’s service at the Windsor of Savoy. **Judi Geistlinger** is preaching in Hoopeston this morning.
- Second Sunday Brunch this morning!** Come enjoy a free brunch immediately following worship this morning in Centennial Hall. Enjoy a variety of food and fellowship. Donations appreciated.
- Help us celebrate the glory of Easter!** Potted plants will enhance our worship service Easter morning. Plants are \$10 each and can be purchased in honor, memory or celebration of someone. Make your check to the church with "Easter" in the memo along with the name(s) of who they honor.
- 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 **March newsletter** is available in the kiosks or at [firstpres.church/newsletter](https://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](https://firstpres.church/live). The Sunday **sermon** is available on-line anytime or on WDWS 1400AM the next Sunday at 10:30 AM.
- This year’s **Illinois Marathon** on Saturday, April 27, brings back the full marathon since Covid. The Saturday route runs down Church Street in front of the Education Building. Sign-up this morning to volunteer with other church members to cheer the runners on or help man the water/snack station that we will host at the Education Building. Contact **Joe Lundy** for more information and questions.

## Holy Week & Easter Worship

### 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