

Offertory *Romance*
Gary Winder, clarinet; Yuxi Chen, piano

Gerald Finzi

Response of **Gratitude #606** *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

✚Prayer of Dedication & Thanksgiving

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer (pg. 35; *in the language and wording most familiar to you.*)

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.*

Connecting with our Community

✚Hymn for Commitment **#326** *For all the Saints*

✚Charge and Benediction

✚Congregational Sung Benediction **#542** *God Be With You Till We Meet Again*
(vs. 1 & refrain, see screens)

✚Postlude *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

✚Please stand as you are able in body or spirit.

Service Materials: from Wild Goose Worship Group

- We are glad you’re here! Questions about First Pres, see **either pastor** after the service or contact the church office (info@firstpres.church).
- Please wear your **nametag** to help our **staff** get acquainted.
- Large print bulletins are available for use on Sunday mornings. Ask an usher if you cannot find one.
- With our return to the sanctuary, we have access to our hearing assistant loop. This technology allows people with hearing aids equipped with **T-Coil technology** to hear the service through their hearing aids. If you know you have T-coil technology, plan to turn on the T-coil via your phone each Sunday morning.
- Betty Hollister is our liturgist this morning. If you would like to serve as liturgist, contact **Carol Miles**.

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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH** OF CHAMPAIGN

September 21, 2025 15th Sunday after Pentecost



Celebrate 175 Years of Worship and Service

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 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 *Carol*

Gerald Finzi

Gary Winder, clarinet; Yuxi Chen, piano

Chiming of the Hour on Tower Bell

Greetings & Welcome/Act of Friendship & 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.

✠**Call to Worship** (✠Please stand as you are able in body or spirit.)

O God, you summon the day to dawn; you teach the morning to waken the earth.

Great is your name. Great is your love.

For you the valleys shall sing for joy, the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Great is your name. Great is your love.

For you the monarchs of the earth shall bow, the poor and persecuted shall shout for joy.

Great is your name. Great is your love.

Your love and mercy shall last forever, fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise.

Great is your name. Great is your love.

✠**Opening Prayer**

✠**Hymn of Praise** *A Woman and a Coin* (see back of inside of hymnal)

Call to Confession *(Congregation may be seated.)*

If we say we are completely put together, the truth is not in us.

But if we confess our distractions, our errors, and our anxieties, God will meet us and renew us.

Prayer of Confession

God, we humbly come before you, realizing that you have given us your word. That in this word you have taught us how to live, and how to care for one another. In this word you reveal your intentions for us. That we love you, and love one another. Yet so often we forget those words as soon as your word isn't in front of us. As soon as we return to the world, we allow ourselves to behave in the way that the world expects. Forgive us God. Help us to keep your word in our hearts and minds. Help us to follow you in all we do, both in our holy spaces, and out in the greater community. Amen. *Silence is kept.*

Kyrie

Assurance of Pardon

Passing of the Peace

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 #701 *Lord, Prepare Me*

Scripture *James 1:19-27*

Ceci est la Parole du Seigneur./**Gloire à Dieu** (pronounced "glow-ah ah dew")

This is the Word of the Lord./**Thanks be to God!**

Anthem *Cantique de Jean Racine*

Gabriel Fauré

Message *Reflections and Memories*

Joe Lundy

✠**Hymn for Reflection #301** *Let Us Build a House* (vs. 1-4)

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.

✠ **An 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 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.

