

This is the Word of the Lord.  
Ceci est la Parole du Seigneur.

Thanks be to God!  
Gloire à Dieu

Sermon Homesick

Judi Geistlinger

## **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 *Dixit Maria*

Hans Hassler (1564-1612)

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Concern

Lord's Prayer (p.35 hymnbook)

## **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 #105** *People, Look East*

❖ **Charge and Benediction**

❖ **Congregational Sung Benediction #88** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (v. 1)

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

❖ **Postlude** *Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland*

*You may wish to be seated for the postlude.*

JS Bach

❖ Please stand if able. Remain seated if need be.

Prayers and Liturgy by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH** OF CHAMPAIGN

**November 28, 2021**

First Sunday of Advent

**9 AM**



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 the Welcome Center downstairs in Westminster Hall after the service. Mingle with other friends and guests, and learn how this congregation can become your church home. *Welcome!*

## The First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021

### 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** *Veni, Veni, Emmanuel*

Pietro Yon

**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**

Can one be homesick for something you've never known?

**We are homesick for a just world, for peace like rivers, for the end of suffering.**

Yes, we are homesick—

**for joy that is contagious, for nations that feel like neighbors, and for hospitals that run empty.**

We are homesick for the world God promises. We are homesick, but we are on our way. God is here. God is still creating.

**Let us worship God.**

❖ **Hymn** *See Fig Leaves Now Sprouting* (see insert)

**Advent Candle Lighting**

Mary Gritten and Pat Phillips

**Call to Confession**

When you're a kid and you get homesick at a sleepover or a summer camp, you call home and your parents come and get you. Sometimes, that's what love looks like. Love bails us out. In the same way, when we call upon God to confess that we've messed up, or forgotten something, or overlooked the truth, God answers with grace. God answers with love. So let us confess today, knowing that nothing could keep God from loving us.

**Prayer of Confession**

**Gracious God, we find ourselves with two options every day—to stay homesick for the world you had in mind, or to allow cynicism to win.**

**Do we hope against hope, or do we throw in the towel? Do we insist on a better world, or do we assume it's impossible? Forgive us for the days when cynicism**

**wins. Forgive us for numbing our homesick hurt instead of using it to fuel a better world. Kindle in us a hope that won't let go. Gratefully we pray, amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

Family of faith, even when we throw in the towel, even when we give up on hope, God does not give up on us. We are loved. We are claimed. We are invited closer to God's home. So hear and trust this good news:

**There is room for us in God's house, and nothing can separate us from that love.**

**We are claimed. We are forgiven. We are welcomed home. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**Waving of the Peace**

**Response of Gratitude #82** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* (v. 1)

**Invitation to the Offering**

We are invited to return God's tithes and give our offering.

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication

### We Gather Around God's Holy Name

*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**

**While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come. Jesus our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting come.**

**Scripture** *Luke 21:25-36 (NRSV)*

<sup>25</sup> "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup> People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

<sup>29</sup> Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup> as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup> "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup> like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

# This Week

## Sunday, November 28

- 9:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Sunday School/Gather in Westminster Hall
- 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School/Sanctuary
- 10:15 AM Worship/Windsor of Savoy
- 11:00 AM Easy English Fellowship/Zoom
- 11:15 AM The Gathering/Chapel

## Monday, November 29

- 10:00 AM ESL/Zoom
- 1:00 PM GROW/Family Library
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program
- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall

## Tuesday, November 30

- 8:00 AM Men’s Breakfast Study/Zoom
- 10:00 AM ESL/Zoom
- 10:30 AM Church Staff Meeting/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:00 PM Classic Book Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:00 PM Energy Audit/Chapel
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program

## Wednesday, December 1

- 10:00 AM ESL/Zoom
- 1:30 PM PEB/Parlor & Zoom
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program
- 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal/Bell Room
- 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room

## Thursday, December 2

- 10:00 AM ESL/Zoom
- 12:00 PM PW Christmas Tea/Sanctuary & Westminster Hall
- 12:30 PM Bible Study/Windsor of Savoy
- 2:00 PM Congregational Care Deacons/Parlor
- 2:00 PM DREAAM After School Program
- 4:00 PM Spiritual Formation/Zoom
- 6:30 PM Compassion, Peace, Justice/Zoom

## Friday, December 3 Church Office closes at noon

- 8:00 AM Men’s Prayer/Zoom
- 7:30 PM Friday Nite Lights Study/Zoom

## Saturday, December 4

- 6:00 PM French Prayer/Zoom

The Session has called a **meeting of the Congregation** immediately after the 9 AM service of worship on Sunday, December 5, for the purpose of asking the Congregation to instruct the Nominating Committee to search for a slate of candidates to serve on an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee.

# Worship

- We **welcome children** of all ages to worship. Childcare is available for children 4 years and younger in the education building 8:45 AM-12:15 PM. **Sunday School** will be held at 10:15 this morning.
- The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are from the Memorial Service for **John Goin**.
- Liturgist this morning is **Pat Phillips**. Contact **Carol Miles** to serve as a liturgist. **Blaise Pascal Zamena** will read our scripture in French today.
- Judi Geistlinger** will preach at this morning’s 10:15 AM service at the Windsor of Savoy.
- Everyone **must wear a mask** indoors for safety.
- This morning’s **sermon** will be available online or on WDWS 1400AM next Sunday at 10:30 AM.
- If unable to attend church**, catch our 9 AM service live each Sunday morning at [firstpres.live](https://firstpres.live)

# Connect

- We are glad you’re here!** Questions about First Pres, contact **Pastor Matt** or call the church office. After the service, join us for conversation in Westminster Hall.
- Plan to stay for **Adult Ed** at 10:15 AM this morning, in the Sanctuary. **Robert Ferrer** will discuss the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah. It is the first day of Hanukkah where a single candle is lit in the evening. It is celebrated for eight days with an additional candle being lit each night. Robert will discuss the historical origins of the holiday, and how it is celebrated today.
- This year’s **Angel Tree** supports the children of Kemmerer Village. Take the wish list tag(s) from the tree this morning and return your gift(s) by December 12. Gifts will be delivered to Kemmerer on December 13.
- Presbyterian Women’s **Christmas Tea** Christmas Tea December 2 at noon in the Sanctuary. Cookie contributions welcome--to share and for home deliveries. Stories of Joy, Faith and Peace presented by members of First Presbyterian Circles.
- Join us this **Advent season** to prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of Christ. Let’s spend the season looking at the ordinary and glimpsing the divine. *Advent in Plain Sight* by Jill Duffield will be available for \$15, TODAY. We will gather Sundays in December to discuss the readings at 10:15 in Mae Chapin Parlor.
- Reminder...**please turn in your 2022 Pledge response**. By investing your time, talent and treasure in First Presbyterian Church, you help nurture those who serve our neighbors near and far.
- The **Bell Choir** is looking for new members! No prior experience required. Contact **Libby Sternhagen** [ecsternhagen@gmail.com](mailto:ecsternhagen@gmail.com).
- If you or a loved one is **in the hospital or in need of a pastoral visit**, contact the church office.
- The **November newsletter** is available in the kiosks or at [firstpres.church/newsletter](https://firstpres.church/newsletter).