

Scripture *Psalm 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”)

Message *Exploring the Divine Abyss, Mystery and Wonder*

Beth Wagner

### **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 (*Confession of 1967*)

God has created the world of space and time to be the sphere of his dealings with men. In its beauty and vastness, sublimity and awfulness, order and disorder, the world reflects to the eye of faith the majesty and mystery of its Creator.

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 #439 *My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer* (vs. 1-4)

◆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

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

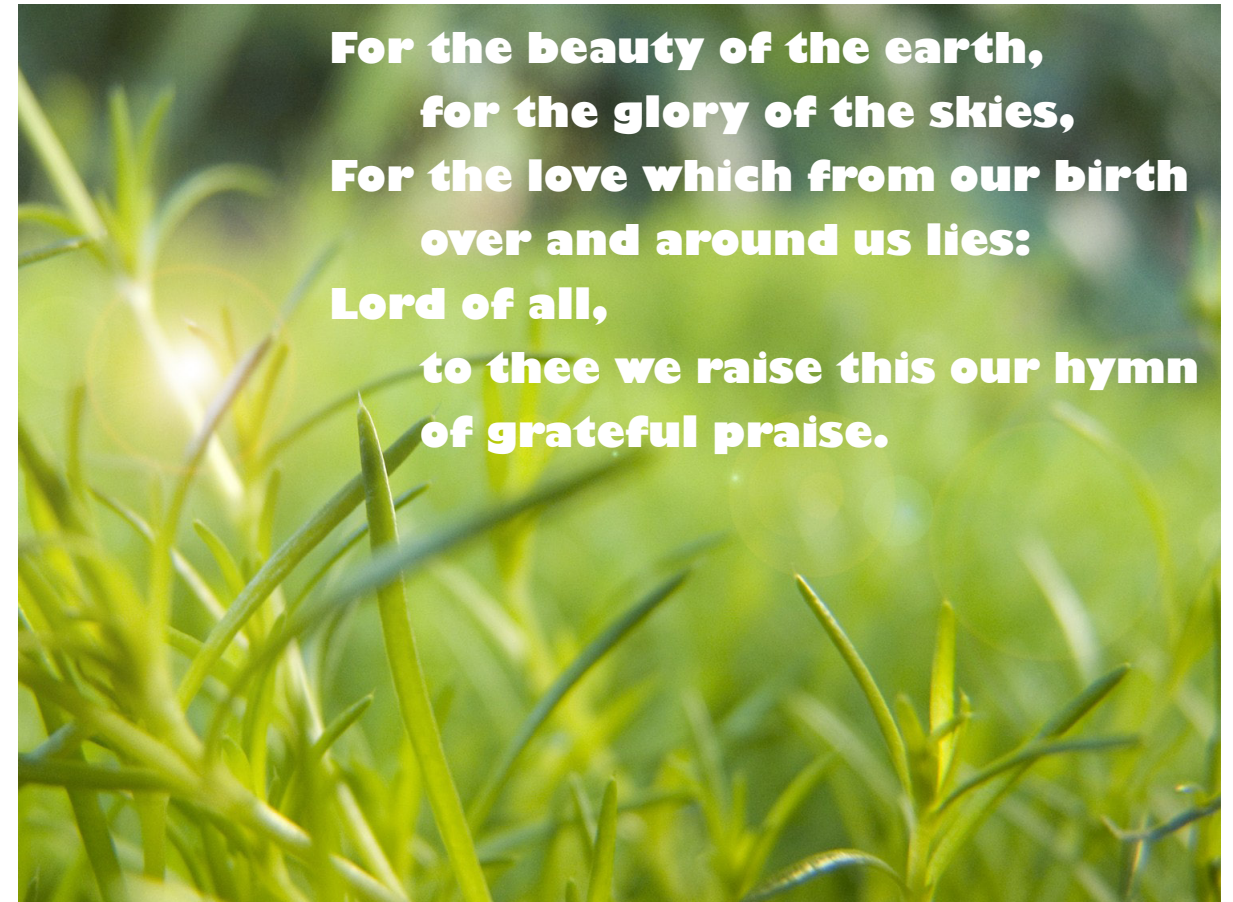
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# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

August 25, 2024

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



**For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies:  
Lord of all,  
to thee we raise this our hymn  
of grateful praise.**

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**

Praise the LORD! Praise the name of the LORD!

**Give praise, O servants of the LORD.**

Who stand in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God!

**Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; sing to his name, for it is pleasant! You  
who fear the LORD, bless the LORD! Praise the LORD!!**

◆**Hymn of Praise #15** *All Creatures of Our God and King*

**Call to Confession**

Great and gracious Lord God arrayed in glory and majesty,  
**we praise you and bless you.**

Creating God, you stretched out the heavens like a tent  
**and set your dwelling place over the water**

You are carried on the clouds, and on the wings of the wind;

**the winds are your messengers, and flaming fire your servants.**

You set the earth on its foundations, never to be moved.

**Prayer of Confession**

The deep waters covered even the mountains,

but at your voice they fled,

coming to rest where you had appointed,

beyond the boundary you set,

never to cover the earth again.

Bless the LORD, O my soul.

O LORD, my God, you are very great.

Your works are many and varied

and in wisdom you have made everything.

Loving God,

in our human condition you know who we are, and what we are;

you know our awkwardness with ourselves, with each other,

and with you.

*(Silent prayers may be offered.)*

**Help our unbelief;**

**give us the boldness, by the presence of your Spirit,**

**to believe in your possibilities for us,**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Hymn of Reflection #402** *How Lovely, Lord*

**Assurance of Pardon**

Do not worry; the Lord is near. God hears our prayers with compassion  
and with abundant, steadfast love.

**Rejoice, for in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

**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 #14** *For the Beauty of the Earth* (vs. 1)

**For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,**

**For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:**

**Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**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.**

# This Week

## Sunday, August 25

- 9:00 AM Worship/Westminster Hall
- 10:10 AM Easy English Fellowship/Rooms 104 & 105

## Monday, August 26

- 9:15 AM ELL Classes In-Person/CE Building & Café
- 1:00 PM GROW/Family Library
- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall

## Tuesday, August 27

- 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:00 AM Presbyterian Women's Board Meeting/Zoom
- 9:15 AM ELL Classes In-Person/CE Building & Café
- 10:30 AM Staff/Parlor & Zoom
- 7:30 PM Together on Tuesdays/Zoom

## Wednesday, August 28

- 9:15 AM ELL Classes In-Person/CE Building & Café
- 10:00 AM Coffee Shop Hours with Pastor Beth/Esspresso Royale

## Thursday, August 29

- 10:00 AM Nominating Committee/Parlor

## Friday, August 30 Church Office closes at noon

- 8:15 AM Men's Prayer/Zoom

## Saturday, August 31

- 6:00 PM French Worship Service/Chapel

# 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](mailto: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.

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

●**Coffeeshop Office Hours for Pastor Beth...**Pastor Beth is headed southwest for coffee on August 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.