

### Call to Prayer

Give ear unto our prayer, O God.  
Hide not Thy face. Amen

### Pastoral Prayer

*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.

Musical Prayer for Unity Gabriel Mboyo

### 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 #694 *Great God of Every Blessing*

◆ 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.



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

September 15, 2024

17<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.

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## **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.*

♦**Opening Sentences**

I love the Lord because he has heard my voice and my supplications

**Because God has inclined God's ear to me, I will call on God as long as I live.**

Gracious is the Lord and righteous; our God is merciful.

**The Lord protects the simple; when I was brought low God saved me.**

God has delivered our souls from death, our eyes from tears, our feet from stumbling.

**We walk before the Lord in the land of the living.**

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

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession** (from *When We Gather* by James G. Kirk)

God of justice and righteousness, have mercy upon us as we confess our sin. We say we love our neighbors, but we still make distinctions. We favor the rich and discount the poor. We say we have faith, but our works do not show it; we preach Jesus Christ while we send the hungry away. While our lips praise you, our hands cast off strangers. We are not worthy to ask your forgiveness except for the name of Christ, who pardoned the thief on the cross and forgave those who put him to death. *Silence is kept.*

**Assurance of Pardon**

**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 #607** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;**

**Praise Holy Spirit ever more; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

♦**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 Will 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** *James 3:1-12*

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** *Blessings and Curses*

Joe Lundy

♦**Hymn of Reflection #737** *Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song*

## **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 Apostle's Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

# This Week

## Sunday, September 15

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

## Monday, September 16

- 9:15 AM ELL Classes In-Person/CE Building & Café
- 10:00 AM PW Budget Meeting/Library
- 1:00 PM Knifty Knitters/Parlor & Zoom
- 1:00 PM Grow/Family Library
- 1:30 PM Women's Bible Study/Church Library
- 3:30 PM Environmental Team/Parlor & Zoom
- 5:00 PM DREAAM/Café
- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall
- 6:00 PM DREAAM Cheer/Gym

## Tuesday, September 17

- 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:15 AM ELL Classes In-Person/CE Building & Café
- 10:30 AM Staff/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:00 PM Classic Book Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 3:30 PM Community Mission Deacons/Parlor & Zoom
- 4:30 PM Game Night/Centennial Hall
- 6:00 PM DREAAM Dance/Gym

## Wednesday, September 18

- 9:00 AM Cuba Partners/Zoom
- 9:15 AM ELL Classes In-Person/CE Building & Café
- 10:00 AM Coffee Shop Hours with Pastor Beth/Espresso Royale
- 5:30 PM DREAAM Family Night/Centennial Hall & Kitchen
- 7:30 PM Together on Tuesdays/Zoom

## Thursday, September 19

- 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 10:00 AM Christ Community Church Choir Rehearsal/Chapel
- 12:30 PM Windsor of Savoy Bible Study/Windsor of Savoy
- 5:00 PM DREAAM Elite Study Hall & Dinner/Centennial Hall & Kitchen
- 6:00 PM DREAAM Cheer/Gym
- 7:00 PM Session/Parlor & Zoom
- 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room

## Friday, September 20 Church Office closes at noon

- 8:15 AM Men's Prayer/Zoom

## Saturday, September 21

- 8:30 AM Adopt-a-Highway/Entry to CE Building
- 6:00 PM French Worship Service/Chapel

# Announcements

●**We are glad you're here!** Questions about First Pres, see **either pastor** 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 Peterson** is our liturgist this morning. If you would like to serve, contact **Carol Miles**.

●**Adult Discussions** begin this morning in Mae Chapin Parlor Sundays from 10:15 - 11 AM. Today we hear from **Pastor Beth Wagner**. September 22–**Jim Berger**; September 29–Earth Sunday; 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.

●**Replacement of the church roof** continues for another 1 1/2 weeks weather permitting. Some of the parking lot will be blocked off during the work. We apologize for any disruption and noise.

●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.

●**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.

●**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.

●**Adopt-a-Highway Saturday**, September 21. Gather at 8:30 AM at the entry way of the CE Building. Permission waivers required. Sign one TODAY.

●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 today and September 22. Cost is \$10.00 and yearbooks (free) will also be available. The first circle meetings will be Thursday, September 19.

●**Presbyterian Women's Fall Gathering** Thursday, October 3, 11:30 AM in Westminster Hall with lunch following. The **Rev. Cindy Shepherd**, Green Team Director for Faith in Place, will speak on *Doing Justice With Love*. All are invited!

●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.