

## 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** (adapted from *God's Work of Art* written by the Rev. David Inglis, pastor of Nenrietta (NY) United Church of Christ)

We are God's work of art – each one of us a precious gem, a marvelous melody, a potter's delight.

**We are God's handiwork – woven together in love, shaped with infinite compassion, painted with incredible beauty.**

We are the church of Jesus Christ – diverse in human qualities, but united in our call to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

**We are the Body of Christ – living in his truth, sharing his peace, carrying his hope, embodying his love, throughout the world he loved so much.**

We are here to be reminded once more who we are, whose we are and what our lives are about.

**We are here to be uplifted, renewed and empowered to live out the miracle of who we are, by the power of God working in and among us. We open ourselves to God, who makes all things new.**

## **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 #305** *Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!*

◆ **Charge and Benediction**

◆ **Congregational Sung Benediction #647** *Give Thanks*

**Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;  
Give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.  
And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the poor say,  
"We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us.  
Give thanks. Give thanks.**

◆ **Postlude** *Sholem Aleichem*

Rov Feidman, Bela Kovacs

Gary Winder, clarinet; Sora Shepard, piano

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

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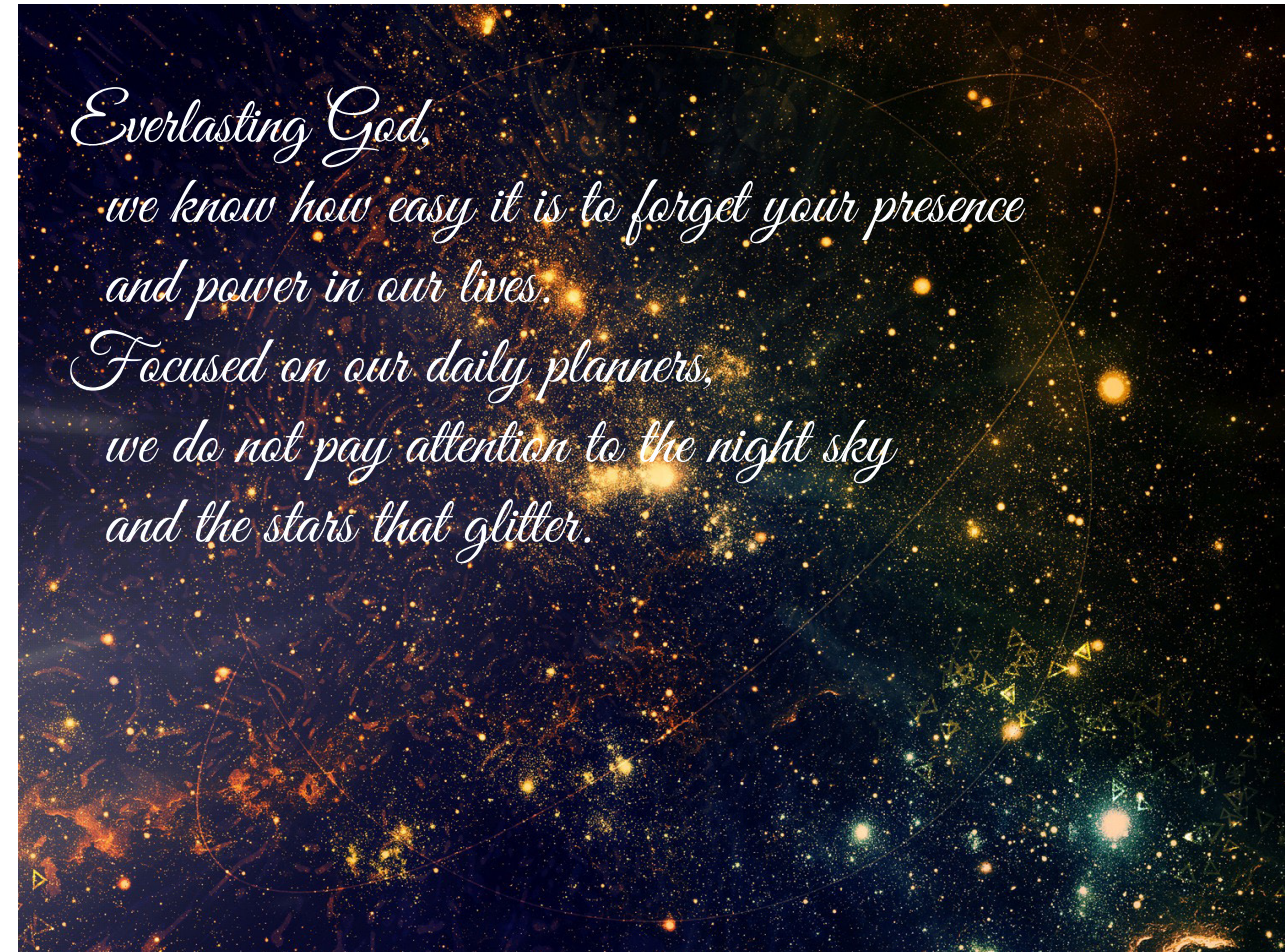
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# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

