



February 13, 2022

The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

10:30 a.m.

Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church

We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in the worship, service, and program life of First Pres!

Please visit the church website: www.firstpresevansville.com to stay up-to-date on our ministry and service opportunities.

Please visit our Facebook page - [First Presbyterian Church - Evansville, Indiana](#). We hope you'll "like" us!

Please note that this service is being livestreamed on our website and Facebook page, and the recording will be posted to our [YouTube](#) channel.

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

WE GATHER TO CELEBRATE NEW LIFE

**Let those who are able stand at this sign.*

THE MUSIC FOR GATHERING

"Reverie (for celestes)" from *Suite Sebastienne*

Thomas H. Kerr

THE INTROIT

"Sing Out With Joy"

Jacques Arcadelt

Sing out with joy for all to hear: now is the time of celebration.

All join to sing from far and near: let there be peace in every nation.

Come, hear the merry song today: with one voice we sing together, let all be joyful forever.

- Patrick M. Leiberger

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

One Blessed are those who trust in God
who delight to meditate on God's law.

All **We long to hear the Word of God
and let the Word shape our lives.**

One Blessed are all who seek the realm of God,
who hunger to find meaning in their lives.

All **We intend to give our best to our Creator,
bearing fruit in all we say and do.**

One Blessed are the ones who serve God with joy,
who risk all they have in faithfulness and hope.

All **We come now to worship and find new life,
to receive healing and empowerment for our journey.**

***THE OPENING HYMN . . . no. 12**

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

St. Denio/Welsh Folk Melody

Walter Chalmers Smith

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unshaking, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:
thy justice, like mountains high soaring above; thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all, life thou givest, to both great and small. In all life thou livest, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree, then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.**

**Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light. Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see 'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!**

***THE INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(in unison)*

**Merciful God, your call to discipleship is demanding.
You call us to reorder our lives by the kingdom you are bringing in Jesus Christ.
Yet we still pass by the ones who especially notice:
people who are poor and hungry; people who weep.
We have not stood with those who are hated, bullied, and excluded.
Comfortable with the way things are, we are too complacent,
even complicit with injustice and prejudice.
Forgive us, O God, and turn us back to your gospel.
We pray this now, for our sake, and for the sake of your world.**

***THE SILENT CONFESSION**

***THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

***THE RESPONSE . . . no. 581**

"Glory Be to the Father"

Gloria Patri/Henry W. Greatorex

Trad. Liturgical Text

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.**

THE WORDS OF WELCOME

The Greetings Among the People of God
The Concerns of the Church

WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF NEW LIFE

THE PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

THE LESSON FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes.
They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD.
They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream.
It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse - who can understand it?
I the LORD test the mind and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

THE PSALM FOR THE DAY

Psalm 1

One Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
All **Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on this law they meditate day and night.**
One They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.
All **It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**
One Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
All **For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked is doomed.**

THE ANTHEM

"How Can I Keep from Singing?"

Robert Wadsworth Lowry; arr. Karen P. Thomas

*My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentation, I hear the real, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife I hear the music ringing, it sounds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing?
What though the tempest loudly roars, I hear the truth, it liveth.
What though the darkness round me close, songs in the night it giveth.
No storm can shake my in-most calm, while to that rock I'm clinging.
Since love is lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing!
When tyrants tremble as they hear the bells of freedom ringing,
when friends rejoice both far and near, how can I keep from singing!
To prison cell and dungeon vile our thoughts to them are winging,
when friends by shame are undefiled, how can I keep from singing!*

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 6:17-26

He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

"Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

"Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you,
and defame you on account of the Son of Man.

Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven;
for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

"Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.

"Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

"Woe to you when all speak well of you,
for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

THE SERMON

Kevin Scott Fleming

"The Degree of Difficulty"

WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE GIFT OF NEW LIFE

A TIME OF INTENTIONAL SILENCE

*THE HYMN . . . no. 172

"Blest Are They"

Blest are They/David Haas
David Haas

Blest are they, the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow; they shall be consoled.
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you; holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God.

Blest are they, the lowly ones; they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they, who hunger and thirst; they shall have their fill.
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you; holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God.

Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart; they shall see God.
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you; holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God.

Blest are they who seek peace; they are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith; the glory of God is theirs.
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you; holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God.

Blest are you who suffer hate, all because of me.
Rejoice, be glad; yours is the kingdom; shine for all to see.
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you; holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God.

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*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(in unison)*

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 heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again 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.

