

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 (from *Romans 12*)

Let love be genuine;

hate what is evil,

hold fast to what is good;

love one another with mutual affection;

outdo one another in showing honor.

Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.

Rejoice in hope,

be patient in suffering,

persevere in prayer.

Contribute to the needs of the saints;

extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you;

bless and do not curse them.

Rejoice with those who rejoice,

weep with those who weep.

Live in harmony with one another;

do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly;

do not claim to be wiser than you are.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.

If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God;

If your enemies are hungry, feed them;

if they are thirsty, give them something to drink;

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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 #450 *Be Thou My Vision*

◆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 3, 2023

14th 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 sanctuary, 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 downstairs 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 (*Psalm 105:1-6 in The Psalter*)

Give thanks, acclaim God's name, tell all that the Lord has done.

Make music and sing the Lord's mighty wonders.

Revel in God's holy name, delight in seeking the Lord.

Look always for the power, for the presence of God.

Recount the signs and wonders, the just decrees of God,

you heirs of Abraham and Jacob, the chosen of the Lord.

◆Hymn of Praise #511 *Come Behold the Feast of Heaven*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, we confess that, like the disciples, we set our minds not on divine things but on human things. Doubting your loving care, we grab for more than we need. Doubting your loving purposes, we shrink from living as your followers. Doubting your loving plan, we become stumbling blocks in your creation. Forgive us that we may gain new life in you, for it is in Jesus' forgiving name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Jesus took up his cross for our salvation. In return for our life of sin,
he promises a new life of grace. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

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 – *A Table Is Set By God*

Text, H. Frombach; Music, David Lantz

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 *Exodus 3:1-6* (OT, pg. 50)

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 *Where Have You Seen God at Work, Lately?*

Matt Matthews

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

We are Invited

We give Thanks (sung to *Day Is Done* Ar Hyd Y Nos)

For the fruit of all creation, Thanks be to God.

For the gifts to every nation, Thanks be to God.

For the wonders that astound us, For the truths that still confound us.

Most of all that love has found us, Thanks be to God...

... prayers continue

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 Set (*Let us hold the elements and partake together.*)

The Meal is Shared

We close in Prayer

This Week

Sunday, September 3

- 9:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Easy English Fellowship/Rooms 104/105
- 10:15 AM Worship/Windsor of Savoy

Monday, September 4 (Church office closed for Labor Day holiday)

- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall

Tuesday, September 5

- 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast/Parlor & Zoom
- 8:00 AM DREAAM/Rooms 110, 212
- 9:00 AM Small Group Leaders/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Bldg
- 10:30 AM Church Staff/Parlor & Zoom

Wednesday, September 6

- 8:00 AM DREAAM/Rooms 110, 212
- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Bldg
- 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch/Westminster Hall

Thursday, September 7

- 8:00 AM DREAAM/Rooms 110, 212
- 11:00 AM Sign Language Refresher/Westminster Hall
- 12:30 PM Bible Study/Windsor of Savoy
- 2:30 PM Congregational Care Deacons/Parlor & Zoom
- 4:00 PM Spiritual Formation/Zoom
- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room

Friday, September 8 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 9

- 6:00 PM French Worship Service/Chapel

**The church office will be closed Monday, September 4,
in observance of the Labor Day holiday.**

Announcements

- **We are glad you're here!** Questions about First Pres, contact **Pastor Matt Matthews** or call the church office.
- **Mary Jane Kelley** is our liturgist this morning. If you would like to serve as liturgist, contact **Carol Miles**.
- The flowers this morning are in celebration of **Jack and Gwen Pollard's** wedding 68 years ago today.
- Give a warm midwest welcome to new **Associate Pastor for Discipleship Joe Lundy** this morning at coffee hour! Joe is officially on staff as of today.
- **Judi Geistlinger** will preach today's 10:15 AM service at the Windsor of Savoy.
- Do you enjoy singing and music? Consider joining the **Chancel Choir**. Rehearsals are held each Thursday at 7 PM beginning September 7. Contact **Joe Grant** at joegrant@illinois.edu for more information.
- Set aside Monday, September 11, from 4:30-6 PM for **World-Wide Game Night** in Centennial Hall. (Note change in time.) Snacks provided.
- **Books from the collection** of the late **Leland Andrews** have been donated for the congregation to take home and cherish. They are displayed on the table in the church library in stacks according to the author or subject matter. Most are duplicates of items already in the church library.
- How would you like to join a **group from First Pres at a Cubs game?** We plan to attend the 1:20 PM game at Wrigley Field on Saturday, September 23. We will leave the church parking lot between 9-9:30 AM and drive straight to Wrigley. Cost is probably around \$60 each depending on number attending and where the seats are. If taking the church van, we might ask for donations for gas. If interested, contact **Tom Ulen** at thomas.ulen@gmail.com or 217.390.4667.
- We are planning a **Churchwide Picnic** for Sunday, October 1, at 4 PM at the Hessel Park pavilion. Bring a dish to share; fried chicken and hotdogs will be provided.
- 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 Sunday mornings. The spaces behind the law office belong to Meyer/Capel.
- 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.
- **Sunday School** for children is on summer break. Children are encouraged to attend church with their families. Remote viewing is available in Westminster Hall for families with young children.