

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** *The Nicene Creed* (see screens or pg. 34 of Hymnal)

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

Communion Hymn #496 *Bread of Heaven, on Thee We Feed*

Invitation

...and invited into God's grace-filled future!

Praise to the Living God!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts in this new day.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...As followers of Christ, we proclaim and live out this holy mystery:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

...all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever!

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

Invitation to the Table

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 #27** *Sacred the Body*

‡**Charge and Benediction**

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

The LORD bless you and keep you;

the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;

the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.

‡**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 3, 2026

5th Sunday after 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

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 John 21:1-8)

The disciples returned to the Sea of Galilee, a place where they had spent much time in ministry with Jesus, when he appeared to them again by the shore.

When we struggle or face an uncertain future, we sometimes seek familiar places, geographies of the heart, places that offer us a sense of being well.

Simon Peter said to the disciples gathered with him: "I'm going fishing." The disciples eagerly joined him in the boat, but they fished all night and caught nothing.

Even when our lives have been altered and our paths have changed, setbacks can tempt us to try to go back to the way things were before.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not recognize him. Jesus said, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" The disciples said, "No."

Regardless of how futile our old ways were, we try them again, finding false comfort in the familiar, yet not truly finding the healing we seek.

Jesus told the disciples to cast their net on the other side of the boat. They followed his direction and caught so many fish they were unable to haul in the net.

We can become so overwhelmed with struggles that we forget to let go of our frustrations in order to seek new ways of being, new paths to peace.

Amid the flopping fish, the disciple whom Jesus loved recognized him, saying, "It is the Lord." Peter put clothes on and jumped into the sea – eager to rush to Jesus.

When we embrace new ways of being in the midst of life-changing circumstances, we often are filled with hope.

The other disciples, seeing that they were not far from land, used the boat to drag the bulging nets ashore.

When faced with permanent obstacles, rather than repeat what once worked, we can shift our perspective to other ways of well-being.

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

Thanks be to the Living Word.

✠Hymn of Praise #235 *O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing* (vs. 1,4,5)

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

Call to Confession (Congregation may be seated.)

Prayer of Confession

All: We seem to have lost the ability to see glory, God; We look at money, or medals, last-person-standing triumphs, and exclusive, only-for-the-privileged-few accolades, and we call these glorious, forgetting how they tarnish after just a few moments.

Men of the Congregation: We have forgotten how to recognize the glory that lives in the sacrifices of a mother for whom feeding a child takes monumental effort each day;

Women of the Congregation: In the compassion of a stranger who gives his time and talent to care for sick and dying souls;

The Choir: In the humility of a well-qualified professional who uses her connections and skill to ensure the success of small projects that bring life to the least;

Liturgist: In the courage of a peace-maker who stands empty-handed against tanks and bombs, or who chooses to serve and love an enemy;

All: **Open our eyes to the glory all around us, the glory of crosses and opened graves in hopeless situations; the glory of your presence and creativity in dark and ugly and fearful places; And teach us to be both heralds and couriers of this glory, so that it may be seen to cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. Amen.** *Silence is kept.*

Kyrie #578 *O Lord, Have Mercy*

Assurance of Pardon

Know that Christ's healing presence is with us today, here to change our perspectives and lead us into abundance. 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 healing is known, Divine Love begins the process of resurrecting your life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you can know healing.

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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 *Mark 5:24-34*

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

Anthem *Behold, O God Our Defender*

Chancel Choir

Herbert Howells

Scripture in English *Genesis 32:24-32*

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

Message *The Healing Touch*

Rev. Beth Wagner

Hymn for Reflection #808 *When Memory Fades*

This Week

Sunday, May 3

- 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/Parlor

Monday, May 4

- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building & Café
- 1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building
- 1:00 PM GROW/Chapel
- 1:30 PM Women's Bible Study/Library
- 4:00 PM HR Team/Zoom
- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall

Tuesday, May 5

- 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, May 6

- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building & Café
- 10:00 AM Coffee with Beth/Espresso Royale
- 11:00 AM Francophone Ministry/Library
- 1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building
- 5:15 PM Children & Youth Ministry Team/Zoom
- 7:30 PM Wednesdays We Gather/Zoom

Thursday, May 7

- 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
- 1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building
- 12:30 PM Windsor of Savoy Bible Study/Windsor of Savoy
- 2:30 PM Care Deacons/Parlor & Zoom
- 3:00 PM VBS Planning/Library
- 4:00 PM Spiritual Formation/Zoom
- 6:00 PM DREAAM Cheer Practice/Centennial Hall

Friday, May 8 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, May 9

- 9:00 AM DREAAM Saturday Academy/CE Building
- 9:30 AM DREAAM Illini Mentoring/Centennial Hall
- 6:00 PM Francophone Bethesda Fellowship/Chapel

Announcements

- Miriam Chenault** is our liturgist this morning. If you would like to serve as liturgist on a Sunday morning, contact **Carol Miles**.
- The **new parlor chairs** are a gift from the proceeds of the Zilly Fund for Parlor Maintenance. A gift from **Louise Zilly** sister of **Agnes Zilly Berger** - wife of Fred, mother of Tom, grandmother of church member **Jim Berger**. Endowments are a blessing from the donors.
- Thank you to **Joanne and Larry Walther** for providing the flowers for our worship this morning.
- 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).
- 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.**
- Join us immediately following worship in the Parlor for our **Adult Discussion**, a continuation of *Protecting God's Earth*, Part 2. **Cindy Shepard** leads a discussion of actions we can take to reduce damage caused by data centers.
- 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.
- Help fill our **Food Pantry**. Food will be distributed to those in our church community in the near future. List of items needed can be found in Westminster Hall. Monetary donations always welcome!
- Help us tell the First Pres story—one photo at a time!** Our website refresh team is working on a warmer, more vibrant picture of our church family, and your candid photos can make a big difference. As you're at small groups, committee meetings, Bible studies, fellowships, and other church activities, snap unposed moments of people connecting, serving, learning, laughing, welcoming, praying, and worshiping. Soon we'll provide access to an upload location so you can send photos easily using a link or QR code—but for now, begin accumulating photos. Need help or have questions? Please reach out to the website refresh team: **Anne Craig, Melinda Miller, Camille James, or Joe Lundy**.
- Join **Pastor Beth** for **coffee in May** Wednesdays from 10-12 noon 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 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.
- 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.