

Because Jesus identified himself with the needy and exploited, the cause of the world's poor is the cause of his disciples. The church cannot condone poverty, whether it is the product of unjust social structures, exploitation of the defenseless, lack of national resources, absence of technological understanding, or rapid expansion of populations. The church calls all people to use their abilities, their possessions, and the fruits of technology as gifts entrusted to them by God for the maintenance of their families and the advancement of the common welfare. It encourages those forces in human society that raise hopes for better conditions and provide people with opportunity for a decent living. A church that is indifferent to poverty, or evades responsibility in economic affairs, or is open to one social class only, or expects gratitude for its beneficence makes a mockery of reconciliation and offers no acceptable worship to God.

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

Offertory *Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love!*

Powell

◆ **Response of Gratitude #224** *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

◆ **Hymn for Commitment #196** *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

◆ **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.

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

March 9, 2025

Ist 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 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

Pastor: Who comes this way?

I wonder who is he?

Liturgist: They say he is the Christ.

Pastor: That means Messiah,

That means the Anointed One, the Savior, the...

...King

Liturgist: Who comes this way?

Is it really him? I want him to beat the Romans and save us from poverty and hunger.

Pastor: Is he victorious? Is he powerful? Is he scary?

Liturgist: Where is he from? Greece? Rome? Jerusalem? Littleton?

They say he comes from Bethlehem and grew up in Nazareth and Galilee.

Pastor: "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?"

Who comes this way?

Liturgist: Who is he? Why are we cheering him on? Is he good or bad? He must be rich to get such praise.

Pastor: Stop waving that branch in my face! Move away! Let me see around this parade.

Put me on your shoulders. I need a higher glimpse of him. I just want to see his face and then I will know who he is, let me see...

Wait!

Liturgist: Wait!

It is only a man.

Liturgist: And he is just on a donkey, no conquering steed.

Pastor: It is only a man, what is so great about him?

Hosanna! Hosanna in the Highest!

Liturgist: Hosanna means "save us" and "we pray"

Pastor: But who is this man that will save us?

Who comes this way?

♦Hymn of Praise #197 Hosanna Loud Hosanna

Call to Confession (Congregation may be seated.)

Prayer of Confession

We stand at the gate, hesitant and uncertain. Will we join the parade, risking our reputation along with Jesus? Or will we play it safe?

Forgive our fear, our indecision, our apathy. Such moments in life are not easy, O God, yet we know you are with us. You entered our story through Jesus, now help us to enter fully into the story of your kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Silence is kept.

Kyrie Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us.

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 Zechariah 9:9-10

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 *Ready To Risk It All*

Beth Wagner

♦Hymn for Reflection #718 Take Up Your Cross the Savior Said

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 *Confession of 1967*

The reconciliation of humankind through Jesus Christ makes it plain that enslaving poverty in a world of abundance is an intolerable violation of God's good creation.

This Week

Sunday, March 9

- 9:00 AM Worship/Westminster Hall
- 10:10 AM Second Sunday Brunch/Centennial Hall

Monday, March 10

- 9:15 AM ELL In-Person Classes/CE Building & Café
- 12:00 PM Lunch & Learn/Centennial Hall
- 1:00 PM GROW/Family Library
- 1:00 PM Knifty Knitters/Parlor & Zoom
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program/CE Building
- 4:00 PM Transition Team/Library
- 4:00 PM HR Interview/Zoom
- 5:00 PM AA/Centennial Hall

Tuesday, March 11

- 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:15 AM ELL In-Person Classes/CE Building & Café
- 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 Mission Team/Parlor & Zoom
- 5:00 PM DREAAM Mentoring/Café
- 6:00 PM DREAAM Praise Dance/Chapel
- 7:00 PM Worship Team/Parlor & Zoom

Wednesday, March 12

- 9:15 AM ELL In-Person Classes/CE Building & Café
- 9:30 AM Nurture/Parlor & Zoom
- 5:30 PM Outreach/Parlor & Zoom
- 7:30 PM Wednesdays We Gather/Zoom

Thursday, March 13

- 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:30 PM Bible Study/Windsor of Savoy
- 4:30 PM Finance Team/Parlor & Zoom
- 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room

Friday, March 14 Church Office Closes at Noon

- 8:15 AM Men's Prayer/Zoom
- 10:00 AM Christ Community Church Korean Choir/Chapel

Saturday, March 15

- 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.

●**Bob Kirby** 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 **Second Sunday Brunch** in Centennial Hall. Brunch is free as is the fellowship.

●**Lunch and Learn** returns Monday, March 10, at noon in Centennial Hall. Bring a sack lunch and learn about the wonderful world of Google.

●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.