



August 7, 2022

The Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

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.firstpresevensville.com](http://www.firstpresevensville.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.

We will share Holy Communion this morning. The table is open to all who claim Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and to all who are seeking a closer relationship with God. You are invited to have a bit of bread and juice to partake during that portion of the service.

### 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 INTROIT

"O All Ye Nations"

Heinrich Schütz

*O all ye nations, praise the Lord, O praise the Lord, all ye people.*

*Praise Jehovah in His strength; all that hath life and breath, all nations, now praise Jehovah.*

*God's loving kindness unto us is great and merciful.*

*With heart and voice in Him rejoice; for His truth endureth evermore.*

*Alleluia, alleluia, sing praises! Alleluia, praise ye the Lord!*

*- from Psalm 118; adapt. Seth Bingham*

#### \*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 89:1-2

One I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever.

**All With my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness for all generations.**

One I declare that your steadfast love is established forever.

**All Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

**\*THE OPENING HYMN . . . no. 320**  
"The Church of Christ in Every Age"

Wareham; William Knapp  
Fred Pratt Green

**The church of Christ in every age, beset by change but Spirit-led,  
must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead.**

**Across the world, across the street, the victims of injustice cry  
for shelter and for bread to eat, and never live before they die.**

**Then let the servant church arise, a caring church that longs to be  
a partner in Christ's sacrifice, and clothed in Christ's humanity.**

**For Christ alone, whose blood was shed, can cure the fever in our blood,  
and teach us how to share our bread and feed the starving multitude.**

**We have no mission but to serve in full obedience to our Lord:  
to care for all, without reserve, and spread Christ's liberating word.**

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**\*THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

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

**Holy God, we forget how benevolent and even bewildering your grace is for us who feel so underserving. You seem to take great delight in granting your forgiveness and grace to those who we may consider beyond it, including ourselves. Forgive us for counting you short. Lift us up to a new understanding of your scandalous and unremitting grace, for the sake of your Son, Jesus, who bore the scandal of the cross for us and all humankind.**

**\*THE SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

One Through Jesus Christ forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. In Christ, we have redemption through the blood of the cross; the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of his grace.  
All Thanks be to God!

**\*THE RESPONSE . . . no. 67, verse 1**  
"My Song Forever Shall Record"

*Puer Nobis Nascitur; 15<sup>th</sup> C*  
*Psalm 89; The New Metrical Version of the Psalms*

**My song forever shall record the tender mercies of the Lord;  
Your faithful love will I proclaim, and every age shall know your name.**

**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 LESSON FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES**

Genesis 25:21-34

Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the Lord. And the Lord said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger." When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

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

#### THE ANTHEM

"O Holy Spirit, Lord of Grace"

Martin How

*O Holy Spirit, Lord of grace, eternal fount of love,  
in flame we pray, our inmost hearts with fire from heaven above.  
As thou in bond of love dost join the Father and the Son,  
so fill us all with mutual love, and knit our hearts in one.  
All glory to the Father be, all glory to the Son, and glory Holy Ghost, to thee,  
while endless ages run. Amen.*

- Charles Coffin

#### THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

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

#### THE SERMON

"A Scandalous Grace"

Rev. John VanderZee

### WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

#### A TIME OF INTENTIONAL SILENCE

#### \*THE HYMN . . . no 531

*Seed Scattered*; Dan Feiten

"Seed, Scattered and Sown"

**Refrain** Seed, scattered and sown; wheat, gathered and grown;  
Bread, broken and shared as one, the Living Bread of God.  
Vine, fruit of the land, wine, work of our hands;  
One cup that is shared by all; the Living Cup, the Living Bread of God.

Is not the bread we break a sharing in our Lord?

Is not the cup we bless the blood of Christ outpoured? *Refrain*

The seed which falls on rock will wither and will die.

The seed within good ground will flower and have no life. *Refrain*

As wheat upon the hills was gathered and was grown,

So may the church of God be gathered into one. *Refrain*

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**\*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*in unison*)

God's reconciling act in Jesus Christ is a mystery which the Scriptures describe in various ways. It is called the sacrifice of a lamb, a shepherd's life given for his sheep, atonement by a priest; again it is ransom of a slave, payment of debt, vicarious satisfaction of a legal penalty, and victory over the powers of evil. These are expressions of a truth which remains beyond the reach of all theory in the depths of God's love for man. They reveal the gravity, cost, and sure achievement of God's reconciling work.

