



October 16, 2022

The Nineteenth 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.firstpresevansville.com](http://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

*\*You may rise in Body or Spirit.*

#### THE MUSIC FOR GATHERING

"The Strife is O'er"

arr. Robert Nicholls

#### THE INTROIT

"O All Ye Nations" (SWV 215)

Heinrich Schütz

*O all ye nations, praise the Lord, O praise the Lord, all ye people.  
Praise ye Jehovah in his strength; all that hath life praise Jehovah.  
God's loving kindness unto us is great and merciful.  
With heart and voice in him rejoice; for his truth endureth ever more.  
Alleluia, sing praises! Alleluia, praise ye the Lord!*

- Psalm 117, adapt. Seth Bingham

#### \*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

One No matter how far from God we seem to be, we do not lose heart:

**All For the days are surely coming, says the Lord.**

One No matter how many obstacles we face in life, in the church,  
we do not lose heart:

**All For the days are surely coming, says the Lord.**

One No matter how hard it is to continually pray and work for justice,  
we do not lose heart:

**All For the days are surely coming, says the Lord,  
when I will forgive and restore my people;  
when I will equip them for every good work;  
and when I will grant justice, for I hear the cries day and night.**

**\*THE OPENING HYMN . . . no. 664**  
"Morning Has Broken"

*Bunessan; Gaelic Melody*  
Eleanor Farjeon

**Morning has broken like the first morning; blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!**

**Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven, like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.**

**Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning born of the one light Eden saw play.  
Praise with elation; praise every morning, God's recreation of the new day!**

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**\*THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

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

**Gracious God, We do not keep your word before us always and follow your teachings. Instead, we turn away from your demanding truth and wander toward easier options. Forgive us, we pray, for pursuing our own desires rather than yours. Forgive us for growing weary in following you; for failing to pray and work tirelessly for justice; for losing hope in your power to transform the powers of this world. Tune our ears to the sound of your justice. Turn our hearts to your commandments and word of grace. And hear us as we silently pray...**

**\*THE SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

**\*THE DECLARATION OF PARDON**

**One** In Christ we are forgiven and washed clean. God gives us not just a second chance, but a new beginning. With joy, let us forgive one another.  
**All** Thanks be to God! Amen!

**\*THE RESPONSE . . . no. 441, verse 1**  
"Hear the Good News of Salvation"

*Nettleton; John Wyeth, collector*  
John B. Renville (Dakota)

**Hear the good news of salvation: Jesus died to show God's love.  
Such great kindness! Such great mercy! Come to us from heaven above.  
Jesus Christ, how much I love you! Jesus Christ, you save from sin!  
How I love you! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.**

*English Trans. Metrical Version © 1989 Jane Parker Huber (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)*

**THE WORDS OF WELCOME**

The Greetings Among the People of God  
The Announcements

**WE HEAR THE WORD OF LIFE**

**THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**THE LESSON FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES**

Jeremiah 31:27-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of humans and the seed of animals. And just as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring evil, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the Lord. In those days they shall no longer say:

"The parents have eaten sour grapes,  
and the children's teeth are set on edge."

But all shall die for their own sins; the teeth of the one who eats sour grapes shall be set on edge.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt - a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

One The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

## THE PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 121

One I lift up my eyes to the hills - from where will my help come?

All My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

One He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

All He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

One The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

All The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night.

One The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

All The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in  
from this time on and forevermore.

## THE ANTHEM

"I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes"

Leo Sowerby

*I will lift up mine eyes unto the Lord, from whence cometh my help.*

*My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.*

*He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: He that keepeth thee will not slumber.*

*Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.*

*The Lord is thy keeper; thy shade upon thy right hand.*

*The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.*

*The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil, he shall preserve thy soul.*

*The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore. Amen. - Psalm 121*

## THE CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Following the Children's Moment, those in PreK through 5<sup>th</sup> grades may go to Sunday School. Parents may pick up their children after worship from Room #104 in the education wing.

## THE GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 18:1-8

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' " And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

One The Gospel of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

## THE SERMON

Rev. Wendy VanderZee

"Persistent Prayer"

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### A TIME OF INTENTIONAL SILENCE

#### \*THE HYMN . . . no. 722

"Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak"

*Canonbury*; Robert Schumann  
Frances Ridley Havergal

Lord, speak to me that I may speak in living echoes of your tone.  
As you have sought, so let me seek your erring children, lost and lone.  
O lead me, Lord, that I may lead the wandering and the wavering feet.  
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed your hungering ones with manna sweet.  
O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the precious truths which you impart.  
And wing my words that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart.  
O fill me with your fullness, Lord, until my very heart o'erflow  
in kindling thought and glowing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.  
O use me, Lord, use even me, just as you will, and when, and where  
until your blessed face I see, your rest, your joy, your glory share.

