

Praise We Sing to Thee

Praise We Sing to Thee
Joseph Haydn; arr. Morten Luvass

Shall We Gather at the River
Text/Music: Robert Lowry, 1864;
Adapted by Aaron Copland; Choral arr. R. Wilding-White

How Good to Thank Our God
Text: Brian Wren; Music: John Ferguson

O Christ, Surround Me
Text and tune: Richard B. Colligan; arr. David Sims

African Psalm
Text: from Psalms; arr. from Kenyan folksong by Patrick M. Liebergen
Madison Booth, flute; Nick Evanoff, percussion

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.

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 #32** *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

◆ **Charge and Benediction**

◆ **Congregational Sung Benediction #591** *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!*

Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

◆ **Postlude**

◆ Please stand if able. Remain seated if need be.

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

May 5, 2024

6th Sunday of Easter

*Let every instrument be tuned for praise!
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always:
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

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 (adapted from Rev. Dwight Andrews, director, Atlanta Jazz Chorus)

Most merciful and ever-loving God, you have given your people the gift of creative expression to respond to your grace.

We pray that you might teach us to appreciate the diversity of ways to praise your holy name.

You have given us moans and arias, the 'field hollers' and shouts, the hymns, the songs, and the anthems.

You have given us the spirituals and the blues, gospel, and jazz.

You have given us the world of improvisation that we might be able to create in the moment of inspiration and discover our own individual voices.

We thank you for the special voices who heard your call through jazz: Duke and Coltrane, Cannonball and Pharoah Sanders, Mary Lou Williams and Dave Bruebeck.

You spoke through Mahalia and Thomas Dorsey, through Aretha and Sam Cooke, through James Cleveland and James Taylor, John Rutter, Beethoven, Bach, Joe Grant, and countless others.

And you are speaking to us still, sometimes through song, sometimes through melody, sometimes through quiet stillness.

Speak to us this day, Holy God.

And hear our voices united in praise and thanksgiving! Alleluia!

Let us worship God.

The Lord's name be praised.

♦Hymn of Praise #641 *When In Our Music God Is Glorified*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, in every age you have raised up men and women to celebrate the faith.

We confess that we are sometimes indifferent to your will.

You call us to sing your praises, but we are silent.

You call us to proclaim your grace, but we mumble.

You call us to do what is just, but we remain idle.

You call us to live faithfully, but we are afraid.

In your mercy, forgive us.

**Give us courage to follow in your way, that joined with those from ages past,
we may sing your praises and welcome your kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.**

We ask this in Christ's holy name. AMEN

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 *What a Friend we Have In Jesus*

arr. Mitchell Eithun

Upper Room Ringers; Libby Sternhagen, conductor

Response of Gratitude #175 *Seek Ye First*

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,

And all these things shall be added unto you.

Allelu, alleluia!

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 #555 *O Lamb of God*

O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us,

Lamb of God, and grant us your peace.

Scripture *Psalms 98:1, 4-9*

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 *Mira! Mira!*

Matt Matthews

This Week

Sunday, May 5

- 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, May 6

- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building
- 11:30 AM Kitchen Meeting/Centennial Hall
- 1:00 PM GROW/Family Library
- 1:30 PM Women's Bible Study/Library
- 3:30 PM DREAAM Mentoring/Room 206, 212, Gym
- 4:00 PM HR Team/Parlor & Zoom
- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall
- 7:00 PM Amateur Preachers Meeting/Parlor

Tuesday, May 7

- 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:00 AM Small Group Leaders/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building
- 10:30 AM Church Staff/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:00 PM Classic Book Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 6:30 PM DREAAM/Centennial Hall
- 7:30 PM Together on Tuesdays/Zoom

Wednesday, May 8

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

Thursday, May 9

- 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:30 PM Bible Study/Windsor of Savoy
- 3:30 PM DREAAM Cheerleading/Gym
- 4:30 PM Finance Team/Parlor & Zoom
- 6:00 PM Bell Choir/Bell Room
- 6:30 PM Nurture/Parlor & Zoom
- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir/Westminster Hall

Friday, May 10 Church Office closes at noon

- 8:15 AM Men's Prayer/Zoom
- 9:30 AM Committal/Memorial Garden

Saturday, May 11

- 12:00 PM Recital/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 worshipping in Westminster Hall while our elevator is being replaced.

●Please wear your **nametag** to help our **Associate Pastor Joe Lundy** get acquainted.

