Prayer of Dedication & Thanksgiving

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (pg. 35*;* in the language or 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 #542** *God Be With You Till We Meet Again*

✞**Charge and Benediction**

✞**Congregational Sung Benediction #546** *Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing* (vs. 1)

✞**Postlude**

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

•**Laura Aull Johnston** is our liturgist this morning. If you would like to serve as liturgist on a Sunday morning, contact **Carol Miles.**

•**We are glad you're here!** Questions about First Pres, see the **pastor** after the service or contact the church office (info@firstpres.church).

•We have access to our hearing assistant loop during worship. 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.

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

October 18, 2026 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church
Bienvenue à La Premiere Eglise Presbytérienne de Champaign
Bienvenidos a La Primera Iglésia Presbiteriana
샴페인 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. 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 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 pews.

Threshold Moment

✞**Call to Worship** (from *When We Gather* James G. Kirk)

You are the Lord; let the peoples tremble! You sit enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

You are exalted over all the peoples. Hear us as we praise your great and awesome name. You indeed are holy!

Lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

We will extol you, O Lord our God, and worship at your footstool.

Let us worship God!

✞**Hymn of Praise #307** *God of Grace and God of Glory* (✞Please stand as you are able in body or spirit.)

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, we confess that we have not been the faithful disciples you call us to be. We have not remembered who we are. We are distracted by glittering gold. We are mesmerized by fame and fortune. We turn a blind eye to systems that perpetuate injustice. We fail to hear the cries for mercy of those who bear unfair burdens. We close our hearts and imagine empathy to be weakness. Forgive us Lord. Remind us that we are yours, citizens of the kin-dom of God. Give us courage to be kin-dom builders here and now, showing mercy and grace in a world in deep need. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen. *Silence is kept.*

Confession Response #416 *O Come unto the Lord* (vs. 1; refrain)

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 #458 *Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet* (refrain)

Scripture in French *Psalm 96*

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

Anthem *Lass Dich Nur Nichts Nicht Dauren* Brahms

Scripture in English *Matthew 22:15-22*

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

Message Dave Whitford

✞**Hymn for Reflection #716** *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

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 life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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

Offertory

Response of Gratitude #609 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

This Week

Sunday, October 18
9:30 AM Worship/Sanctuary
10:30 AM Easy English Fellowship/Rms. 204 & 207
10:30 AM Youth Sunday School/CE Building
10:30 AM Adult Discussion/Parlor

Monday, October 19
9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Bldg. Classrooms & Café
1:00 PM GROW/Room 105
1:30 PM Women's Bible Study/Library
5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall

Tuesday, October 20
9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Bldg. Classrooms & Café
9:30 aM Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team/Parlor & Zoom
10:30 AM Church Staff/Parlor & Zoom
12:00 PM Classic Book Study/Parlor & Zoom
3:30 PM Community Mission Deacons/Parlor & Zoom

Wednesday, October 21
9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Bldg. Classrooms & Café
11:00 AM New American Ministry Team/Library
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room
7:30 PM Wednesdays We Gather/Zoom

Thursday, October 22
9:00 AM Women's Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Bldg. Classrooms & 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
7:00 PM Session/Westminster Hall & Zoom
7:00 PM Circle of Peace/Parlor & Zoom

Friday, October 23
8:15 AM Men's Prayer/Zoom
10:00 AM Korean Choir Rehearsal/Chapel
7:00 PM French Prayer/Zoom

Saturday, October 24
8:00 AM We Reteach/Rooms 206 & 207
6:00 PM Francophone Bethesda Fellowship/Chapel

Announcements

●Grab a cup of coffee and join us for **Adult Discussion** this morning immediately following worship in the Parlor. **Ken Chapman** will lead the conclusion of *The Book of Esther* chapters 8-10.

●Our annual **Trunk or Treat** will be held Sunday, October 25, 4 to 5:30 PM. This is a great outreach event as many families from the neighborhood attend. The children receive candy, a free book and many smiles. We play games with them and even invite them and their parents to a soup supper. If you would like to participate in the event by decorating your car turnk and passing out candy, email **Nicole Miller** reservationfor5@gmail.com. If you cannot attend but would like to donate treats, please drop them off at church or in the church office.

●**We've updated our church website** to help members stay connected with the life of the church and help visitors find what they need quickly and easily. You'll find worship service links, the church calendar, sermons, bulletins, newsletters, and an easy way to tithe. We hope it's your first stop when looking for information! It's easy to use—but if you'd like help, see **Melinda Miller** or **Camille James** after worship. Take a few minutes to visit firstpres.church—and stop by often!

●**Thank you for your amazing and overwhelming support of the food pantry!** We are off to a great start! Volunteers are always needed; monetary contributions welcomed! Distribution is the first Thursday of each month from 11 AM to 12:30 PM.

●If you or a loved one is **in the hospital or in need of a pastoral visit,** contact the church office.

●Anyone interested in **donating flowers for use on Sunday mornings during worship**, please contact **Nancy Dankle** 217.778-4088 or nkdankle@icloud.com.

●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. Donation box is on the Welcome Center.

●Check out the **book cart** in Westminster Hall. Donate a book for others to enjoy and take some.

●The **October 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 the service live each Sunday at firstpres.church/live. The Sunday **service video** is available on-line this week; audio sermon available the following Sunday at 10:30 AM on WDWS 1400AM.

●**Scam/Email Spoof Alert** ... Your staff will **never** send a text, email or voicemail asking you to purchase gift cards. If in doubt, contact the church office.