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

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.  
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,  
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,  
and binds us together with all believers  
in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles  
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,  
engages us through the Word proclaimed,  
claims us in the waters of baptism,  
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,  
and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage  
to pray without ceasing,  
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,  
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,  
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,  
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,  
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks  
and to live holy and joyful lives,  
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,  
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

- from *A Brief Statement of Faith*, Presbyterian Church (USA)

### 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/>*

"Standing on the Promises"

#### \*The Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings . . . no. 607

"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

Sandra Eithun  
*Old Hundredth*  
Neil Weatherhogg

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

\*The Prayer of Dedication

Offertory Response

"Thank you for the World So Sweet"

arr. Robert Nicholls

*Thank you for the world so sweet; thank you for the food we eat,  
Thank you for the birds that sing; thank you, God, for everything.*

- E. Rutter Leatham

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Sharing of Joys and Concerns

One All these we lift to the Lord;

All Lord, hear our prayer.

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 SERVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR

\*THE CLOSING HYMN . . . no. 692

*Wild Mountain Thyme*; Irish melody

"Spirit, Open My Heart"

Ruth Duck

**Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving. Spirit, open my heart.**

**God, replace my stormy heart with a heart that's kind and tender.**

**All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender.**

**Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.**

**As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving. Spirit, open my heart.**

**Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story.**

**In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory.**

**Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.**

**As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving. Spirit, open my heart.**

**May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of sister, brother.**

**In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another.**

**Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.**

**As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving. Spirit, open my heart.**

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\*THE SENDING AND BENEDICTION

THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"Benediction"

arr. Kevin Siegfried

*Holy, holy, holiness unto the Lord, Love ye one another.*

- Slow March, Brother Ephraim Frost

THE POSTLUDE

"Voluntary in A minor"

Robert Nicholls

## Leading worship this morning:

Bridge Co-Pastors Wendy and John VanderZee  
Liturgist Jessica Montgomery  
Director of Music Robert Nicholls  
The Choir of First Presbyterian Church  
The Handbell Choir of First Presbyterian Church  
The Handchime Choir of First Presbyterian Church, Abby Greenwell, director

The flowers today are given by Barb Witte to the glory of God and in celebration of her and her daughter, Karen Tidd's, birthdays.

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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. **The current CDC Level is Green/Low**; thank you for practicing good public health.

Autumn is the time of year when we begin to take stock of many blessings in our lives and give thanks for them. The Mission Committee invites you to join other First Pres households in a "Count Your Blessings" activity that will help you focus on simple blessings that many in our community do not share. This activity also raises awareness and financial support for the annual CROP walk that contributes to local food service organizations who serve those in need in our community. **A Count Your Blessings** activity calendar is attached to this bulletin; see what simple blessings you have for which you can give thanks.

This year's **Silent Movie** will take place this **Saturday, October 22 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Sanctuary. Director of Music Robert Nicholls will improvise a live soundtrack to the 1928 silent film *The Man Who Laughs*. Donations to support First Pres musicians' participation in summer camps will be warmly welcomed that evening.

Our Security and Safety Committee wants to teach you what to do in an emergency situation here at First Pres. Everyone in the congregation is encouraged to join Gerald Summers in Fellowship Hall on **November 6 or 13** at 9:30 a.m. to **learn what to do** in response to weather and other emergencies when in the First Pres building.

Little Lambs invites you to the 11<sup>th</sup> annual **Little Lambs in Chic Clothing** fashion show and luncheon this **Thursday, October 20** at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$30 per person, and all proceeds support Little Lambs' mission of building a community of healthy and safe children. Contact Little Lambs to reserve your seat: 812-425-5262; [littlelambsevansville@gmail.com](mailto:littlelambsevansville@gmail.com).

Mark your calendars and be sure to join in the **closing celebration** for the church's Bicentennial on **Sunday, October 30**. We will celebrate the rich history of our congregation all morning, with **special receptions** following both morning services.

# Weekly Calendar

*Elder of the Week: Sue Schriber*

## **Sunday, October 16**

*Daily Reading: Psalm 46*

- 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
- 9:30 a.m. Emergency Training
- 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
- 11:15 a.m. Fellowship Time
- 11:30 a.m. Music Support Committee
- 6:30 p.m. First Light

## **Monday, October 17**

*Daily Reading Matthew 11:16-24*

- 10:00 a.m. Mission Committee

## **Tuesday, October 18**

*Daily Reading: Matthew 11:25-30*

- 3:45 p.m. Choir Teens
- 4:45 p.m. Handbells/Handchimes
- 5:45 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal

## **Wednesday, October 19**

*Daily Reading: Matthew 12:1-14*

- 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Education Committee
- 7:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting

## **Thursday, October 20**

*Daily Reading: Matthew 12:15-21*

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

## **Friday, October 21**

*Daily Reading: Matthew 12:22-32*

## **Saturday, October 22**

*Daily Reading: Matthew 12:33-42*

- 7:00 p.m. Silent Movie: *The Man Who Laughs*



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First Presbyterian Church  
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