

made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (see insert)

### **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 #435 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

◆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.

Office: 302 West Church, Champaign, IL 61820 ♦ 217.356.7238  
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## **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN**

September 1, 2024

15<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**

Here, our Beloved speaks to us; the voice of our Beloved sounds in our hearts:

**calling us to generous acts, to share the gifts we have been given.**

Now, our Beloved speaks to us; the voice of our Beloved sounds in our land:

**calling us to generous acts, to open our hearts to all in need.**

In every place, in every moment, our Beloved speaks to us; the voice of our Beloved sounds  
in all creation:

**calling us to generous acts, to stand with God's people: the least, the lost, the little,  
the last.**

◆**Hymn of Praise #403** *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession**

The words we speak all too often do not show you in our lives, God of our pilgrimage. We spend so much time boasting to others, they imagine we have no need for you. We grumble impatiently when you don't respond immediately to our requests, but are slow to sing your praises. We mutter under our breath about the behavior of those around us, when we could be asking them if there is some way we could serve them.

It is on our journey to the cross and the tomb that you fill us with the riches of your mercy, Steadfast Love! You do so, not because of anything we have done, but because of the compassion which flows from your heart wounded by our failings.

**As we open our lives to receive your forgiveness, may we turn to the Light which brings us life, following Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, every step of the way.**

*Silence is kept.*

**Hymn of Reflection #345** *In an Age of Twisted Values*

**Assurance of Pardon**

How much does God love us? Enough to send the divine heart, hope, and spirit to us,  
not to condemn us, but to save us.

**Not by our speaking or doing, but by God's good and precious grace are we saved.  
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**Passing of the Peace**

**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.**

**Scripture** *Song of Songs 4:1-7* (Inclusive Bible)

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** *Not a Single Flaw*

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** *(The Nicene Creed)*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not**

# This Week

## Sunday, September 1

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

## Monday, September 2 (Church Office closed for Labor Day holiday)

- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall

## Tuesday, September 3

- 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:00 AM Compassion, Peace & Justice/Zoom
- 9:00 AM Small Group Leaders/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:15 AM ELL Classes In-Person/CE Building & Café
- 10:30 AM Staff/Parlor & Zoom

## Wednesday, September 4

- 9:15 AM ELL Classes In-Person/CE Building & Café
- 10:00 AM Coffee Shop Hours with Pastor Beth/Espresso Royale
- 7:30 PM Together on Tuesdays/Zoom

## Thursday, September 5

- 2:30 PM Congregational Care Deacons/Parlor & Zoom
- 4:00 PM Spiritual Formation/Zoom
- 7:00 PM Called Session Meeting/Zoom
- 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room

## Friday, September 6 Church Office closes at noon

- 8:15 AM Men's Prayer/Zoom

## Saturday, September 7

- 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.
- Tanya Deckert** is our liturgist this morning. If you would like to serve, contact **Carol Miles**.
- Make a joyful noise!** I want to extend a warm welcome to all interested singers to come experience singing in the Chancel Choir. We will be rehearsing on Thursday evenings at 7:15 PM beginning September 5. If you have questions, please email me at [matthew@firstpres.church](mailto:matthew@firstpres.church)
- Together on Tuesdays Zoom Study is moving to Wednesday** for the next several weeks. Although still called Together on Tuesdays it will be on Wednesdays for a few weeks.
- Coffeshop Office Hours for Pastor Beth...**Pastor Beth is at **Espresso Royale** in the Village Green Plaza, 2401 Village Green Place (Windsor and Duncan) across from Walgreens on Wednesdays in September from 10 AM to 12 noon. Plenty of free parking and lovely drinks, snacks and ice cream. Join her!
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Brunch next Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> ...** Come, enjoy brunch immediately following worship in Centennial Hall.
- Adult Discussions** after worship will begin September 15 in Mae Chapin Parlor Sundays from 10:15 - 11 AM. September 15—Rev. **Beth Wagner**; September 22—**Jim Berger**; September 29—TBA; October 6—**Vilmarie Cintrón Olivieri**; October 20—We start a series of discussions about the Minor Prophets, led by **Rev. Joseph Lundy** and the Adult Spiritual Formation Committee.
- The **Children's Ministry Team** is compiling a list of people who might be able to volunteer for a Sunday, 8:45 to 11 AM, in the church nursery, in case one of the paid providers has an emergency. If you are willing to have your name on the list please contact the church office (217-356-7238), **Pastor Joe** ([joseph@firstpres.church](mailto:joseph@firstpres.church)), or **Mary Gritten** (217-369-7016 or [maryhg3@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maryhg3@sbcglobal.net)). Thank you!
- Presbyterian Women Bible Study books** are available at the Welcome Center, Westminster Hall on Sunday, September 15 and 22. Cost is 10.00 and yearbooks (free) will also be available. The first circle meetings will be Thursday, September 19.
- 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 **September 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.

## Celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Call to Communion Hymn # 516 *For the Bread Which You Have Broken* (vs. 1)

For the bread which you have broken, for the wine which you have poured,  
For the words which you have spoken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.

We are Invited

We Give Thanks

Divine goodness and love is with you!

**And also with you!**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to our God.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, ...

... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, ...

... as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

The Meal is Set

*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.**

The Meal is Shared (*Elements are held and we partake together.*)

We Close in Prayer

Divine goodness and love, in celebrating this Sacrament together, ...

... and sought pardon at the fountain of forgiveness.

**Sustain us, Lord, with the food of life as we go upon our way.**

**May the Bread of Heaven be our strength;**

**may the broken Body of Christ bring us healing;**

**may the spirit of the Risen Christ renew our youthful generosity;**

**may the Sacred Heart of Jesus give us compassion;**

**may the crucified Christ help us bear our daily burden. AMEN**

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