

## **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** *A Brief Statement of Faith*

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

**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**

**Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer** (pg. 35; in the language or 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 #765** *May the God of Hope Go with Us* (sung in English and Spanish)

✦ **Charge and Benediction**

✦ **Congregational Sung Benediction** *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord lift His countenance upon you;  
and give you peace, and give you peace, the Lord make His face to shine upon you,  
and be gracious unto you, be gracious, the Lord be gracious, gracious unto you. Amen.

### ✦ **Postlude**

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

**Service Material References** © worshipdesignstudio.com/stories

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## **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN**

May 17, 2026      7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Easter  
**Cuba Sunday**



**Our sister church in Luyanó, Havana Cuba.**

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**

#### **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.

### **Threshold Moment**

#### **Call to Worship** (based on *Matthew 28:16-20*)

Again the disciples gathered in Galilee, this time at the mountain where Jesus had directed them to go.

**Whether at sea level or on the mountaintop, we follow Jesus.**

They saw Jesus and worshiped him, yet they doubted.

**We recall our own experiences of deep devotion and yet we are aware of times of great doubt. Both are essential elements of engaged faith.**

Jesus instructed the disciples to go and make disciples, baptizing in the holy names and teaching as he had taught.

**In spite of our frailty at times, Jesus invites us to be a part of the ministry of serenity, bringing good news to those who suffer.**

Jesus offered reassurance with his parting words: "Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

**When our own lives are in turmoil and when we see those around us struggling, we can offer comfort to others and tender compassion to ourselves— seeking calm in Divine presence.**

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

**Thanks be to the Living Word.**

✠**Hymn of Praise #363** *Rejoice, the Lord Is King!* (✠Please stand as you are able in body or spirit.)

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

### **Prayer of Confession**

God above, so often we feel unstable, and we lack confidence and contentment. This instability leads us to make selfish decisions, looking out for our own wants and desires first, sometimes even in the face of others' needs. Forgive us God.

Remind us that you offer us peace. That in you we have a sure foundation. Help us to use the stability you offer to empower us to do good in your world. Amen. *Silence is kept.*

**Kyrie #578** *O Lord, Have Mercy*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Know that Christ is with us always, to the very end of the age. Because of this, we can be honest about our lives, our struggles, and the things that keep us locked up. This is the key to peace: as soon as truth is spoken and the desire for soothing and serenity is known, Divine Love begins the process of resurrecting your life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you can know calm.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you can know calm.**

### **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!"

**Word with Children #591** *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!* (refrain only)

### **Prayer for Illumination**

#### **Scripture in French** *Romans 15:4-7, 13*

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

#### **Anthem** *Jesus Loves Me*

Trenna Thomas, flute; Yuxi Chen, piano

Marianne Kim

#### **Scripture in English** *Philippians 4:4-9*

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

### **Message**

Rev. Joe Lundy

**Hymn for Reflection #353** *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

# This Week

## Sunday, May 17

- 9:30 AM Worship/Sanctuary
- 10:30 AM Easy English Fellowship/Rms. 204 & 207
- 10:30 AM Youth Sunday School/CE Building
- 10:30 AM Adult Discussion (Cuba Study)/Parlor

## Monday, May 18

- 1:00 PM GROW/Chapel
- 1:30 PM Women's Bible Study/Library
- 3:30 PM PNC/Library
- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall

## Tuesday, May 19

- 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 10:30 AM Church Staff/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:00 PM Classic Book Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 3:30 PM Community Mission Deacons/Parlor & Zoom

## Wednesday, May 20

- 11:00 AM Francophone Ministry/Library
- 1:00 PM Coffee with Beth/Espresso Royale
- 7:30 PM Wednesdays We Gather/Zoom

## Thursday, May 21

- 11:00 AM Christ Community Church Korean Choir/Chapel
- 12:30 PM Windsor of Savoy Bible Study/Windsor of Savoy
- 1:30 PM VBS Planning Team/Parlor & Zoom
- 6:00 PM DREAAM Cheer Practice/Centennial Hall
- 7:00 PM Session/Westminster Hall & Zoom

## Friday, May 22 Church Office closes 12 noon

- 8:15 AM Men's Prayer/Zoom
- 12:00 PM New Americans/Chapel
- 7:00 PM French Prayer/Zoom

## Saturday, May 23

- 6:00 PM Francophone Bethesda Fellowship/Chapel

# Announcements

●**Bob Kirby** is our liturgist this morning. If you would like to serve as liturgist on a Sunday morning, contact **Carol Miles**.

●**The handicap doors and ramps to the church will be closed Monday - Wednesday, May 18, 19, and 20, for resurfacing of the ramps.**

●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](mailto:info@firstpres.church)).

●**We have NEW nametags!** If you cannot find your nametag, please contact the church office. The cost for your first nametag is provided by the church. If you lose your nametag, you will be responsible for the \$10 replacement cost.

●**Please be reminded our service time is now 9:30 AM each Sunday morning.**

●This morning our **Adult Discussion** immediately following worship begins a 6-part series on Cuba and our sister congregation in Havana. **Bob Kirby** will lead the discussion.

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

●Help fill our **Food Pantry**. A food distribution will be held Thursday, June 4, from 12 noon to 1 PM. A list of items needed can be found in Westminster Hall. Monetary donations always welcome!

●Join **Pastor Beth** for **coffee** Wednesday, May 20, from 1-3 PM at Espresso Royale in Champaign.

●**Graduates will be recognized and celebrated Sunday, June 14.** If you have a high school, college, master's graduate, etc., please email name; relationship; where graduating from; degree; and future plans to **Brandi Lowe** at [brandiscrapbook@yahoo.com](mailto:brandiscrapbook@yahoo.com) by June 3.

●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](http://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](http://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.

## Help Us Tell the First Pres Story – One Photo at a Time

### Share Your Candid Photos to Showcase Our Church Family

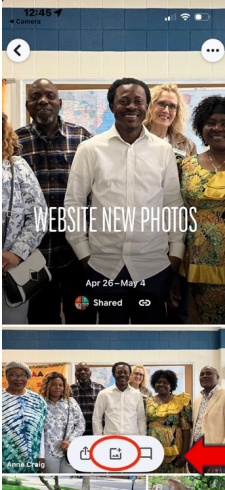
Our website refresh team is committed to creating a warmer and more vibrant representation of our church family. Your candid photos can make a significant impact. Photos are a powerful way to communicate, and your phone's camera is perfect for capturing meaningful moments. Whenever you attend small groups, committee meetings, Bible studies, fellowships, or other church activities, take pictures of genuine, unposed moments—people connecting, serving, learning, laughing, welcoming, praying, and worshipping. The more photos you share, the better we can highlight the life and spirit of our church.

### Two ways to contribute photos

1. With the QR code



Point your camera at the QR code provided. You should receive a prompt to follow a link. Click the link to access the Google album.



Once you are in the Google album, press the icon circled in red.

Follow the prompts to add photos stored on your phone.

2. Go to this link: <https://bit.ly/4eWm5g0>

At the top of the screen, you should see this set of icons; click on the one circled in red:



Follow the prompts to add photos from your computer or phone.

### Photo review and support

We will review the submitted photos and select images that best support the stories and content on our website.

If you need assistance or have any questions, please contact a member of the website refresh team: **Melinda Miller, Camille James, Joe Lundy, or Anne Craig.**