



March 5, 2023

The Second Sunday in Lent

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](https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurchEvansvilleIndiana). 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](https://www.youtube.com/) channel.

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

**You may rise in Body or Spirit.*

THE PRELUDE

"Andante Religoso" Op. 173

Mel Bonis

THE INTROIT

"Preces"

Peter Nardone

O Lord, open thou our lips and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us. O Lord, make haste to help us.

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.

Praise ye the Lord. The Lord's name be praised.

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

One As God set Abram, Sarai, and Lot on a journey, God calls us to follow in trust.

All **God is able to make us more than we have been and blesses us on our way.**

One As Jesus invited Nicodemus to be born again, Christ invites us to become a new creation.

All **Christ calls us out of darkness into his marvelous light, and we are saved through him.**

*THE OPENING HYMN . . . no. 393

"O Day of Rest and Gladness"

Es flog ein kleins Valdfögelein; 17th C
Christopher Wodsworth and Charles P. Price

O day of rest and gladness, O day of joy and light,
O balm for care and sadness, most beautiful, most bright;
On you, the high and lowly, through ages joined in tune,
Sing 'Holy, holy, holy' to the great God triune.

On you, at earth's creation the first light had its birth;
on you, for our salvation Christ rose from depths of earth;
On you, our Lord victorious sent Spirit forth from heaven.
And thus on you, most glorious, a triple light was given.

On you, God's people, meeting, the Holy Scripture hear,
Christ's living presence greeting, through bread and wine made near.
New graces ever gaining from this our day of rest,
We reach the rest remaining to spirits of the blest.

*THE CALL TO CONFESSION

*THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

Gracious God, we come before you in need of forgiveness and grace. You call us to trust in you completely, but we do not. We are timid and fearful as we follow your lead. We justify our actions and words, though we know they are not what you require. We struggle to understand the new life Christ offers, preferring old habits to risky change.

Forgive us, we pray. Help us to be born again into the new life of Christ, trusting that you have included us by grace in the family of faith. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

*THE SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

*THE DELCARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*THE RESPONSE . . . no. 183, verse 1

"Come to Me, O Weary Traveler"

*Austin; William P. Rowan
Sylvia G. Dunstan*

"Come to me, O weary traveler; come to me with your distress;
Come to me, you heavy burdened; come to me and find your rest."

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THE WORDS OF WELCOME

The Greetings Among the People of God
The Announcements

WE HEAR THE WORD OF LIFE

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE PSALTER LESSON

Psalm 121

One I lift up my eyes to the mountains - where does my help come from?
All **My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.**
One He will not let your foot slip - he who watches over you will not slumber;
All **indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**
One The Lord watches over you - the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
All **the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.**
One The Lord will keep you from all harm - he will watch over your life;
All **the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.**

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 12:1-4

The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you;

I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran.

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

THE ANTHEM

"Requiem Æternam" from *Requiem*

John Rutter

*Requiem æternam dona eis, Domine,
et lux perpetua luceat eis.*

*Te decet hymnus Deus in Sion:
et tibi reddetur votum in Jerusalem,
exaudi orationem meam
ad te omnis caro veniet.*

Kyrie, eleison. Christe, eleison. Kyrie, eleison.

Grant them eternal rest, O Lord,

And may light perpetual shine upon them.

It is fitting that a hymn should be raised unto you in Zion:

and a vow paid to you in Jerusalem,

give ear to my prayer, O Lord,

unto you all flesh shall come at last.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

THE CHILDREN'S MOMENT

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

THE GOSPEL LESSON

John 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.

"How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

"How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

"You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven - the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

One The Gospel of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON

Rev. Anna von Winckler

"At the Crossroads with the Spirit"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

A TIME OF INTENTIONAL SILENCE

***THE HYMN . . . no. 282**

“Come Down, O Love Divine”

*Down Ampney; Ralph Vaughan Williams
Bianco da Siena*

**Come down, O Love Divine; seek out this soul of mine, and visit it with your own ardor glowing.
O Comforter, draw near; within my heart appear, and kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.
O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn to dust and ashes in its heat consuming.
And let your glorious light shine ever on my sight, and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.
And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long, shall far outpass the power of human telling.
For none can guess God’s grace, till Love creates a place wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.**

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

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God’s image,
male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God’s commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God’s condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry,
God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.
Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.**

- from A Brief Statement of Faith, PC(USA)

THE MORNING OFFERING

The Invitation to the Offering

The Offertory

Envelopes are available in the pew rack, or you may give online at firstpreveoansville.com/giving

“Ashokan Farewell”

Jay Ungar; arr. Ricky Lombardo

*The Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings . . . no. 606

Old Hundredth

“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”

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 Choral Response

“The Lord Now Bless”

English Folk Melody; arr. Robert Nicholls

*The Lord now bless from heaven above and shine on you with radiant face;
The Lord who heaven and earth has made illumine you with peace and grace.*

THE PRAYERS

The Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The Prayers of the People

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. 340

Finlandia; Jean Sibelius

"This Is My Song"

Lloyd Stone and Georgia Harkness

This is my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country were my heart is; here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
But other hearts in other lands are beating with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean, and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover, and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
So hear my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for their land and for mine.

This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's kingdoms: thy kingdom come; on earth thy will be done.
Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve him, and hearts united learn to live as one.
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations: myself I give thee; let thy will be done.

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*THE SENDING AND BENEDICTION

THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"The Lord is thy Keeper"

Robert Nicholls

The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is 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.

- Psalm 121:5-8

THE POSTLUDE

"Pièce Héroïque"

César Franck

Leading worship this morning:

Pastor Anna von Winckler

Liturgist Scott Wylie

Director of Music Robert Nicholls

The Choir of First Presbyterian Church

The Flute Choir of First Presbyterian Church, Dick Bernhardt, director

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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.

Join Pastor Anna for a **Lenten Bible study** on the Magrey deVega book, *Savior: What the Bible says about the Cross*. Two sessions are available: Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m. via [Zoom](#) and Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the Bible Bunch room. The study will run through March 29. *Please note: This Thursday's class (3/8) will meet at 1:00 p.m.*

The **One God, One Community** Congregations are hosting a day of open houses next Sunday, March 12. Visit one or all of our partners in faith throughout the afternoon: from 2:00 to 3:15, tour Temple Adath B'Nai Israel and the Islamic Center; from 3:30 to 4:45, visit First Pres and Memorial Baptist, and from 4:00 to 5:00, drop by St. Ben's. Tours, historical tidbits, and of course, refreshments will be available at all 5 houses of worship.

On Tuesday, March 14, at 9:00 a.m. Little Lambs invites their supporters to a **"Thank You" breakfast** in First Pres' Fellowship Hall. No tickets are required, but RSVPs to Little Lambs (812-425-5262; littlelambs.evansville@gmail.com) are appreciated.

Weekly Calendar

Elder of the Week: Bonnie Rinks

Sunday, March 5

- 7:30 a.m. Band Rehearsal
- 8:30 a.m. Wide Awake Worship
- 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Time
- 9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
- 5:30 p.m. First Light

Monday, March 6

Tuesday, March 7

- 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 3:45 p.m. Choir Teens
- 4:45 p.m. Handbells/Handchimes
- 6:00 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal
- 7:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study (Zoom)

Wednesday, March 8

- 1:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study
- 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting

Thursday, March 9

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

Friday, March 10

Church Office Closed

Saturday, March 11