

That we may find joy in the study of Scripture and growth in exposure to new ideas;

O God, be our strength.

That we may be part of neighbor churches as we share in the great mission, which you have set before us, and always seeking the common good;

O God, be our strength.

That we may find in your church a prod to our imaginations, a shock to our laziness, and a source of power to do your will;

O God, be our strength.

O God, who gave us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise; send your Spirit among us; that, confronted by your truth, we may be free to worship you and serve you as you have called us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Anthem *Now the Green Blade Rises* (based on *Noel Nouwenlet*; arr. Carolyn Johnson)
Tracy Parish, trumpet

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.**

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 #239** *Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!*

◆ **Charge and Benediction**

◆ **Congregational Sung Benediction #286** *Breathe On Me, Breath of God*

**Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life anew,
That I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.**

◆ **Postlude**

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

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

April 14, 2024

3rd Sunday of Easter



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." 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** (Rev. Beverly Kelly)

What does this worship need?

Quiet where faith can grow, song that blossoms into hope, scripture that remembers love, honest words to untangle a small length of knotty existence, gifts offering service of the heart.

May the peace of God rest upon our busy lives so that we may be quieted into prayer.

May the love of God flow through our worship words that they may be alive with opportunities for service.

May the grace of God seek out our every need and may the restless gospel set our hearts on fire.

So be it, and so it is.

Let us worship God;

The Lord's name be praised!

♦**Hymn of Praise #234** *Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain*

Call to Confession

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

And, by your grace, grant us peace.

Prayer of Confession (adapt. from the *Belhar Confession*)

While You, O God, have entrusted Your church with Your message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ, we confess we sometimes align with systems of sin and death. Forgive us when our words and attitudes espouse hatred, bitterness, and enmity instead of Your life-giving Word and Spirit. Enable us, Holy God, to live with renewed obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world. Help us always to fix our sights on your son, Jesus, who knows the way and, by your Holy Spirit, guides our steps. AMEN.

Assurance of Pardon

Passing of the Peace

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

Offertory Sora Shepard

Response of Gratitude #716 *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,

Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:

Gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;

Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

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 #629 *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee*

Jesus, the very thought of thee with sweetness fills my breast.

But sweeter far thy face to see, and in thy presence rest.

Scripture 1 *John 3:1-7*

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 *Who Am I?*

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.

A Litany for the Church (adapt. from *The Worshipbook*, 1970)

That we may accept the responsibility of our freedom, the burden of our privilege, and so conduct ourselves as to set an example for those who will follow after;

O God, be our strength.

That we may not be content with a secondhand faith, worshiping words rather than the Word;

O God, be our strength.

Announcements

This Week

Sunday, April 14

- 9:00 AM Worship/Westminster Hall
- 10:15 AM 2nd Sunday Brunch/Centennial Hall
- 10:15 AM Worship/Windsor of Savoy
- 3:00 PM Installation Service & Reception for Joe Lundy/Westminster Hall & Centennial Hall

Monday, April 15

- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building
- 1:00 PM GROW/Family Library
- 1:30 PM Women's Bible Study/Library
- 3:30 PM Environmental Team/Parlor & Zoom
- 3:30 PM DREAAM Mentoring/Room 206, 212, Gym
- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall

Tuesday, April 16

- 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building
- 10:30 AM Church Staff/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:00 PM Classic Book Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 3:30 PM Community Mission Deacons/Parlor & Zoom
- 7:30 PM Together on Tuesdays/Zoom

Wednesday, April 17

- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building
- 3:30 PM DREAAM Youth Bible Club/Centennial Hall
- 5:00 PM DREAAM Effective Black Parenting/Various spaces
- 5:30 PM Dinner for One/Contact Sallie Hutton for location

Thursday, April 18

- 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:30 PM Bible Study/Windsor of Savoy
- 5:30 PM DREAAM Life Coach Supervision/Cafe
- 6:00 PM Bell Choir/Bell Room
- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir/Westminster Hall
- 7:00 PM Session/Parlor & Zoom

Friday, April 19 Church Office closes at noon

- 8:15 AM Men's Prayer/Zoom

Saturday, April 20

- 8:30 AM Adopt a Highway/Entry to CE Building
- 6:00 PM French Worship Service/Chapel

- 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.
- Tom Ulen** is our liturgist this morning. If you would like to serve, contact **Carol Miles**.
- Flowers** this morning are giving in celebration of **Joe Lundy's Installation** by his parents **Nancy and Bo Lundy**.
- Join us this morning immediately following worship for our **2nd Sunday Brunch** in Centennial Hall. Brunch is free as is the fellowship.
- Gale Brandner** will preach this morning's service at the Windsor of Savoy. **Gary Peterson** is preaching in Paxton this morning.
- Congratulations Graduates!** You've worked hard, passed the exams and now it's time to **celebrate your graduation**. Celebrate with your FPC family on Sunday, June 9 during the worship hour and then we will continue the celebration during the brunch to follow the service. Please contact **Pat Tarr** at pat.tarr@icloud.com 217-427-5203 with your information and include your degree and what you have planned for the future. If you have a graduate in your family, whether a church member or not, we would love to recognize them. Please submit their name, relation to you, information on future plans, and a picture.
- Church Office hours have changed.** The church office is now open Monday-Thursday 8:30 AM-2 PM; Fridays 8:30 AM - noon. You can always leave a voicemail after hours or on weekends.
- The **Installation Service for Associate Pastor of Discipleship Joe Lundy** will be held this afternoon, April 14, at 3 PM. A reception will follow in Centennial Hall.
- All women are invited to **"Together In Prayer" breakfast** will be held on Saturday, April 20, at Stone Creek Church, Urbana. It will bring women from churches all over CU for fellowship, worship, and prayer. "Together in Prayer" will support El Roi House. This is a new non-profit for teen moms. A house was donated and new moms who are experiencing homelessness will live there for a year while they get a good start with their babies and get connected to all types of services.
- 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.
- 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 **April 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.