

forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Song for Centering & Call to Prayer #411 *God Is Here Today*

God is here today; as certain as the air I breath,
As certain as the morning sun that rises,
As certain when I sing you'll hear my song.

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 #187 *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

❖ Charge and Benediction

❖ Congregational Sung Benediction #310 *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord* (vs. 1)

I love thy kingdom, Lord, the house of thine abode,
The church our blest Redeemer saved with his own precious blood.

❖ 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

March 19, 2023 4th 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.

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 pew.

Greeting & Announcements

Cross Testimony *The Cross Convicts Me*

Bruce Rainey

❖Call to Worship (based on *Psalms* 23)

The Lord leads us like a shepherd.

God nourishes our lives and restores our souls.

The Lord is with us, even in the darkest valley.

God's goodness and mercy are always close.

❖Hymn of Praise #826 *Lift High the Cross*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (from *Psalms* 51)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Do not cast us away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from us.

Assurance of Pardon

Relentlessly, God seeks us out.

With abundant grace and boundless mercy, God seeks us out.

This is good news!

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 – Sora Shepard

Response of Gratitude #205 *Live In Charity*

Live in charity and steadfast love.

Live in charity; God will dwell with you. (Repeat)

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

Meditation *He Will Walk* (by *Wild Goose Worship*)

Michael Hogue & Bruce Rainey

Prayer for Illumination #425 *Son of God, Whose Heart Is Peace* (vs. 3)

Warm our hearts to love you, Lord, you who died to save us;

Gather us within your arms, Jesus, on this day.

Scripture *John 9:1-41* (NT 102)

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 *Whose Sin Is It Anyway?*

Judi Geistlinger

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 *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*

American Spiritual

Affirmation of Faith (from *The Brief Statement of Faith*)

We trust in Jesus Christ,

Fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

preaching good news to the poor

and release to the captives,

teaching by word and deed

and blessing the children,

healing the sick

and binding up the brokenhearted,

eating with outcasts,

This Week

Sunday, March 19

9:00	AM	Worship/Sanctuary
10:00	AM	Sunday School/Christian Education Building
10:00	AM	Easy English Fellowship/Room 204
10:15	AM	Lenten Study/Parlor
10:15	AM	Worship/Windsor of Savoy
1:00	PM	APNC/Parlor

Monday, March 20

8:00	AM	DREAAM/Rooms 105,109, 212
1:00	PM	GROW/Family Library
1:30	PM	Bible Study (Rempe)/Westminster Hall
2:00	PM	DREAAM After School Program/CE Building
3:30	PM	Environmental Team/Parlor & Zoom
5:30	PM	DREAAM Cheer/Gym & Cafe
5:30	PM	AA/Centennial Hall

Tuesday, March 21

8:00	AM	Men’s Breakfast Study/Parlor & Zoom
8:00	AM	DREAAM/Rooms 105,109, 212
9:00	AM	PW Coordinating Team/Zoom
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
5:00	PM	Community Mission Deacons/Parlor & Zoom
5:30	PM	DREAAM Dance/Gym & Cafe

Wednesday, March 22

8:00	AM	DREAAM/Rooms 105,109, 212
1:30	PM	Pakistan Study/Parlor & Zoom
2:00	PM	DREAAM After School Program/CE Building
5:30	PM	DREAAM Drumline/Gym & Cafe
6:30	PM	Compassion, Peace & Justice/Parlor & Zoom

Thursday, March 23

8:00	AM	DREAAM/Rooms 105,109, 212
9:00	AM	Women’s Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
10:30	AM	Circle of Joy/Parlor & Zoom
12:30	PM	ELL Volunteer Luncheon/Cafe
1:00	PM	Circle of Faith/Parlor & Zoom
2:00	PM	DREAAM After School Program/CE Building
5:30	PM	DREAAM Basketball/Gym & Cafe
6:30	PM	Bell Rehearsal/Bell Room
7:00	PM	Circle of Peace/Parlor & Zoom
7:30	PM	Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room

Friday, March 24 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, March 25

5:30	PM	DREAAM Basketball/Gym & Cafe
6:00	PM	French Worship Service/Centennial Hall

Announcements

●**We are glad you’re here!** Questions about First Pres, contact **Pastor Matt Matthews** or call the church office.

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

●**Sunday School** for children this morning at 10 AM. Sign in children at the Welcome Center 8:45-9. After worship, they will be escorted to their class. Meet your child or children in the library in the Education Building at 11. Transportation is not being provided at this time.

●**Tired of just making chocolate taboo for Lent? Feel like you are called to do something to be closer to God this sacred season?** Join us this morning in the **Parlor at 10:15 for a video/discussion** series based on Adam Hamilton’s *The Walk, Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life*. Come explore how focusing on faith practices you probably already do can help you walk more closely with God during Lent and every day. This morning’s discussion leader is **Ken Chapman**.

●**Gary Peterson** will preach today’s 10:15 AM service at the Windsor of Savoy.

●Pick up a copy of the **2023 Lenten Daily Devotional** from the Welcome Center or one of the kiosks. Electronic copies are also available. Contact church office for an electronic copy.

●**Spring flowers will decorate the Sanctuary on Easter.** If you would like to give a monetary donation in honor or memory of someone, please note so on your check's memo line. Please include a note who the flowers are in honor or memory of. You may also sign up to give flowers throughout the year on the flower calendar in Westminster Hall.

●**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.

●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 for yourself.

●**The Little Free Pantry** is a small but important way you can help our neighbors without an address (and others on financial hard times). Food bars, snack bars, nut bars, dried goods, canned soups and meats with pull top lids, and other pantry items are great contributions. Donations may be brought to the church office or Westminster Hall.

●The **March newsletter** is available in the kiosks or at firstpres.church/newsletter.

●**Jo Foley** will celebrate her 95th birthday on April 2. The family asks our help in showering her with cards. Cards may be sent to Jo at 32 Willow Court, Champaign, IL 61822.

●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.