●**Bruce Rainey** is our liturgist this morning. If you would like to serve, contact **Carol Miles**.

●Grab a cup of coffee and join us this morning immediately following worship in the Parlor for our **Adult Ed** class. Recent participants in the trip to Cuba will be giving a presentation.

●**The Rev. Dr. Rachel Matthews** will preach this morning's service at the Windsor of Savoy. **Gary Peterson** is preaching in Paxton.

●Former choir member **Alejandra Sandoval** will present a voice recital of music in Spanish on Friday, May 24, at 7 PM here at the church in Westminster Hall.

●**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:** Side dish 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.

Spring Music Sunday Participants

Chancel Choir

Soprano

Kate Cole
Terri Dodson
Allison Howe*
Hyungsoo (Soo) Choi
Brandi Lowe
Jaclyn Zamarron*

Alto

Tanya Deckert
Kim File
Ann Finnegan
Mary Nicholas
Maeve O'Hara*
Linda Sims
Jeannie Snoeyink

Tenor

Andrew Schwenk
Dennis Sims

Bass

Jim Berger
Virgil Cole
Allan File
Atabak Ghajaria

Piano/organ: Sora Shepard

Conductor: Joe Grant

Upper Room Ringers

Erica John, Brandi Lowe, Holly Nordheden,
Carol Miles, Vicki Johnson, Matt Matthews, Andrew Schwenk

Conductor: Libby Sternhagen

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Praise We Sing to Thee

Praise we sing to Thee, Thou mighty Ruler King forever,
Praise we sing to Thee, dear Father, we will fail Thee never.
All the joys of nature tell us ever of the Thy wondrous power.
Still Thy tender grace and mercy keep us ev'ry hour,
Praise we sing to Thee most Holy, Praise forever more.

Grateful hymns of thanks we raise for all the gifts Thou dost ordain.
Lord of Hosts who o'er the wondrous realm of heav'n doth reign.
Praise we sing to Thee most Holy, Praise forever more!

Shall We Gather by the River

Shall we gather by the river, where bright angel's feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God.
Yes we'll gather by the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints by the river that flows by the throne of God.

Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease,
Soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.
Yes we'll gather by the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints by the river that flows by the throne of God.

How Good to Thank Our God

How good to thank our God and speak our Savior's name
With flute and trumpet, heart and voice, God's wonders to acclaim:
Sing praises, sing praises, with psalms and hymns and songs!

Yet streams of praise go foul, or run into the sand,
If justice cannot run its course and water all the land:
Do justice with kindness and sing our Savior's song.

Yet Christ has shown the way of love and praise combined,
And treads the path of peace on earth with justice intertwined:
Sing praises, sing praises, with psalms and hymns and songs!

Our praises cannot wait till word and deed are done.
The spirit fills us through with all that God has done!
Sing praises, sing praises with psalms and hymns and songs!

Then let us walk in love; by love our faith is shown.
Unloving, we are far from God. In loving, God is known:
Through justice with kindness we'll sing our Savior's Song!

O Christ, Surround Me

God be the love to search and keep me; God be the prayer to move my voice;
God be the strength to now uphold me. O Christ, surround me, O Christ, surround me.

Bind to myself the name of Holy, great cloud of witnesses enfold;
Prophets, apostles, angels witness. O Christ, surround me, O Christ, surround me.

Brightness of sun and glow of moonlight, flashing of lightning, strength of wind,
Depth of the sea to soil of planet. O Christ, surround me, O Christ, surround me.

Walking behind to hem my journey, going ahead to light my way,
From beneath, above, and all ways, O Christ, surround me, O Christ surround me.

Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears to hear my voice,
Christ in the hearts of all who know me: O Christ, surround me, O Christ, surround me.

African Psalm

Lift your voices to God with singing! Praise the Lord with a joyful Song!
Celebrate! He is Lord forever! Glory be to the mighty King!
Celebrate! He is Lord forever! Everybody rejoice and sing!
Lift your voices to God with singing! Praise the Lord with a joyful Song!

Shout with joy to the Lord who made us; God created the earth and sky!
Shout with joy to the Lord who made us; Raise your hands to the Lord on high!
Lift your voices to God with singing! Praise the Lord with a joyful Song!

Io, o, alleluia! Io, o, sing allelu! Alleluia! Alleluia! Everybody sing, Allelu!
Lift your voices to God in song, forever in joyful song!