August 18, 2024

13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost



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/Chiming on the Hour of Tower Bell**

**Act of Friendship/Sharing of 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.*

**Greetings/Welcome/Announcements/Threshold Moment**

**Silent Centering**

*You are invited to a moment of quiet rest, a time of slowing the pace of your body and mind so that the spirit can settle.*

◆**Call to Worship**

Divine Goodness, Holy One, pause us for this moment, bear us up in this time, hold us for eternity.

**We embrace the brokenness of our lives. We believe you are creating new light that will shine through.**

We are open to your possibilities.

◆**Hymn of Praise #365** *God Reigns! Let Earth Rejoice!*

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession**

Everlasting God, we know how easy it is to forget your presence and power in our lives. Focused on our daily planners, we do not pay attention to the night sky and the stars that glitter. Surrounded by the sounds of anger, violence, and hate, we have trouble listening to your whispers of hope and grace. Thinking that Scripture is filled only with stories, we cannot understand your truth which can change lives.

**Forgive us. There is no one who can hold a candle to you when it comes to mercy and hope. Lift us to our feet so we may walk with you; fill us with your strength so we may serve your people; touch us with your healing so we may proclaim to everyone the Good News that has come in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

*(Silent prayers may be offered.)*

**Hymn of Reflection** *Sing Praise to God* (see insert)

tune: *Come Thou, Almighty King*; text: Matt Matthews

**Assurance of Pardon**

Haven't you been listening?

The Good News is this:

God never tires out, God is always with us,

God heals us with mercy, God strengthens us for service.

**The One who numbers the stars knows each of us by name.**

**Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.**

**Passing of the Peace**

The peace of the risen Christ is with you!

**And also with you!**

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

**Offertory** Sora Shepard

**Response of Gratitude #658** *God Is So Good* (sing twice)

**God is so good; God is so good;**

**God is so good; God's so good to me.**

**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 #654** *In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful*

**In the Lord I'll be ever thankful; in the Lord I will rejoice!**

**Look to God; do not be afraid.**

**Lift up your voices; the Lord is near. Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.**

**Scripture** *Psalms 147:1-11*

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")

**Anthem #295** *Go to the World* (see insert)

music: Ralph Vaughan Williams; arr. J. Chepponis; text Sylvia Dunstan

**Message** *Looking for Divine Beauty in Broken Mirrors and Sidewalk Cracks*

Beth Wagner

## This Week

### Sunday, August 18

- 9:00 AM Worship/Westminster Hall
- 10:10 AM Easy English Fellowship/Rooms 104 & 105
- 4:00 PM ALL Church Picnic/Hessel Park Pavilion

### Monday, August 19

- 1:00 PM Knifty Knitters/Parlor & Zoom
- 1:00 PM GROW/Family Library
- 3:30 PM Environmental Team/Parlor & Zoom
- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall

