

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 *Book of Common Worship*

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen.

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

Offertory

Response of Gratitude #240 *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks (refrain only 2x)*

Prayer of Dedication & Thanksgiving

Communion *(Please see screens for Communion liturgy)*

Invitation

Praise/Sanctus

Remember and Giving Thanks

Prayer to the Holy Spirit/The Lord's Prayer (pg. 35; *in the language or wording most familiar to you.*)

Sharing Bread and Cup *I Know That My Redeemer Liveth; Sarah Navy, soloist*

Post Communion Thanksgiving

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 #250 *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

✦ Charge and Benediction

✦ Congregational Sung Benediction *Hallelujah Chorus*

✦ Postlude *Ihr Christen, singet hocheufreut*

Paul Vidal

✦ Please stand as you are able in body or spirit.

String Quartet – First Violin: Alivia Gaskins; Second Violin: Bethany McClatchey; Viola: Ko Shen; Cello: Oskar Norell

Organ: Yuxi Chen

Office: 302 West Church, Champaign, IL 61820 ♦ 217.356.7238
info@firstpres.church ♦ Rev. Beth Wagner (beth@firstpres.church) ♦ Rev. Joe Lundy (joseph@firstpres.church)
www.firstpres.church ♦ Facebook: fb.com/firstpreschampaign



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

April 5, 2026

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.
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 *Sinfonia*

String Quartet

Chiming of the Hour on Tower Bell

Greetings & Welcome/Act of Friendship & Prayer Concerns

Please pass the Friendship Pad, noting with whom you are sitting, and list prayer concerns on the prayer request cards in the pews.

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

Welcome Video

Threshold Music Excerpts from *Messiah*

Tian Hu, soloist; Chancel Choir

Call to Worship *(based on John 20:1-18)*

Mary Magdalene made her way to the tomb, not expecting to see the stone rolled away from the entrance...

We sometimes simply accept the dead-ends of life, and expect that closed doors are closed forever.

She ran back to get Simon Peter and another disciple, thinking that Jesus' body had been stolen, taken away...

Expecting the worst is often our first thought.

They ran to the tomb and went inside, seeing the linens left behind...

We sometimes see only the evidence that backs up our worst fears, that feeds our imagined terrors.

The two disciples went home but Mary stayed at the tomb, crying...

Trying to escape our pain, we sometimes leave it too soon, not allowing love to show us an upside to the story.

A voice from behind Mary inquired after her weeping but she did not recognize it at first...

When we are discouraged, it is difficult to recognize the Good News: that we are not alone and that we are not at the end of our stories...

She exclaimed, "Teacher!" and after seeing it was indeed her very-alive friend, she ran to tell the disciples "I have seen the Lord!" ...

We open this day to the possibilities still in play, that new beginnings can happen in the midst of what feels like endings, and resurrection from death-dealing forces is possible.

This is a Word of Life for the people who long for it.

Thanks be to the Living Word.

‡**Hymn of Praise #232** *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* (vs. 1,4) (‡Please stand as you are able in body or spirit.)

Call to Confession *(Congregation may be seated.)*

Prayer of Confession

We want to touch the hem of your garment, O God. Forgive us for being afraid to touch those who come to us for hope; we want to love the whole world: forgive us for ignoring our neighbor; we long for peace: forgive us for the pain we inflict on our families and friends; we want to share with those we love and like: forgive us for walking past those who need you most.

Forgive us, Loving God, that we do not excel in everything you call us to do. Give us grace: to touch those who frighten us; to carry the Bread of Life to the hungry; to offer the blessings of the kingdom to everyone we meet, even as you have graced.

Silence is kept.

Confession Response #578 *O Lord, Have Mercy*

Assurance of Pardon

Hope in God, for God's love has no ending; God fills us with grace and hope, this day, and forever.

God hears our voice, and listens to our prayers, redeeming us from all our sins. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

...In the name of Jesus Christ, you can know new life.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you can know new life.

