

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

Offertory

◆**Response of Gratitude #223** *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* (vs. 4)

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

◆**Prayer of Dedication & Thanksgiving**

Call to Prayer *To the Hills I Lift My Eyes*

Lee

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

Minute for Mission – Strides Low Barrier Shelter

Charlene Murray

◆**Hymn for Commitment #765** *May the God of Hope Go With Us*

◆**Charge and Benediction**

◆**Congregational Sung Benediction #547** *Go, My Children, With My Blessing* (vs. 1)

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

◆**Postlude**

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

Service Material References

Liturgy and Design © 2019 worshipdesignstudio.com

Call to Worship – Mary J Scifres

Confession Prayer - Bruce Prewer

Offering Prayer - Joanna Harader

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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH** OF CHAMPAIGN

March 23, 2025

3rd Sunday in Lent



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church
Bienvenue à La Première Eglise Presbytérienne de Champaign
Bienvenidos a La Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana

삼패인 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

The earth has its kings, but God is ruler of all.

Praise God above all, the giver of life!

The mountains may tremble, the oceans may roar,

but God's presence is more powerful than the earth itself.

Come into God's presence, for God is among us now.

O God, show us your glory; we seek your ways.

Come to the Rock, the God of life, for God is present now.

♦Hymn of Praise #172 *Blest Are They*

Call to Confession (*Congregation may be seated.*)

Prayer of Confession

We come here to encounter the teachings of Jesus. Many wanted to destroy him for these teachings, and sometimes we too find that his words challenge us, calling us to more than we think we can be or do. Forgive us, O God. Let us be shaped into a new people, made in the mold of justice, not the stamp of Caesar's coin. You entered our story through Jesus, now help us to enter fully into the story of your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen. *Silence is kept.*

Kyrie



Assurance of Pardon

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!"

I Love to Tell the Story

I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory

To tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love. (*Repeat*)

Word with Children

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture *Matthew 4:1-11*

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 *The Final Test*

Beth Wagner

♦Hymn for Reflection #708 *We Give Thee But Thine Own*

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 1967*

God's reconciliation in Jesus Christ is the ground of the peace, justice, and freedom among nations which all powers of government are called to serve and defend. The church, in its own life, is called to practice the forgiveness of enemies and to commend to the nations as practical politics the search for cooperation and peace. This search requires that the nations pursue fresh and responsible relations across every line of conflict, even at risk to national security, to reduce areas of strife and to broaden international understanding. Reconciliation among nations becomes peculiarly urgent as countries develop nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, diverting human power and resources from constructive uses and risking the annihilation of humankind. Although nations may serve God's purposes in history, the church which identifies the sovereignty of any one nation or any one way of life with the cause of God denies the Lordship of Christ and betrays its calling.

This Week

Sunday, March 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

Monday, March 24

- 9:15 AM ELL In-Person Classes/CE Building & Café
- 12:00 noon Lunch & Learn/Centennial Hall
- 1:00 PM Knifty Knitters/Parlor & Zoom
- 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, March 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
- 4:30 PM World Mission/Parlor & Zoom
- 5:00 PM DREAAM Mentoring/Café
- 6:00 PM DREAAM Praise Dance/Chapel

Wednesday, March 26

- 9:15 AM ELL In-Person Classes/CE Building & Café
- 10:00 AM Beth's Coffee Hours/Espresso Royale at Village Green in Champaign
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program/CE Building
- 3:30 PM DREAAM Bible Club/Centennial Hall
- 5:00 PM DREAAM Parenting/Centennial Hall & CE Building
- 7:30 PM Wednesdays We Gather/Zoom

Thursday, March 27

- :00 AM Women's Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:30 AM ELL Conversation/Café
- 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, March 28 Church Office Closes at Noon

- 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 29

- 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.

●**Laura Aull Johnston** is our liturgist this morning. If you would like to serve, contact **Carol Miles**.

●**Large print bulletins** are available for use on Sunday mornings. Ask an usher if you cannot find one.

●**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.

●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.

●Join us immediately following worship for **Adult Discussion** in the Parlor. **Charlene Murray** from Strides Low Barrier Shelter will lead our discussion.

●**Lunch and Learn** Mondays at noon in Centennial Hall. Bring a sack lunch and learn this week about music for funerals.

●Join **Paster Beth** for coffee Wednesdays in March from 10-12 at Espresso Royale (2401 Village Green in Champaign).

●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 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 **Holly Ewan Nordheden** hnordheden@gmail.com (217-621-3450). Put the dates on your calendar and sign-up NOW!

●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.

●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.

Maundy Thursday – Centennial Hall – April 17, 5 PM

We will hear the Word proclaimed, share a light supper and fellowship with Communion as Jesus did that Last Supper.

Good Friday – First United Methodist – April 18, 7 PM

Join us for a powerful Good Friday Service featuring Henrich Schutz's *Seven Last Words of Christ* – a 20 minute Baroque masterwork that brings Jesus' final words to life with profound emotion and depth.

Easter – April 20, 9 & 10:30 AM

We celebrate the risen Christ with Communion. At our 9 AM service, special music from our choir will be accompanied by a brass quartet.