

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 #197** *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

◆ **Charge and Benediction**

We are on a pilgrimage to the cross and, ultimately, to an empty, Easter grave. May this Holy Week be a time of listening.

Listen to the donkey clop into Jerusalem with a King on its back.

Listen to the teacher teach and the crowds scratch their heads.

Listen to the disciples argue, jockeying for position.

Listen to the meal being shared in the upper room.

Listen to the disciples snore.

Listen to Jesus pray.

Listen to the followers run away.

Listen to the courtyard fire crackle as Peter rubs his hands over it.

Listen to the rooster crow.

Listen to the mob shout;

Listen to Pilate bargain.

Listen to Pilate's wife plead.

Listen to the whip crack.

Listen to the hammer ring.

Listen to the dice click.

Listen to the dying cry.

Listen to the heart of God almighty break in two.

May this Holy Week be a time of listening.

My God help us to listen. AMEN.

◆ **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**

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



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

March 24, 2024

Palm Sunday



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." 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

(Humble and Riding on a Donkey, Stages on the Way: Worship Resources for Lent, Holy Week, & Easter, Wild Goose Worship Group)

Humble and riding on a donkey,

We greet you.

Acclaimed by crowds and caroled by children.

We cheer you.

Moving from the peace of the countryside to the corridors of power,

We salute you, Christ our Lord.

You are giving the beasts of burden a new dignity; you are giving majesty a new face;
you are giving those who long for redemption a new song to sing.

**With them, with heart and voice,
we shout HOSANNA!**

◆Hymn of Praise #196 *All Glory, Laud and Honor*

Call to Confession

Jesus, redeemer of the world, have mercy upon us.

And, by your grace, grant us peace.

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, many things vie for our attention, affection, and allegiance. If we aren't careful, we end up worshiping these idols instead of You. We follow ideas and ideologies that sometimes contradict your Gospel. Sometimes, we care only for "our own" instead of the whole world. We faithfully walk with you in the parades of life, but we faithlessly run from you during times of testing. Forgive us. Help us 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)*

Friends, believe and trust the Gospel:

By the grace of God, we are God's forgiven people. 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 *Mountain Air*

Steven Tung and Victor Wong

Madison Booth, flute; Sora Shepard, piano

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 *John 12:12-16*

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 *Jesus, Remember Me*

Matt Matthews

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.

Affirmation of Faith *(Philippians 2:5-11)*

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death —
even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Anthem *Ride On, Ride On in Majesty* text: HH. Milman; composer: Graham George; arr.: Robert Benson

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.

This Week

Sunday, March 24

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

Monday, March 25

- 9:00 AM Compassion, Peace, Justice/Zoom
- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building
- 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 26

- 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:00 AM PW Coordinating Team/Parlor & 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 World Mission/Parlor & Zoom
- 7:30 PM Together on Tuesdays/Zoom

Wednesday, March 27

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

Thursday, March 28

- 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
- 5:30 PM Maundy Thursday Service & Soup Supper/Centennial Hall
- 6:00 PM Bell Choir/Bell Room
- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir/Choir Room
- 7:00 PM Circle of Peace/Parlor & Zoom

Friday, March 29 Church Office closes at noon

- 8:15 AM Men's Prayer/Zoom
- 7:00 PM Good Friday Service/1st United Methodist Church

Saturday, March 30

- 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.
- Miriam Chenault** 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 Hoopeton 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 divine poetry. Books are available at a cost of \$10 each. Grab a cup of coffee and join us in the Parlor immediately following worship.
- 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.
- One Great Hour of Sharing** offering will be received on TODAY and Easter. OGHs is the single largest way that Presbyterians join together to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world. Each gift helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations.
- 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 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.
- This year's **Illinois Marathon** on Saturday, April 27, brings back the first 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

Maundy Thursday, March 28

5:30 PM Worship and soup 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