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

#591 *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!* *(refrain only)*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture in French *John 11:1-27*

Ceci est la Parole du Seigneur./**Gloire à Dieu** (pronounced "glow-ah ah dew")

Anthem Excerpts from *Messiah*

Albert Tay, soloist; Chancel Choir

Scripture in English *John 11:28-45*

This is the Word of the Lord./**Thanks be to God.**

Message *The Hope Key*

Rev. Beth Wagner

Hymn for Reflection #238 *Thine Is the Glory* (vs. 1 & 3)

This Week

Sunday, April 5

9:30 AM Worship/Sanctuary

Monday, April 6 Church Office Closed

1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building

4:00 PM HR Meeting/Zoom

5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall

Tuesday, April 7

8:30 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom

9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building & Café

10:30 AM Church Staff/Parlor & Zoom

12:00 PM Classic Book Study/Parlor & Zoom

1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building

5:30 PM DREAAM Family Dinner/Centennial Hall

Wednesday, April 8

9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building & Café

11:00 AM Francophone Ministry/Library

1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building

5:30 PM Outreach/Parlor & Zoom

6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

6:00 PM Worship Team/Library & Zoom

7:30 PM Wednesdays We Gather/Zoom

Thursday, April 9

9:00 AM Women's Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom

9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building & Café

11:00 AM Christ Community Church Korean Choir/Chapel

11:15 AM Easy English Christian Fellowship/Room 204

12:30 PM Windsor of Savoy Bible Study/Windsor of Savoy

1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building

4:30 PM Finance Team/Parlor & Zoom

Friday, April 10 Church Office closes 12 noon

8:15 AM Men's Prayer/Zoom

12:00 PM New Americans/Chapel

1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building

7:00 PM French Prayer/Zoom

Saturday, April 11

9:00 AM DREAAM Saturday Academy/CE Building

9:30 AM DREAAM Illini Mentoring/Centennial Hall

6:00 PM Francophone Bethesda Fellowship/Chapel

Announcements

●Please see this week's insert for those who donated for the beautiful spring flowers in our Sanctuary this Easter morning.

●**Miriam Chenault** is our liturgist this morning. If you would like to serve as liturgist on a Sunday morning, contact **Carol Miles**. Thank you to **Injeu Kwon** for the beautiful Easter welcome video.

●The **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering will be received this morning. When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you are supporting the gifts and talents of people and communities all over the world and offering opportunities for partnership, learning and witness that profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church. Please mark your check or envelope OGHs.

●**Large print bulletins** available for use on Sunday mornings. Ask an usher if you cannot find one.

●We have access to our hearing assistant loop during worship. This technology allows people with hearing aids equipped with **T-Coil technology** to hear the service through their hearing aids. If you know you have T-coil technology, plan to turn on the T-coil via your phone each Sunday morning.

●**We are glad you're here!** Questions about First Pres, see **either pastor** after the service or contact the church office (info@firstpres.church).

●Please wear your **name tag** to help our **staff** get acquainted.

●**Please be reminded our service time changes to 9:30 AM.**

●Join us in worship again next **Sunday, April 12, at we celebrate Music Sunday.** Our choir will combine with the choir of First Presbyterian Church of Urbana accompanied by orchestra to present the *Faure Requiem*.

●Anyone interested in **donating flowers for use on Sunday mornings during worship**, please contact **Nancy Dankle** @217.778-4088 or nkdankle@icloud.com.

●We are collecting royalties each time we hear a **Spiritual** in our service. Royalties were never paid for this music. Money we collect will go to the DREAAM Choir. Donation box is on the Welcome Center.

●Join **Pastor Beth** for **coffee in April beginning April 16 Thursdays from 10-12 noon** at Hopscotch Bakery in Champaign.

●**Jean René Balekita** will present a free concert Thursday, April 9, at 5 PM in the Krannert Center Lobby stage 5.

●Gather at the church at 11:30 AM Friday, April 10, as we go together to catch the bus to and from the free Thai lunch and the **YMCA Friday Forum** and Conversation Cafe. Check the February newsletter for topic and speaker.

