

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 #100 *My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout*

◆ 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.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

April 28, 2024

5th 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 (Natalie Sleeth *God of Great and God of Small*)

God of great and God of small,

God of one and God of all,

God of weak and God of strong,

God to whom all things belong:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise be to your name.

◆Hymn of Praise #19 *God of Great and God of Small*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession See insert

(An Earth Day Lament adapted from a poem by Linda Peterson)

Congregation will join in unison at end of poem:

Hymn for Reflection #713 *Touch the Earth Lightly*

Assurance of Pardon

In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

Alleluia!

Know that you are forgiven, work for justice, and be at peace.

Thanks be to God.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven

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 4:7-9, 11-12*

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 *A Love as Big as a Blue Whale's Heart*

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.

Anthem *Great Day* (traditional Spiritual)

arr. Marvin V. Curtis

This Week

Sunday, April 28

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

Monday, April 29

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

Tuesday, April 30

- 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
- 7:30 PM Together on Tuesdays/Zoom

Wednesday, May 1

- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building
- 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch/Parlor
- 3:30 PM DREAAM Youth Bible Club/Centennial Hall
- 5:00 PM DREAAM Effective Black Parenting/Various spaces
- 5:00 PM DREAAM STEM/Centennial Hall

Thursday, May 2

- 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:30 PM Bible Study/Windsor of Savoy
- 2:30 PM Congregational Care/Parlor & Zoom
- 5:00 PM Spiritual Formation/Zoom
- 6:00 PM Bell Choir/Bell Room
- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir/Westminster Hall

Friday, May 3 Church Office closes at noon

- 8:15 AM Men's Prayer/Zoom
- 9:00 AM PW Sub Committee/Church Library

Saturday, May 4

- 10:00 AM Music Sunday Rehearsal/Westminster Hall
- 1:00 PM Recital Rehearsal/Chapel
- 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.
- **Pat Phillips** is our liturgist this morning. If you would like to serve, contact **Carol Miles**.
- Thank you to **Joanne and Larry Walther** for providing the flowers for our worship this morning.
- Grab a cup of coffee and join us this morning immediately following worship in the Parlor for our **Adult Ed** class. **Rachel Matthews, Sabrina Hwu, Mary Gritten** and **Sallie Hutton** will be giving a presentation on their trips to Pakistan.
- **Matt Matthews** will preach this morning's service at the Windsor of Savoy. **Judi Geistlinger** is preaching in Hoopeston this morning while **Betty Hollister** is at Paxton.
- **Spring Music Sunday May 5, 9 AM.** Our Chancel and Bell Choir will be featuring a combination of familiar and new works including an arrangement of *Shall We Gather at the River* by Aaron Copland and an up-beat arrangement of a Kenyan folk song, *African Psalm*. During worship, we will pray for our sister church in Luyanó, Havana Cuba. Following worship, our Cuba Partners invite you to participate in the conversation on our most recent trip to Cuba during Adult Ed. Hope to see you then!
- **Congratulations Graduates!** It's time to **celebrate your graduation**. Celebrate with your FPC family Sunday, June 9 during worship and 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.
- **First Pres is helping support this year's Habitat Build.** We are feeding lunch to Habitat Build Participants (20 people) on the third Saturdays of May, June and July. Community Mission Deacons have sign up sheets today for you to sign up to provide a main dish (sharing with another person), side or dessert for 20 people on June 15 (May and July dates are filled!) or you can call the church office to let us know what you would like to cook and or donate. **Needed June 15:** Main dish (two people) such as Chicken & Rice casserole and Macaroni & Cheese; side such as fruit salad; dessert such as cupcakes. We will be using paper products so they can be composted. If you can donate these, that would be great too! Drop donations at church Deacon's Kitchen at 10:30 AM on your assigned Saturday. **Jane Alsberg** will be at the North church door closest to parking lot to receive your items.
- **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.
- 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 **May 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.

Prayer of Confession: *An Earth Day Lament*
(adapted from a poem by Linda Peterson)

Reader 1: Our Father, who created the heavens and Earth, saw that it was good, You, Lord trusted your likenesses, to love and care for your creation.

Reader 2: We once cherished the covenant between us, but now we have sinned and broken your sacred trust.

Reader 1: The air is filled with hazy soot, now living in the lungs of your beautiful creatures. The oceans are distressed with currents of dumped garbage.

Reader 2: The sea creatures are caught and strangled from discarded plastics and facial masks; they sing a song of dirge.

Reader 1: The Earth shakes with fear, it cracks, it spits, it sputters and slowly dies. The trees are ravaged by fire and deforestation.

Reader 2: How long, Lord? Forgive us, Lord!

Reader 1: I long to romp in green fields covered with wildflowers.
I long to walk the trails of forest and climb the rocks to see below.

Reader 2: I want to splash in the clear fresh waters at the base of cool falls. I want to breathe nature's fresh aromas and feel a warm breeze. Lord, help me save my world, your world.

Congregation (in unison):

Awesome God, do not turn your face away.
Please grant us the wisdom, the courage and the means to right the wrongs we have forced on nature and taken from our children.
Allow us to save this place for future generations, let us leave it much better than we received it.
God, you are ever present, you are always loving. Thank you for the many blessings you have showered on us and we pray that the flow of blessings, love and encouragement will last forever and ever.
We offer ourselves as your servants and to serve others.
Amen and Amen.

Prayer of Confession: *An Earth Day Lament*
(adapted from a poem by Linda Peterson)

Reader 1: Our Father, who created the heavens and Earth, saw that it was good, You, Lord trusted your likenesses, to love and care for your creation.

Reader 2: We once cherished the covenant between us, but now we have sinned and broken your sacred trust.

Reader 1: The air is filled with hazy soot, now living in the lungs of your beautiful creatures. The oceans are distressed with currents of dumped garbage.

Reader 2: The sea creatures are caught and strangled from discarded plastics and facial masks; they sing a song of dirge.

Reader 1: The Earth shakes with fear, it cracks, it spits, it sputters and slowly dies. The trees are ravaged by fire and deforestation.

Reader 2: How long, Lord? Forgive us, Lord!

Reader 1: I long to romp in green fields covered with wildflowers.
I long to walk the trails of forest and climb the rocks to see below.

Reader 2: I want to splash in the clear fresh waters at the base of cool falls. I want to breathe nature's fresh aromas and feel a warm breeze. Lord, help me save my world, your world.

Congregation (in unison):

Awesome God, do not turn your face away.
Please grant us the wisdom, the courage and the means to right the wrongs we have forced on nature and taken from our children.
Allow us to save this place for future generations, let us leave it much better than we received it.
God, you are ever present, you are always loving. Thank you for the many blessings you have showered on us and we pray that the flow of blessings, love and encouragement will last forever and ever.
We offer ourselves as your servants and to serve others.
Amen and Amen.