- from *The Confession of 1967*, 9.09

**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/>

"One More Step Along the World I Go"

Sydney Carter

*One more step along the world I go,  
from the old things to the new, keep me traveling along with you:  
and it's from the old I travel to the new, keep me traveling along with you.  
Round the corner of the world I turn, more and more about the world I learn;  
all the new things that I see you'll keep looking at along with me:  
As I travel through the bad and good, keep me traveling the way I should,  
where I see no way to go you'll be telling me the way, I know:  
Give me courage when the world is rough, keep me loving though the world is tough,  
leap and sing in all I do, keep me traveling along with you:  
and it's from the old I travel to the new, keep me traveling along with you.*

\*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 SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

The Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The Words of Invitation to the Table

One The Lord be with you.

**All And also with you.**

One Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

One Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

One ...with the angels and archangels and all the company of heaven,  
we join their unending hymn:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and 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.**

*the prayer continues...*

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.**

The Words of the Institution of the Supper of our Lord  
The Communion of the People of God  
The Prayer After Communion

## **WE DISPERSE TO SERVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR**

**\*THE CLOSING HYMN . . . no. 767**

*San Anselmo; Daniel Charles Damon*

*"Together We Serve"*

**Together we serve, united by love, inviting God's world to the glorious feast.  
We work and we pray through sorrow and joy, extending God's love to the last and the least.  
We seek to become a beacon of hope, a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.  
We learn, year by year, to let love shine through until we see Christ in each person we meet.  
We welcome the scarred, the wealthy, the poor, the busy, the lonely, and all who need care.  
We offer a home to those who will come, our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.  
Together, by grace, we witness and work, remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong.  
Together we serve in Spirit and truth, remembering love is the strength of our song.**

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**\*THE SENDING AND BENEDICTION**

**THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

*"One More Step Along the World I Go"*

Sydney Carter

*You are older than the world can be, you are younger than the life in me,  
ever old and ever new, keep me traveling along with you:  
and it's from the old I travel to the new, keep me traveling along with you.*

**THE POSTLUDE**

**Leading worship this morning:**

Bridge Co-Pastors John and Wendy VanderZee  
Liturgist Becky Sparks-Thissen  
Director of Music Robert Nicholls  
The Gathering Choir of First Presbyterian Church

The flowers today are given by Barb Witte to the glory of God and in honor of her maternal grandfather, Carl Winnebald (born 8/3/1888) and her aunt Mary Louise Stein.

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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. When the CDC COVID-19 Community Level is Red/High, masking is required and eating in groups is discontinued in our building; when the Level is Yellow/Medium or Green/Low, masking is recommended and eating in groups can resume. **The current CDC Level is Red/High**, so please wear a mask in the building and help us practice good public health.

**Thank you** to all who have already completed the survey recently sent by the **Education Committee**. If you haven't completed the **brief survey**, please take a few minutes in the next few days to do so on [Survey Monkey](#). Your answers will help the Education Committee plan Christian education opportunities for all. Thank you!

Our third summertime **One God, One Community** gathering is set for next **Sunday, August 14, 6:30 p.m.** at Temple Adath B'Nai Israel. The topic for the evening will be how each of our faith communities addresses discrimination. Mark your calendars and make a point to join our friends in faith for this important discussion.

As the CDC COVID-19 Community Level is still Red/High, **next week's Carry-In Breakfast has been cancelled**. Thank you for your understanding and for continuing to keep others safe by practicing good public health.

### Weekly Calendar

*Elder of the Week: Michael Thissen*

#### **Sunday, August 7**

*Daily Reading: Psalm 139*

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

#### **Monday, August 8**

*Daily Reading Mark 9:42-50*

#### **Tuesday, August 9**

*Daily Reading: Mark 10:1-16*

#### **Wednesday, August 10**

*Daily Reading: Mark 10:17-31*

- 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting

#### **Thursday, August 11**

*Daily Reading: Mark 10:32-45*

#### **Friday, August 12**

*Daily Reading: Mark 10:46-52*

#### **Saturday, August 13**

*Daily Reading: Mark 11:1-11*



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