

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.
In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

Song for Centering & Call to Prayer #543 *O Christ Surround Me* (vs.1)

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.

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 #761 *Called As Partners in Christ's Service*

◆Charge and Benediction

◆Congregational Sung Benediction #648 *Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise*

Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell everyone what God has done.
Let everyone who seeks the Lord rejoice and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with our promises and lead your people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving.
Alleluia, alleluia.

◆Postlude

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

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

August 27, 2023 13th Sunday after Pentecost



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church
Bienvenue à La Première Eglise Presbytérienne de Champaign
Bienvenidos a La Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana

삼패인 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 sanctuary, please be mindful of the silent prayers of those around you.

We invite you to share your contact info in the Friendship Pad when passed, then to stop by our Welcome Center downstairs in Westminster Hall 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 pen.

Greeting & Announcements

◆Call to Worship

You, who are many, are transformed to become one in Christ.

We, who are many, are called to worship God, the Three in One.

Let us worship God!

◆Hymn of Praise #12 *Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise*

Call to Confession (from *Romans 12*)

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, you are always present and active amid your people. We confess that sometimes we fail to recognize and respond to your saving work in the world. We defer to power and privilege, expect the tried and true, and succumb to doubt and despair when your ways are not clear. Behold, you are doing a new thing; help us to perceive it. Forgive us when we do not respond to your call. Liberate us from our fears and self-imposed limitations. Guide us into the fullness of life and love that you are at work preparing. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, hear the good news: Our God makes a way where there is no way, infusing our world with grace and hope when such goodness feels long gone. We are a people redeemed and restored.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

Passing of the Peace

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

Offertory – *Suite Modale*, Mvt. II

Madison Booth, flute; Sora Shepard, piano

Ernst Bloch

Response of Gratitude #666 *O Splendor of God's Glory* (vs.1)

O Splendor of God's glory bright, from light eternal bringing light;

O Light of Light, light's living spring, true Day, all days illumining.

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 #829 *My Faith Looks Up To Thee* (vs.1)

My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!

Now hear me while I pray; take all my guilt away;

O let me from this day be wholly thine!

Scripture *Romans 12:1-8* (NT, pg. 161)

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 *We Are the Body*

Judi Geistlinger

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.

Anthem *Sonata in E Minor*, Mvt. III

Madison Booth, flute; Sora Shepard, piano

J.S. Bach

An Affirmation of Faith (from *A Brief Statement of Faith*)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,

everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,

sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,

and binds us together with all believers

and the one body of Christ, the Church.

Announcements

●We are glad you're here! Questions about First Pres, contact **Pastor Matt Matthews** or call the church office.

●**Tanya Deckert** is our liturgist this morning. If you would like to serve as liturgist, contact **Carol Miles**.

●Flowers this morning are given by **Mamie and Ritchie Drennen** in honor of SAFEHouse. SAFEHouse is a live-in community for men to help them break free from controlling addictions and troublesome habits. The residents who were a menace to society are now ministering to society. What a testimony! This would have been the weekend for their park fundraiser but that is not happening this year.

●The **Rev. Gale Brandner** will preach today's 10:15 AM service at the Windsor of Savoy. **Gary Peterson** is in Paxton this morning as part of our Amateur Preacher's program.

●Do you enjoy singing and music? Consider joining the **Chancel Choir**. Rehearsals are held each Thursday at 7 PM beginning September 7. Contact **Joe Grant** at joegrant@illinois.edu for more information.

●Set aside Monday, September 11, from 6:30-8 PM for **World-Wide Game Night** in Centennial Hall. Snacks provided.

●How would you like to join a **group from First Pres at a Cubs game**? We plan to attend the 1:20 PM game at Wrigley Field on Saturday, September 23. We will leave the church parking lot between 9-9:30 AM and drive straight to Wrigley. Cost is probably around \$60 each depending on number attending and where the seats are. If taking the church van, we might ask for donations for gas. If interested, contact **Tom Ulen** at thomas.ulen@gmail.com or 217.390.4667.

●We are planning a **Churchwide Picnic** for Sunday, October 1, at 4:30 PM at the Hessel Park pavilion. Watch for details as date gets closer!

●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 for yourself.

●The **August 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 Sunday mornings. The spaces behind the law office belong to Meyer/Capel.

●If **unable to attend church**, catch 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.

●**Sunday School** for children is on summer break. Children are encouraged to attend church with their families. Remote viewing is available in Westminster Hall for families with young children.

This Week

Sunday, August 27

- 9:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Easy English Fellowship/Rooms 104/105
- 10:15 AM Worship/Windsor of Savoy

Monday, August 28

- 8:00 AM DREAAM/Rooms 110, 212
- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Bldg
- 1:00 PM GROW/Family Library
- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall

Tuesday, August 29

- 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast/Parlor & Zoom
- 8:00 AM DREAAM/Rooms 110, 212
- 9:00 AM PW Board Meeting/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Bldg

Wednesday, August 30

- 8:00 AM DREAAM/Rooms 110, 212
- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Bldg

Thursday, August 31

- 8:00 AM DREAAM/Rooms 110, 212

Friday, September 1 Church Office Closes at Noon

- 8:00 AM DREAAM/Rooms 110, 212
- 8:15 AM Men's Prayer/Zoom
- 7:30 PM Friday Night Lights/Zoom

Saturday, August 2

- 6:00 PM French Worship Service/Chapel