- *The Apostle's Creed*

THE MORNING OFFERING

The Invitation to the Offering

The Offertory

You may send a check to the church office, or give online at <http://firstpresevansville.com/giving/>

The Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings . . . no. 606
"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

Old Hundredth
Thomas Ken

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

The Prayer of Dedication

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Sharing of Joys and Concerns
The Spoken Prayers
The Silent Prayers
The Lord's Prayer (*in unison*)

**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 DISPERSE TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF NEW LIFE

***THE CLOSING HYMN . . . no. 308**
"O God in Whom All Life Begins"

Noel/English melody; arr. Arthur S. Sullivan
Carl P. Daw, Jr.

**O God in whom all life begins, who births the seed to fruit,
bestow your blessing on our lives; here let your love find root.
Bring forth in us the Spirit's gifts of patience, joy, and peace;
deliver us from numbing fear, and grant our faith increase.**

**Unite in mutual ministry our minds and hands and hearts
that we may have the grace to seek the power your peace imparts.
So let our varied gifts combine to glorify your Name
that in all things by word and deed we may your love proclaim.**

**Through tears and laughter, grief and joy, enlarge our trust and care;
so bind us in community that we may risk and dare.
Be with us when we gather here to worship, sing, and pray;
then send us forth in power and faith to live the words we say.**

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***THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***THE RESPONSE**

"Siyhamba"

Siyahamba ekukhanyeni kwenkos'.

We are marching in the light of God.

Traditional South African

***THE POSTLUDE**

"Allegro" from *Trio Sonata No. 1 (BWV 525)*

Johann Sebastian Bach

Leading worship this morning:

Pastor Rev. Kevin Scott Fleming
Liturgist Sue Schriber
Director of Music Robert Nicholls
The Choir of First Presbyterian Church

Happening at First Presbyterian Church

First Pres is grateful to be able to continue **in-person worship**. If you're joining us in-person, please wear a mask, use sanitizer, and maintain social distancing. We ask everyone to wear masks so that those who are unable to be vaccinated are protected while we are together.

Are you interested in **learning about First Pres** and/or how to become a member? Please make sure we have **your contact information**, specifically your email address. It's as easy as contacting the church office (lora@firstpresevansville.com; 812-423-6297). We'll be in touch about the next new member class soon!

How long has it been since your confirmation class? Did you even have one? This Lent, we will offer "**Grown Up Confirmation Class**," an informative and fun review of what it means to be a Christian in the Presbyterian tradition. The class will be an in-person/on-line hybrid event, allowing participation from all attendees. The class will meet on Tuesday evenings (March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5, 12) at 7:00 p.m. and last for 60 minutes. Participants will have the option of renewing their confirmation on Easter Sunday. You can register for the class by clicking [HERE](#) or calling the church office.

Mardi Gras is just around the corner! On **Sunday, February 27**, we will welcome "Purple Aces in the Hole" to our 10:30 a.m. worship service. Their Dixieland music will fill the service and set a joyous mood for Transfiguration Sunday. Join us!

We will come together on **Wednesday, March 2 at 7:00 p.m.** to begin the season of Lent. We will celebrate of Communion and receive the mark of the cross in ashes. Please join us as we mark a turning point in our worship year on **Ash Wednesday**.

The First Pres Music Department is pleased to announce a **Soup and Bread Sale** on **Sunday, March 6**. Soups will include split pea, lentil, chili, taco soup, broccoli cheese, and many more for **only \$10/quart**. First-come, first-served sales will take place at 9:30 and 11:30 that morning, following each worship service. All proceeds help our musicians attend summer music camps.

Weekly Calendar

Elder of the Week: Gary Morris

Sunday, February 13

Daily Reading: Psalm 81

- 7:30 a.m. Band Rehearsal
- 8:30 a.m. Wide Awake Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
- 1:30 p.m. Bible Bunch (online)
- 6:30 p.m. First Light

Monday, February 14

Daily Reading: Mark 11:1-11

Tuesday, February 15

Daily Reading: Mark 11:12-26

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 3:45 p.m. Choir Teen Rehearsal
- 4:45 p.m. Handbells and Handchimes
- 5:45 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 16

Daily Reading: Mark 11:27-12:12

Thursday, February 17

Daily Reading: Mark 12:13-27

- 4:00 p.m. Choir Beginners
- 4:45 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal
- 6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Friday, February 18

Daily Reading: Mark 12:28-34

Saturday, February 19

Daily Reading: Mark 12:35-44