



March 19, 2023

The Fourth 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.firstpresevanville.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](#) channel.

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

**You may rise in Body or Spirit.*

THE PRELUDE

"Variations on a Theme by Clement Jannequin" (1529)

Jehan Alain

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 God does not see as mortals see.

We look on the outward appearance; God looks on the heart.

All **Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!**

One Once we lived in darkness, but now - as children of light -
we are called to what is good and right and true.

All **Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!**

*THE OPENING HYMN . . . no. 662

"Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

Ratisbon; German folk melody
Charles Wesley

**Christ, whose glory fills the skies; Christ, the true, the only light;
Sun of Righteousness, arise; triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.**

Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return till thy mercy's beams I see;
till they inward light impart, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, radiancy divine; scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day.

***THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

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

Gracious God, we are people who still love darkness rather than light. We keep shameful deeds secret, but flaunt our occasional acts of virtue. We see ourselves as blameless, but pass judgment on others. We do not stand firmly enough with those who are vulnerable, but step back, protecting ourselves.

Forgive us, we pray. Bring us into your light that we may see ourselves rightly. Bring us into your light that we may know ourselves loved. Bring us into your light that we may live more fruitful lives. Keep raising us, we pray, from the deadness of sin, and shine upon us with your grace. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. 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 23

One The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
All **He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul.**
One He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.
All **Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;**
One your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
All **You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.**
One You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
All **Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

1 Samuel 16:1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king." But Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me." The Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate." Samuel did what

the Lord said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, "Do you come in peace?" Samuel replied, "Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The Lord has not chosen this one either." Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The Lord has not chosen these." So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives." So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one." So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

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

THE ANTHEM

"The Lord Is My Shepherd" from *Requiem*

John Rutter

*The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.
He shall feed me in a green pasture, and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.
He shall convert my soul, and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;
For thou art with me: Thy rod and thy staff comfort me.
Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me:
thou hast anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.
But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.*

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 9:1-41

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him." But he himself insisted, "I am the man." "How then were your eyes opened?" they asked. He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see." "Where is this man?" they asked him. "I don't know," he said.

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner perform such signs?" So they were divided. Then they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet."

They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?" "We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this man is a sinner." He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?" Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from." The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him." Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you." Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind." Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?" Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.

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

THE SERMON

Rev. Anna von Winckler

"Asking the Right Questions"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

A TIME OF INTENTIONAL SILENCE

*THE HYMN . . . no. 697

Hendon; H.A. César Malan
Frances Ridley Havergal

"Take My Life"

**Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise; let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee, swift and beautiful for thee.**

**Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee, filled with messages from thee.**

**Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use every power as thou shalt choose, every power as thou shalt choose.**

**Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne, it shall be thy royal throne.**

**Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself and I will be ever, only, all for thee, ever, only, all for thee.**

***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 firstpresevoansville.com/giving

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

Passion Chorale; arr. Linda Scholes

*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 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. 394**

Westminster Abbey; Henry Purcell

"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

Latin, 7thC

**Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the church in one;
holy Zion's help forever, and our confidence alone.**

To this temple, where we call you, come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
come, with all your loving-kindness; hear your people as we pray,
and your fullest benediction shed within these walls today.

Here bestow on all your servants what they seek from you to gain;
what they gain from you, forever with the blessed to retain;
and hereafter in your glory evermore with you to reign.

Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son,
laud and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever one:
one in might and one in glory while unending ages run!

***THE SENDING AND BENEDICTION**

THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“Siyahamba”

Zulu folk song

Siyahamb' ekukhanyeni kwenkos.

We are marching in the light of God.

THE POSTLUDE

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Rockingham; arr. Ronald Kauffmann

Leading worship this morning:

Pastor Anna von Winckler
Liturgist Gary Morris
Director of Music Robert Nicholls
The Choir of First Presbyterian Church
Oboe Anish Pandit
The Handbell Choir of First Presbyterian Church

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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*. No prior registration or study is required. The class meets Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the Bible Bunch room. The study will run through March 29.

Director of Music Robert Nicholls will present a **free concert** of keyboard music in the Sanctuary **this afternoon at 4:00 p.m.** Invite your neighbors, co-workers, family, and friends to join you downtown for an afternoon of engaging music played on our many instruments. Composers represented include César Franck, Mel Bonis, Jehan Alain, Herbert Howells, and David Briggs.

Work on this year's **Interfaith Habitat House** is nearing completion, and your next opportunity for hands-on work is next **Sunday, March 26**. Visit the [Evansville Habitat website](#) to sign up to help put in sod early Sunday morning on the home at 318 East Virginia.

Ushers and Greeters - please plan to stay for a few minutes **following 10:30 worship** next **Sunday, March 26** for a brief gathering. Refreshments will be available as the group reviews duties and how-tos. If you're interested in joining this group of friendly folks, or contact the [church office](#).

Weekly Calendar

Elder of the Week: Steve Wylie

Sunday, March 19

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
4:00 p.m. Organ Recital
5:30 p.m. First Light

Monday, March 20

10:00 a.m. Mission Committee

Tuesday, March 21

11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
3:45 p.m. Choir Teens
4:45 p.m. Handbells/Handchimes
6:00 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 22

10:00 a.m. Lenten Bible Study
5:30 p.m. Worship Committee

Thursday, March 23

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

Friday, March 24

Church Office Closed

Saturday, March 25



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First Presbyterian Church
is a partner congregation with
the Covenant Network
of Presbyterians.