●**Copies of the 2025 Annual Report** can be found in the kiosks or on the church website.

●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 the service live each Sunday at firstpres.church/live. The **Sunday service video** is available on-line this week; audio sermon available the following Sunday at 10:30 AM on WDWS 1400AM.

●**Scam/Email Spoof Alert** ... Your pastors will **never** send a text, email or voicemail asking you to purchase gift cards. If in doubt, contact the church office.

*Thank you to all who donated for the beautiful spring flowers
creating a joyful backdrop to our worship this morning.
Please take a plant after this morning's service.*

Leslie Babbs and Lawrence Krantz in loving memory of Walter and Colette Krantz;
Howard, Marian and Gordon Babbs;

Mary Lou and David Bauer in honor of our grandsons: Adam, Henry, Scott and Patrick and
in memory of Shirley Bauer Spach and Miriam Bauer Peirce, sisters of Dave and Mary Lou
Bauer and in memory of Dale and Virginia Tutje;

Elaine Biser in memory of Wanda and Bob Tuchel;

Jean Brunson in memory of Bob Brunson and Connor Brunson Skwarcan;

Anne Craig in memory of my parents, Robert and Ida Bullen;

Michele Crossin and Ned Williams in memory of Norma Tharp;

Laura and Jim Dey;

Kitty and George Grubb in memory of Mary Alice Grubb, Arthur Grubb, Patty Jenkins, Stu
Jenkins, and Adam Jenkins;

Judy and Mark Hendrickson;

Camille and Jack James in memory of Richard and Hiral James;

Marilyn Lamkin in memory of Burrhead and Irene Lamkin and Gene Lamkin;

Nancy Martin in memory Betty and Bob Eisner and in honor of Lisa and Vivian Schroeder;

Linda Miller in memory of F. Gene Miller;

Kathy and Mark Schoeffmann in memory of parents Vi, Larry, Hilde and John;

Annilee Shaul in memory of loved ones;

Judith and Michael Thompson in celebration of their children Hale, Jon (Tina), and Tom
and grandchildren, Sylvie and Wilder, and in loving memory their daughter, Clarrisa Jane, and
their parents, Clarence Thompson and Jane Luyties and Walter and Laurretta Irlle.

*Thank you to all who donated for the beautiful spring flowers
creating a joyful backdrop to our worship this morning.
Please take a plant after this morning's service.*

Leslie Babbs and Lawrence Krantz in loving memory of Walter and Colette Krantz;
Howard, Marian and Gordon Babbs;

Mary Lou and David Bauer in honor of our grandsons: Adam, Henry, Scott and Patrick and
in memory of Shirley Bauer Spach and Miriam Bauer Peirce, sisters of Dave and Mary Lou
Bauer and in memory of Dale and Virginia Tutje;

Elaine Biser in memory of Wanda and Bob Tuchel;

Jean Brunson in memory of Bob Brunson and Connor Brunson Skwarcan;

Anne Craig in memory of my parents, Robert and Ida Bullen;

Michele Crossin and Ned Williams in memory of Norma Tharp;

Laura and Jim Dey;

Kitty and George Grubb in memory of Mary Alice Grubb, Arthur Grubb, Patty Jenkins, Stu
Jenkins, and Adam Jenkins;

Judy and Mark Hendrickson;

Camille and Jack James in memory of Richard and Hiral James;

Marilyn Lamkin in memory of Burrhead and Irene Lamkin and Gene Lamkin;

Nancy Martin in memory Betty and Bob Eisner and in honor of Lisa and Vivian Schroeder;

Linda Miller in memory of F. Gene Miller;

Kathy and Mark Schoeffmann in memory of parents Vi, Larry, Hilde and John;

Annilee Shaul in memory of loved ones;

Judith and Michael Thompson in celebration of their children Hale, Jon (Tina), and Tom
and grandchildren, Sylvie and Wilder, and in loving memory their daughter, Clarrisa Jane, and
their parents, Clarence Thompson and Jane Luyties and Walter and Laurretta Irlle.