Guest Speaker Mindy Nygren Pierce

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

This Week

Sunday, September 21

- 9:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary
- 10:10 AM Sunday School/CE Building Classrooms
- 10:10 AM Adult Discussion/Parlor
- 10:10 AM Easy English Fellowship/Rooms 204 & 207
- 5:00 PM Confirmation Class/Café

Monday, September 22

- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building & Café
- 1:00 PM Knifty Knitters/Parlor & Zoom
- 1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building
- 1:00 PM GROW/Family Library
- 1:30 PM Bible Study/Library
- 3:30 PM Environmental Team/Parlor & Zoom
- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall

Tuesday, September 23

- 8:00 AM Men’s Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building & Café
- 9:30 AM PW Coordinating Team/Zoom
- 10:30 AM Church Staff/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:00 PM Classic Book Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building
- 4:30 PM World Mission/Parlor & Zoom

Wednesday, September 24

- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building & Café
- 10:00 AM Coffee with Beth/Espresso Royale
- 12:00 PM DREAAM IYIP Life Skills/Room 201
- 1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building
- 4:30 PM DREAAM Parent School/Centennial Hall
- 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room
- 7:30 PM Wednesdays We Gather/Zoom

Thursday, September 25

- 9:00 AM Women’s Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building & Café
- 10:30 AM Circle of Joy/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:30 PM Windsor of Savoy Bible Study/Windsor of Savoy
- 1:00 PM Circle of Faith/Parlor & Zoom
- 1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building
- 7:00 PM Circle of Peace/Parlor & Zoom

Friday, September 26

- Church Office closes at 12 noon
- 8:15 AM Men’s Prayer/Zoom
- 10:00 AM Korean Choir Rehearsal/Chapel
- 12:00 PM New American’s Ministry/Chapel
- 1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building
- 3:00 PM Judy Gamble Memorial Service/Sanctuary
- 7:00 PM French Prayer/Zoom

Saturday, September 27

- 6:00 PM Francophone Bethesda Fellowship/Chapel

Answer to Trivia Question:

June 1, 1952; became Associate October 12, 1952; Pastor April 4, 1954.

Announcements

●The flowers for worship this morning are from the **family of Joanne Kelly** whose memorial service was held on Saturday, September 20.

●Anyone who is interested in **donating flowers in honor of our 175th anniversary**, please contact **Nancy Dankle @** 217-778-4088 or nkthankle@icloud.com.

●We have **guest musicians** participating in worship in the upcoming weeks as part of our **175 Celebration**. This morning **Gary Winder, clarinet** joins us; September 28, **Trenna Thomas, flute**; October 5, **Jean Rene Balekita**; October 12, a bagpiper will participate in the service.

●Today at 5 PM our **Confirmation Class** for our youth continues. This is the second of a 4-week class, and we really need anyone participating to be there for every session. we will try to be done by 7 PM each week.

●As part of our **175 Celebration**, we will be doing a trivia question each week in the bulletin. This week’s question: *When was Malcolm Nygren installed at First Pres as Assistant Pastor?* Answer found on calendar page.

●Grab a cup of coffee and join us this morning immediately following worship for **Adult Discussion** in the Mae Chapin Parlor. **Ken Chapman** will lead a discussion of Philippians 1:3-11.

●We are collecting royalties each time we hear a **Spiritual** in our service. Royalties were never paid for this music. Money we collect will go to the DREAAM Choir. A donation box is on the Welcome Center.

●Your **Nominating Committee** has begun their work to find church officers for those whose terms expire. Pick up a Nomination Form at the Welcome Center to submit your suggestion(s) for Elders and/or Deacons for the coming year. (You may also nominate yourself!)

●Pick up a **Fall/Winter Small Group Opportunity** flyer from the kiosk this morning. Join a small group this Fall!

●Join **Pastor Beth** for **Coffee and Conversation** at 10 AM Wednesdays in September at Espresso Royale (2401 Village Green Pl.-Champaign).

●**First Pres Mission Study...**The small groups for this study will meet in October and the first week of November. We need everyone’s participation to help develop a plan for our church’s future. Participation will involve the opportunity to meet with your group four times during the study. Check the September newsletter for dates and times. **This study will provide valuable information in our journey toward our next pastor.**

●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.

●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. The Sunday **sermon** is available on-line anytime or on WDWS 1400AM the next Sunday at 10:30 AM.