

mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he existed in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human,

he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

Therefore, God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, so that at the name given to 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.

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 #741 *Guide My Feet* (vs. 1,2,3 and 5)

❖ 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.

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

March 26, 2023 5th 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 Defines Me*

Miriam Chenault

❖Call to Worship (based on *Psalms* 130)

Come, all who are weary.

Here, we wait for the Lord.

Come, all who have turned away from God.

Here, we find forgiveness and healing.

Come, all who look for hope.

Here, we embrace God's steadfast love.

Come, and fill your hearts with praise and thanksgiving.

Let us praise God.

❖Hymn of Praise #223 *When I Survey the Wondrous 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

You can put your hope in God, dear friends, for God offers us that love which never fades,
that life which never ends.

We wait for God, and God does not fail us.

God's hope, God's love, and God's grace are forever.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! 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 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

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 *Hebrews* 12:1-2 (NT 226)

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 An Interrupted Reading from *Hebrews* 11:1-12:2 *So Great a Cloud of Witnesses*

Judi Geistlinger, Matt and Rachel 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.*

Anthem *Jesus, Refuge of the Weary*

Affirmation of Faith (from *Philippians* 2)

**If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in
the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same**

This Week

Sunday, March 26

- 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 27

- 8:00 AM DREAAM/Rooms 105,109, 212
- 10:00 AM ELL In-Person/Room 204
- 1:00 PM GROW/Family Library
- 1:00 PM Knifty Knitters/Parlor & Zoom
- 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
- 6:00 PM DREAAM/Chapel

Tuesday, March 28

- 8:00 AM Men’s Breakfast Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 8:00 AM DREAAM/Rooms 105,109, 212
- 9:30 AM ELL In-Person/Rooms 102, 103, 104, 201, 204, 205, 206, 207, Café
- 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
- 4:30 PM World Mission/Parlor & Zoom
- 5:30 PM DREAAM Dance/Gym & Cafe
- 6:00 PM DREAAM/Centennial Hall

Wednesday, March 29

- 8:00 AM DREAAM/Rooms 105,109, 212
- 9:30 AM ELL In-Person/Rooms 102, 103, 104, 201, 204, 205, 206, 207, Café
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program/CE Building
- 5:30 PM DREAAM Drumline/Gym & Cafe
- 6:00 PM DREAAM/Centennial Hall

Thursday, March 30

- 8:00 AM DREAAM/Rooms 105,109, 212
- 9:00 AM Women’s Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:30 PM Bible Study/Windsor of Savoy
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program/CE Building
- 5:30 PM DREAAM Basketball/Gym & Cafe
- 6:30 PM Bell Rehearsal/Bell Room
- 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room

Friday, March 31 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, April 1

- 8:00 AM Adopt-A-Highway/CE Building Entry
- 10:00 AM DREAAM Self Care/Centennial Hall
- 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.

●**Miriam Chenault** 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.

●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*. Discussion leader is **Pat Phillips**.

●**The Rev. Dr. Rachel Matthews** will preach today’s 10:15 AM service at the Windsor of Savoy. **Betty Hollister** is in Paxton this morning as part of our Amateur Preacher’s program.

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

●Our **Adopt-A-Highway** spring clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, April 1. There will be someone at the Welcome Table in Westminster Hall this morning to take sign-ups for volunteers. Just look for the person wearing an orange vest.

●Do you have a **family member graduating this year from high school or college?** They don’t have to be a member of the church or even live in the area. Please send a photo and a message including where they are graduating from and what their future plans might be to **Brandi Lowe** brandiscrapbook@yahoo.com or text 217-369-5844. Please submit no later than May 14.

●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 on 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.

Leading to the joy of Easter! We invite you to journey with us throughout Holy Week.

Palm Sunday, April 2

9 AM Worship

Maundy Thursday, April 6

6 PM Soup Supper/Communion Service

Good Friday, April 7

7 PM Worship with First Methodist Church

Easter Sunday, April 9

9 AM Worship