

all that resists the divine will and disrupts God's creation. Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in all people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption. With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.

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

Offertory

✠Response of Gratitude #822 *When We Are Living* (vs. 2)

Through all our living, we our fruits must give. Good works of service are for offering.
When we are giving, or when we are receiving, we belong to God; we belong to God.

✠Prayer of Dedication & Thanksgiving

Call to Prayer #5 *God the Sculptor of the Mountains* (vs. 4)

God the unexpected infant, God the calm, determined youth,
God the table turning prophet, God the resurrected truth:
You are present every moment; we are searching; meet us now.

Prayers of the People

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 #463 *How Firm a Foundation*

✠Charge and Benediction

✠Congregational Sung Benediction #742 *We Will Walk With God*

We will walk with God, my brothers; we will walk with God.

We will walk with God, my sisters; we will walk with God.

We will go rejoicing till the kingdom has come.

We will go rejoicing till the kingdom has come.

✠Postlude

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

Service Material References: worshipdesignstudio.com/emerge; Lectionary Liturgies by Thom Shuman

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

May 25, 2025

6th 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." How wonderful it is to be so loved! Our natural response is worship.

Prelude

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 pads.

✠Call to Worship

When we arrived in this world, we wondered...

...from where will I get my sustenance and care?

When we were children, we wondered...

...who will I become on this adventure called life?

Change can make us feel awkward and fragile, and we wonder...

...how can I move through this change with grace?

When we give ourselves permission to dream big dreams, we wonder...

...how can I realize that vision?

Then the love of the Divine reminds us,

"You too are my child. You can emerge to renewed life. Again and again." Amen.

✠Hymn of Praise #331 *God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand*

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

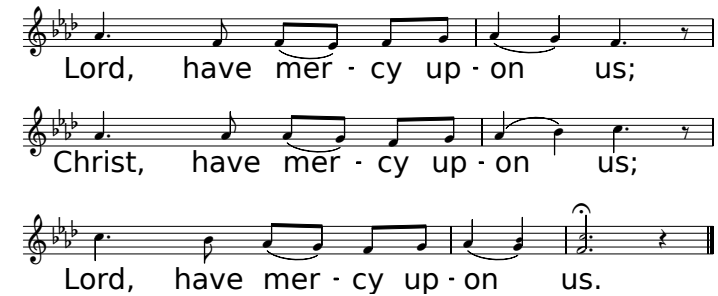
Prayer of Confession

We look for you in all the wrong places, God of the lost, and wonder why we cannot find you. We wander the corridors of power, while you are on the sidewalks, beside the homeless. We sit at the head tables of the world, while you are handing out soup to the hungry at the kitchen's back door. We applaud those who win the race, while you are cheering on those in last place.

In forgiving us, God of new life, you would transform our cold hearts into those melted in service to others. In granting us mercy, you challenge us to think of all those we have ignored.

In gifting us with grace, you enable us to proclaim Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, as the hope, the joy, the peace the world seeks. *Silence is kept.*

Kyrie



Assurance of Pardon

It's not money, but our generosity with it; it is not power, but our willingness to humble ourselves; it is not our efforts, but Christ's gift, which transforms us into God's children.

It is more than just how we think. In mercy and grace, our hearts, our lives, our spirits are transfigured and made new. Thanks be to God. Amen.

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

Prayer for Illumination #695 *Change My Heart, O God* (refrain)

Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God; may I be like you. (Repeat)

Scripture *Matthew 16:13-20*

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 *It's More Than a Name Change*

Beth Wagner

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

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 portion of the PCUSA *Confession of 1967*)

Biblical visions and images of the rule of Christ, such as a heavenly city, the household of God, a new heaven and earth, a marriage feast, and an unending day culminate in the image of the kingdom. The kingdom represents God's triumph over

Announcements

This Week

Sunday, May 25

- 9:00 AM Worship/Westminster Hall
- 10:10 AM Easy English Fellowship/Rooms 204, 206, 207
- 10:10 AM Adult Discussion/Parlor

Monday, May 26 Office Closed in observance of Memorial Day

- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall

Tuesday, May 27

- 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 10:30 AM Staff/Parlor & Zoom
- 4:30 PM World Mission/Parlor & Zoom
- 5:00 PM DREAAM Mentoring/Café

Wednesday, May 28

- 1:00 PM Music Search Team/Library
- 7:30 PM Wednesdays We Gather/Zoom

Thursday, May 29

- 10:00 AM Coffee with Beth/Good Judy's Bagels, Urbana
- 12:30 PM Bible Study/Windsor of Savoy

Friday, May 30 (Church Office Closes at Noon)

- 8:15 AM Men's Prayer/Zoom

Saturday, May 31

- 6:00 PM French Worship Service/Chapel

●**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 was replaced. The Sanctuary has been repainted and is now undergoing a deep cleaning for our return on Sunday, June 8.

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

●**Laura Aull Johnston** 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.

●Join us this morning immediately following worship as our **Adult Discussion** continues with the study of Parables. This morning **Ken Chapman** will lead a discussion of The Yeast.

●**Gary Peterson** is preaching at the Windsor of Savoy this morning.

●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. A donation box is on the Welcome Center.

●The **church office will be closed Monday, May 26**, in observation of the Memorial Day holiday.

●**Lunch and Learn** Mondays at noon in Centennial Hall. Bring a sack lunch and join us. NO meeting this Monday due to the Memorial Day holiday. On Monday, June 2, we will revisit the PCUSA transition process. If you missed the last time Pastor Beth shared the process, join us. Bring your lunch, and come and learn.

●Join **Paster Beth** for coffee Thursdays in May at Good Judy's Bagels in Urbana from 10 to 12 noon.

●Save Sunday, June 8, for a *special* Pentecost celebration. This will be our **first Sunday back** in our historic Sanctuary after a lengthy hiatus due to the replacement of our elevator. It's **Second Sunday Brunch**. We will also say farewell to **Matthew and Sora Shepard**. If you would like to donate to a love gift for the Shepards, please make your check payable to the church and mark it Shepard farewell.

●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 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.