

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.

Song for Centering & Call to Prayer #833 *O Love That Will Not Let Me Go* (vs. 1)
O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller, be.

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Concern (*Prayer concern cards are in the friendship pad.*)
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 #435 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

◆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.

Please be seated for a brief Congregational Meeting.

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

September 24, 2023 17th 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 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 pen.

Greeting & Announcements

♦Call to Worship (adapted from *Psalms 145:1-3,8*)

God we extol you, you who lead us into the future

We bless your name forever and ever.

Every day we bless you,

And praise your name forever and ever.

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised,

God's greatness is unsearchable.

The Lord is gracious and merciful

Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

♦Hymn of Praise #619 *Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God above us all, we so often believe that others are beyond your redemption. We exclude them from your church, assuming we know best who you desire. Often, we believe we too are beyond your redeeming power. We run from you when we feel unworthy, forgetting that you love us no matter how we perceive ourselves. Forgive us God for our attempts at exclusion and self-deprecation, remind us that no one is beyond your love and redemption. Remind us that your love and grace is not something you will withhold from the people that you love. Amen.

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 #17 *Sing Praise to God, You Heavens* (vs. 2)

Sing praise, O earth, sing praises! Sing praises, hill and plain

You mountains thrusting skyward, you valleys ripe with grain!

Sing praise, each fragrant flower; your fairest hues display.

Sing praise, you trees of autumn in glowing, glad array.

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 *Jonah 3:10-4:11* (OT, pg. 861)

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 *The Worst*

Joe Lundy

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 *Sing to the Lord of Harvest*

Healy Willan

An Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' 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

This Week

Sunday, September 24

- 9:00 AM Worship/Westminster Hall
- 10:00 AM Easy English Fellowship/Room 104
- 10:00 AM Congregational Meeting/Westminster Hall
- 10:15 AM Adult Education/Parlor
- 10:15 AM Worship/Windsor of Savoy

Monday, September 25

- 8:00 AM DREAAM/Rooms 110, 212
- 1:00 PM Grow/Family Library
- 1:00 PM Knifty Knitters/Parlor & Zoom
- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall

Tuesday, September 26

- 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast/Parlor & Zoom
- 8:00 AM DREAAM/Rooms 110, 212
- 9:00 AM PW Coordinating Team/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Bldg
- 10:30 AM Church Staff/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:00 PM Classic Book Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 4:30 PM World Mission Team/Parlor & Zoom
- 4:30 PM Cottage Gathering to Meet Joe Lundy/Home of Bruce Rainey & Michael Hogue

Wednesday, September 27

- 8:00 AM DREAAM/Rooms 110, 212
- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Bldg
- 10:00 AM Compassion, Peace, Justice/Parlor & Zoom
- 1:15 PM Pakistan Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 3:00 PM DREAAM/Cafe & Room 212
- 5:30 PM Covenant Bible Study/Centennial Hall

Thursday, September 28

- 8:00 AM DREAAM/Rooms 110, 212
- 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 10:00 AM Circle of Joy/Parlor & Zoom
- 10:00 AM Cottage Gathering to Meet Joe Lundy/Home of Diane Mortensen
- 12:30 PM Bible Study/Windsor of Savoy
- 1:00 PM Circle of Faith/Parlor & Zoom
- 3:00 PM DREAAM/Cafe & Room 212
- 4:30 PM DREAAM Executive Committee/Parlor & Zoom
- 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal/Bell Room
- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room
- 7:00 PM Circle of Peace/Parlor & Zoom

Friday, September 29 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, September 30

- 6:00 PM French Worship Service/Chapel

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.

●**Mary Jane Kelley** is our liturgist this morning. If you would like to serve, contact **Carol Miles**.

●There will be a **Congregational Meeting** this morning immediately following worship for the purpose of dissolving the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee.

●Grab a cup of coffee and stop by the Parlor at 10:10 this morning for **Adult Education**. **Matt Matthews** will present *An Introduction to Studying the Bible*.

●**The Rev. Dr. Rachel Matthews** will preach this morning's service at the Windsor of Savoy. **Judi Geistlinger** is in Hoopeston this morning.

●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**

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.

●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.

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

●**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.

●All are invited to the **Fall Gathering** Thursday, October 5 at 12 noon in Westminster Hall. **Melissa Courtwright**, Executive Director of C-U at Home will speak on *A Mission, a Calling: Helping the Homeless*. Lunch will be served following the program.

●**Trunk or Treat** will be held Sunday, October 29, from 4-5:30 PM for children ages 2-12 accompanied by parents/guardians. Treats and books will be handed out; there will be music, games and lots of fun! Look for a sign-up sheet to donate treats, with specific suggestions, at church in October. Looking for fun-loving volunteers to furnish a decorated trunk. Questions? Contact **Nicole Miller** reservationsforfive@gmail.com or 217.355.8512.

●**All Saints Day** will be celebrated in church on Sunday November 5. Any saints who are not current members of the church which should be celebrated can be added to the list. Please let the church office know.

●**Western Illinois University's** choir will present a concert Monday, November 6, 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary. They will be joined by the University High School's choir directed by **Richard Murphy**.

●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 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.