

We cannot take wine and forget those who are thirsty. The ground and the rootless, the earth and its weary people cry out for justice.

Lord, put our fullness at the service of the empty.

We cannot hear your words of peace and forget the world at war or, if not at war, then preparing for it.

Show us quickly, Lord, how to turn weapons into welcome signs and the lust for power into a desire for peace.

We cannot celebrate the feast of your family and forget our divisions.

We are one in spirit, but not in fact. History and hurt still dismember us.

Lord, heal your church in every brokenness.

Prayer of Consecration

Leader: ... Take this – all of you – to remember me:

Hymn #566 *Christ Has Died*

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

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

Concluding Prayer

Leader: ... Lead us on. Take us with you.

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.*

Connecting with our Community

◆Hymn for Commitment #536 *Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen*

◆Charge and Benediction

◆Congregational Sung Benediction #741 *Guide My Feet* (vs. 1; Spiritual)

Guide my feet while I run this race; guide my feet while I run this race;

Guide my feet while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain!

◆Postlude

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



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

March 2, 2025

Transfiguration of the Lord



Welcome to worship!

When you enter the worship space, please be mindful of the silent prayers of those around you.

We are presently worshipping in Westminster Hall while our elevator is being replaced.

*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

Act of Friendship & Sharing of 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.

Greetings & Welcome

Threshold Moment

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

... Light of love, light of delight. Light that turns doubters into followers.

**It is the same God who at the beginning said: "Let there be light,"
who has shone in our hearts with an understanding
of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

*The mightiest One of all, God the Eternal, speaks and summons the whole earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting.*

From God's holy mountain, God's light, the perfection of beauty, shines out.

Let us pray: ...

◆Hymn of Praise #529 *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*

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

Prayer of Confession

God of mountaintops, the din of the world can harden our hearts to your Word. We watch news, reality TV, silly shows - yet have trouble bearing witness to your presence in our lives. Our faith is placed in those who fail us, our trust is given to those who misplace it.

Forgive us, Revealer of Mystery. You offer mercy to us, so we might hear your call to discipleship. You whisper our names, so we might know how loved we are. Caught by the surprise of your never ending joy in us, how can we not follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, onto the mountaintops of worship and into the valleys of sacrifice and service! *Silence is kept.*

Kyrie *Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us*

Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon

Let us join our voices together in the assurance of pardon.

On mountaintops and in valleys, in our homes and in our hearts, God knows us better than we know ourselves, and God forgives us when we cannot forgive ourselves.

By God's mercy, we are forgiven;
by God's mercy, we are made whole;
by God's mercy, we are equipped to serve others.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

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 #386 *Come, Worship God* (vs. 4)

Now let us listen, for you speak among us; open our hearts to receive what you say.
Peace be to all who remember your goodness, trust in your word,
and rejoice in your way!

Scripture *Luke 9:28-36*

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!**

Message

Beth Wagner

◆Hymn for Reflection #193 *Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain*

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.

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

Offertory *The Only Son From Heaven*

J.S. Bach

◆Response of Gratitude

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold;
Take myself and I will be ever, only, all for thee, ever, only, all for thee.

◆Prayer of Dedication & Thanksgiving

Communion

Eucharistic Prayer

Leader: ... So now, in gratitude, we join our voices to those of the Church on earth and in heaven:

Hymn #565 *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest, Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Lord God, as we come to share the richness of your table, we cannot forget the rawness of the earth. We cannot take bread and forget those who are hungry. Your world is one world and we are stewards of its nourishment.

Lord, put our prosperity at the service of the poor.

This Week

Sunday, March 2

- 9:00 AM Worship/Westminster Hall
- 10:10 AM Easy English Fellowship/Rooms 204, 206, 207
- 10:10 AM Children's Sunday School/CE Building
- 10:10 AM Adult Discussion/Parlor

Monday, March 3

- 9:15 AM ELL In-Person Classes/CE Building & Café
- 1:00 PM GROW/Family Library
- 1:30 PM Bible Study/Library
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program/CE Building
- 4:00 PM Transition Team/Library
- 4:00 PM HR Team/Parlor & Zoom
- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall

Tuesday, March 4

- 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:00 AM Small Group Leaders/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:15 AM ELL In-Person Classes/CE Building & Café
- 9:15 AM Compassion, Peace, Justice/Zoom
- 10:30 AM Staff/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:00 PM Classic Book Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program/CE Building
- 6:00 PM DREAAM Praise Dance/Chapel

Wednesday, March 5

- 9:15 AM ELL In-Person Classes/CE Building & Café
- 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch/Parlor Dining Room
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program/CE Building
- 5:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service/Westminster Hall
- 5:00 PM DREAAM Parenting Class/Centennial Hall
- 7:30 PM Together on Tuesdays/Zoom

Thursday, March 6

- 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:30 AM ELL Conversation/Café
- 12:30 PM Bible Study/Windsor of Savoy
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program/CE Building
- 2:30 PM Congregational Care Deacons/Parlor & Zoom
- 4:00 PM Spiritual Formation/Zoom
- 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room

Friday, March 7 Church Office Closes at Noon

- 8:15 AM Men's Prayer/Zoom
- 10:00 AM Christ Community Church Korean Choir/Chapel
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program/CE Building

Saturday, March 8

- 6:00 PM French Worship Service/Chapel

Announcements

●**We are glad you're here!** Questions about First Pres, see **either pastor** after the service or contact the church office (info@firstpres.church). We are presently worshipping in Westminster Hall while the elevator to our historic Sanctuary is being replaced.

●Please wear your **nametag** to help our **staff** get acquainted.

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

●**Large print bulletins** are available for use on Sunday mornings. Ask an usher if you cannot find one.

●We are collecting royalties each time we sing or hear a **Spiritual** in our service. Royalties were never paid for this music. The royalties we collect will go to the DREAAM Choir. The donation box can be found in the Welcome Center.

●Grab a cup of coffee and join us for this morning's **Adult Discussion** in the Parlor immediately following worship. Today we begin a study of the Parables with this morning's topic The Parable of the Sowed Seed led by **Rev. Joe Lundy**.

●Join **Paster Beth** for coffee Wednesdays in March from 10-12 at Espresso Royale (2401 Village Green in Champaign).

●The **DREAAM middle school youth and staff** will again join us on our campus for fun activities, a Bible study, and to share a meal. We meet Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5 p.m. The next date is March 26, April 16 & 30, and May 14. For more information, contact **Peter Yau** pmyau@illinois.edu (217-621-0448) with questions or to sign up to help in the kitchen. Please contact **Holly Ewan Nordheden** hnordheden@gmail.com (217-621-3450). Put the dates on your calendar and sign-up NOW!

●**Ash Wednesday, March 5, marks the beginning of Lent.** Join us at 5 PM for a meaningful and peaceful start to a season of growth and transformation.

●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 **March 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.