



May 29, 2022

Ascension Sunday

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

"The Peace may be Exchanged"
from *Rubrics, a Liturgical Suite for Organ*

Dan Locklair

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

One Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
Let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
All Let us come before God with thanksgiving
and extol God with music and song.

*THE OPENING HYMN . . . no. 263

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

Coronation; Oliver Holden
Edward Perronet, John Rippon

All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all!
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all!

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, ye ransomed from the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball
to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!
To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!

O that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all!
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all!

***THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

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

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ the light of the world.

***THE SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

***THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***THE RESPONSE . . . no. 587**

"Alleluia!"

Celtic Alleluia; Fintan O'Carroll
Traditional Liturgical Text

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE WORDS OF WELCOME

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

WE HEAR THE WORD OF LIFE

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 13

One How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?

All **How long must I bear pain in my soul,
and have sorrow in my heart all day long?
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?**

One Consider and answer me, O Lord my God!
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,

All **and my enemy will say, 'I have prevailed';
my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.**

One But I trusted in your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

All **I will sing to the Lord,
because he has dealt bountifully with me.**

THE SPECIAL MUSIC

"Majesté du Christ demandant sa gloire à son Père"
(Majesty of Christ praying that His Father should glorify Him)
from *The Ascension: Symphonic Meditations for Organ*

Oliver Messiaen

Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify Thee.

-Prayer from Christ, the Gospel of St. John

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

One The Word of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 24:36-53

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you - that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.'

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

One The Gospel of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON

Rev. John VanderZee

"Why Christ's Ascension Matters"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

A TIME OF INTENTIONAL SILENCE

*THE HYMN . . . no. 268

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

Diademata; George Job Elvey
Matthew Bridges

**Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.**

Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified:
no angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end; and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time;
creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

***THE PROFESSION OF OUR CHURCH'S FAITH** *(in unison)*

As followers of Jesus Christ, living in this world
- which some seek to control, and others view with despair -
we declare with joy and trust: Our world belongs to God!
From the beginning, through all the crises of our times,
until the kingdom fully comes, God keeps covenant forever.
And so we proclaim:
Our world belongs to God! God is king: let the earth be glad!
Christ is victor: his rule has begun!
The Spirit is at work: creation is renewed!
Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

- from *Our World Belongs to God*, st. 1-2

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/>

"God Weeps with Us Who Weep and Mourn"

Moshier; Sally Ann Morris

*God weeps with us who weep and mourn; God's tears flow down with ours...
And yet because, like us, you weep, we trust you will receive
and in your tender heart will keep the ones for whom we grieve,
while with your tears our hearts will taste the deep dear core of things
from which both life and death are graced by love's renewing springs.*

-Thomas H. Troeger (complete text available at hymn no. 787)

*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 heav'nly 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

One Hear us, O God:
All Your mercy is great.

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 SERVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR

***THE CLOSING HYMN . . . no. 265**

Duke Street; attr. John Hatton

"Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun"

Isaac Watts

**Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.**

**To him shall endless prayer be made, and praises throng to crown his head;
his name, like sweet perfume, shall rise with every morning sacrifice.**

**People and realms of every tongue dwell on his love with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim their early blessings on his name.**

**Blessings abound where'er he reigns: the prisoners leap to loose their chains;
the weary find eternal rest, and all who suffer want are blest.**

**Let every creature rise and bring honors peculiar to our King;
angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud Amen!**

***THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

THE POSTLUDE

"Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr"

Friedrich Wilhelm Zachau

All glory be to God in the highest...

O Jesus Christ, only begotten son, reconciler of the lost, silencer of our strife,

Lamb of God, holy Lord and God: accept the request from our need, have mercy on us. Amen.

Leading worship this morning:

Bridge Co-Pastors John and Wendy VanderZee
Liturgist Gary Morris
Guest Organist Neal Biggers

The flowers today are given by Barb Witte to the glory of God and in honor of all veterans.

We welcome and thank Neal Biggers for leading our music today. Director of Music Robert Nicholls is on vacation and will return to the office on Tuesday.

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Happening at First Presbyterian Church

The First Pres Session continues to monitor local pandemic conditions and modify our **COVID safety protocols** as conditions warrant. In our building, mask wearing is strongly recommended, and we encourage the use of sanitizer and social distancing as we practice good public health.

Members and friends of First Presbyterian Church are invited to celebrate and affirm the LGBTQIA+ community by walking in the **River City Pride parade** in the Haynie's Corner neighborhood this **Saturday, June 4** at 11:00 a.m. Let us know that you will be among our numbers by filling out the *Pride Parade 2022* [form](#) on First Web.

Gathering Choir is your opportunity to experience 10:30 worship from the balcony! **Next Sunday, June 5**, join Robert Nicholls in the balcony at 9:30 a.m. to rehearse a simple anthem to be presented in worship that morning. There's no weekly commitment or prior experience necessary - just show up and join the choir for the morning. It's a great way to "try out" singing in the choir. See you in the balcony!

The **church office is closed** for an extended Memorial Day Holiday, and will reopen on Wednesday, June 1.

All are welcome to add to the beauty of our Sunday worship by providing **flowers** to be displayed at that day's service. They may be fresh flowers or silk/faux arrangements, and can be ordered by the donor or the church office. To see a list of available dates and choose one to provide flowers for, you can follow this [link](#) to the online form on First Web, or call the church office. Thank you!

As overall pandemic conditions have improved, Session invites you to enjoy a brief **time of fellowship after each Sunday worship service**. Beverages and conversation are welcome as we remember to practice good public health. If you are interested in joining the fellowship team responsible for providing, preparing, and cleaning up this offering, please contact the [church office](#).

Weekly Calendar

Elder of the Week: Casey Calvert

Sunday, May 29

Daily Reading: Psalm 136

7:30 a.m. Band Rehearsal

8:30 a.m. Wide Awake Worship

9:15 a.m. Fellowship Time

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

11:15 a.m. Fellowship Time

Monday, May 30 *Memorial Day*

Daily Reading: Luke 9:51-62

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, May 31

Daily Reading: Luke 10:1-17

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, June 1

Daily Reading: Luke 10:17-24

11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday, June 2

Daily Reading: Luke 10:25-37

Friday, June 3

Daily Reading: Luke 10:38-42

Saturday, June 4

Daily Reading: Luke 11:14-23

11:00 a.m. River City Pride Parade
(at Haynie's Corner)