### Tuesday, August 20

- 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 10:30 AM Staff/Parlor & Zoom
- 3:30 PM Community Mission Deacons/Parlor & Zoom
- 7:00 PM Worship Team/Parlor & Zoom
- 7:30 PM Together on Tuesdays/Zoom

### Wednesday, August 21

- 9:00 AM ELL Teacher Training/Cafe
- 9:00 AM Cuba Partners/Zoom

### Thursday, August 22

### Friday, August 23 Church Office closes at noon

- 8:15 AM Men's Prayer/Zoom

### Saturday, August 24

- 6:00 PM French Worship Service/Chapel



**ALL Church Picnic  
TODAY  
4 PM Hessel Park**

## Announcements

- **We are glad you're here!** Questions about First Pres, see **Associate Pastor Joe Lundy** after the service or contact the church office (info@firstpres.church). We are presently worshipping in Westminster Hall while our elevator to our historic Sanctuary is being replaced.
- Please wear your **nametag** to help our **staff** get acquainted.
- **Tanya Deckert** is our liturgist this morning. If you would like to serve, contact **Carol Miles**.
- This morning we honor and recognize **Dr. Joe Grant** for his 28 years of service as our Director of Music. We thank Joe for his dedication and beautiful music presentations these past years. Quickly stepping into his position is **Dr. Matthew Shepard** who happens to be married to our Church Musician **Sora Shepard**. Wish Joe well this morning and welcome Matthew!
- We invite everyone to enjoy the waning days of summer at our **All Church Picnic** on Sunday, TODAY, at 4 PM in Hessel Park. The church will provide sandwiches, beverages and tableware. Bring your favorite picnic food or dessert.
- **Coffeeshop Office Hours for Pastor Beth...** Pastor Beth is headed southwest for coffee on August 21 and 28 from 10-12 noon. The new location is **Espresso Royale** in the Village Green Plaza, 2401 Village Green Place (Windsor and Duncan) across from Walgreens. Plenty of free parking and lovely drinks, snacks and ice cream. Join her!
- **It's Game Time!** Tuesday, September 17, 4:30 PM Game Night in Centennial Hall. Relax – laugh – games for all ages – refreshments – meet new people from all over the world.
- **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 voice mail 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 **August 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 our 9 AM service live each Sunday at [firstpres.church/live](http://firstpres.church/live). The Sunday **sermon** is available on-line anytime or on WDWS 1400AM the next Sunday at 10:30 AM.

## **Hymn of Reflection**

*Sing Praise to God*

Music: Felice Giardini; Text: Matt Matthews/*Psalm 150*

Lift up your voice and sing, bells and all organs ring.

Hold nothing back. Raise all your voices loud.

Launch songs above the clouds. Lift every head that's bowed

Sing praise to God.

Lift up your voice in song. Let the world sing along.

Bring all the choirs, bands, and the symphonies,

Faithful who all believe. Let every thing that breathes:

Sing praise to God.

Clap hands, lift up your voice. God's people all rejoice.

Praise transcends time: Summer, Fall, Winter, Spring,

Hearts pounding, praises bring. Let every living thing:

Sing praise to God.

Holy Creator God, Spirit of Life in all,

Friend Jesus Christ: Your love enlivening,

Redeems all living things, binds us in worshiping.

Sing praise to God.

## **Anthem**

*Go To the World!*

Music: R. V. Williams; arr. James Chepponis; Text Sylvia Dunstan

### **Choir/Congregation**

**Go to the world! Go into all the earth.**

**Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,**

**Baptizing as the sign of our rebirth.**

**Alleluia. Alleluia.**

### **Choir only**

Go to the World! Go into every place.

Go live the Word of God's redeeming grace.

Go seek God's presence in each time and space.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

### **Choir/Congregation**

**Go to the world! Go struggle, bless and pray;**

**The nights of tears give way to joyous day.**

**As servant Church, you follow Christ's own way.**

**Alleluia. Alleluia.**