

not as a scorned foreigner but to offer us citizenship in God's kingdom.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the eternal immigrant from God's kingdom among us,
who speaks all languages, lives in all countries,
and reunites all races.

I believe that the Church is the secure home
for foreigners and for all believers.

I believe that the communion of saints begins
when we embrace all God's people in all their diversity.

I believe in forgiveness, which makes us all equal before God,
and in reconciliation, which heals our brokenness.

I believe that in the Resurrection

God will unite us as one people

in which all are distinct and all are alike at the same time.

I believe in life eternal, in which no one will be foreigner

but all will be citizens of the kingdom

where God reigns forever and ever. Amen.

Song for Centering & Call to Prayer #595 *Holy, Holy, Holy (Santo, Santo, Santo)*

Santo, santo, santo. Mi corazón te adora!

Mi corazón te sabe decir; Santo eres, Señor!

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 #591** *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!*

◆ **Charge and Benediction**

◆ **Congregational Sung Benediction #804** *Rejoice, Ye Pure In Heart!*

Rejoice, ye pure in heart! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

Your festal banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

◆ **Postlude**

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

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

September 17, 2023

Cuba Sunday



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 invite you to share your contact info in the Friendship Pad when passed, then to stop by our Welcome Center 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 pew.

Greeting & Announcements

◆Call to Worship

Sing to God, for God has triumphed gloriously!

God is our strength and our might!

Long ago God freed the slaves from Egypt, opening passage through the Red Sea waters.

Here and now, God is our salvation, leading us through dangerous waters.

Who is like our God, majestic in holiness and awesome in splendor?

Every knee shall bow, every voice shall praise the God of wonder.

◆Hymn of Praise #630 *Fairest Lord Jesus*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Nurturing God, like a hen gathers her brood under her wings, you desire to gather your children. But division and disagreement plague us. We cling to rigid certainties, approach each other in arrogance, and fail to listen. We walk away from conflict, rather than working through it. Forgive us, Holy God. Help us grow in faith, mature in relationship, and be transformed through your steadfast love. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, redeemed, and restored to God's path of righteousness.

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 Sora Shepard

Response of Gratitude #589 *Alleluia*

Aleluya, aleluya. Aleluya, aleluya.

Aleluya, aleluya. El Señor resucitó.

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 #471 *O Lord, Hear My Prayer* (vs. 2)

The Lord is my song; the Lord is my praise: All my hope comes from God.

The Lord is my song; the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

Scripture *Romans 14:1-3, 7-13* (NT, pg. 163)

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 *Judge Not*

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 *Now Let Us All Praise God*

Gordon Young

An Affirmation of Faith *The Immigrant Apostles' Creed* (Written by Rev. Jose Luis Casal, the director of Presbyterian World Mission. He is an immigrant to the USA from Cuba.)

I believe in Almighty God,

who guided the people in exile and in exodus,

the God of Joseph in Egypt and Daniel in Babylon,

the God of foreigners and immigrants.

I believe in Jesus Christ, a displaced Galilean,

who was born away from his people and his home, who fled

his country with his parents when his life was in danger.

When he returned to his own country

he suffered under the oppression of Pontius Pilate,

the servant of a foreign power.

Jesus was persecuted, beaten, tortured, and unjustly condemned to death.

But on the third day Jesus rose from the dead,

This Week

Sunday, September 17

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

Monday, September 18

- 8:00 AM DREAAM/Rooms 110, 212
- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Bldg
- 1:00 PM Grow/Family Library
- 1:30 PM Women's Bible Study/Parlor
- 3:30 PM Environmental Team/Parlor & Zoom
- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall

Tuesday, September 19

- 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast/Parlor & Zoom
- 8:00 AM DREAAM/Rooms 110, 212
- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Bldg
- 10:30 AM Church Staff/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:00 PM Classic Book Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 3:00 PM DREAAM/Cafe & Room 212
- 4:30 PM Community Mission Deacons/Parlor & Zoom

Wednesday, September 20

- 8:00 AM DREAAM/Rooms 110, 212
- 9:00 AM Cuba Partners/Zoom
- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Bldg
- 9:30 AM Presbyterian Pastors/Westminster Hall
- 3:00 PM DREAAM/Cafe & Room 212
- 5:30 PM Dinners for One/Location TBD
- 5:30 PM Covenant Bible Study/Centennial Hall

Thursday, September 21

- 8:00 AM DREAAM/Rooms 110, 212
- 11:00 AM Bill Mitchell Memorial Service/Sanctuary
- 12:30 PM Bible Study/Windsor of Savoy
- 3:00 PM DREAAM/Cafe & Room 212
- 7:00 PM Session/Parlor & Zoom
- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room

Friday, September 22 Church Office Closes at Noon

- 8:00 AM DREAAM/Rooms 110, 212
- 8:15 AM Men's Prayer/Zoom
- 1:00 PM Private Committal Service for Esther Fay/Memorial Garden
- 7:30 PM Friday Night Lights/Zoom

Saturday, September 23

- 9:00 AM Depart for Wrigley Field
- 6:00 PM French Worship Service/Chapel

There will be a **Congregational Meeting** on Sunday, September 24, immediately following worship for the purpose of dissolving the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee.

Announcements

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

●Please wear your **nametag** to help new **Associate Pastor Joe Lundy** get acquainted.

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

●**Gary Peterson** is in Hoopeston this morning as part of our Amateur Preacher's Program.

●Please enjoy meeting **Joe Lundy** at the home of one of the **Cottage Gathering** hosts below.

Space is limited so let us know your preference by contacting the church office.

Tuesday, September 26 @ 4:30 **Bruce Rainey & Michael Hogue**

Wednesday, September 27 @ 7 **Mary Jane Kelley**

Thursday, September 28 @ 10 **Diane Mortensen**

Wednesday, October 4 @ 4:30 **Nancy & Dave Whitford**

Other hosts with dates and times to be determined will be available as well. If you would like to host a gathering in your home, at church, or your favorite coffee shop, please indicate your interest on the Friendship Pad. **Nancy Martin** or **Betty Hollister** will be in touch.

●The **Fall/Winter Small Group brochure** is now available in kiosks throughout the church.

●This morning pick up the Presbyterian Women's Directory or 2023-24 Study Guide (\$10).

●**Books from the collection** of **Leland Andrews** have been donated for the congregation to take home and cherish. They are displayed on the table in the church library.

●How would you like to join a **group from First Pres at a Cubs game** on Saturday, September 23, at 1:20 PM at Wrigley Field. We will leave the church parking lot between 9-9:30 AM. Cost is probably around \$60 each. If interested, contact **Tom Ulen** (thomas.ulen@gmail.com or 217.390.4667.)

●Next **Adopt-a-Highway** Wednesday, September 27, at 10 AM followed by brunch. Contact **Clemmie Ackermann** (coletta.ackermann@gmail.com) to sign up.

●**Last collection of styrofoam at DART is September 29.** Bring your styrofoam to the church by Sunday, September 24.

●**Churchwide Picnic** Sunday, October 1, at 4 PM at the Hessel Park pavilion. Bring a dish to share; fried chicken and hotdogs will be provided.

●**Western Illinois University's** top choir will present a concert on Monday, November 6, at 7 PM in the Sanctuary. They will be joined by the University High School's choir directed by **Richard Murphy**. More info to follow!

●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 **September 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 Sundays.

●**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.