

June 25, 2023

The Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:30 a.m.



First Presbyterian Church

609 South East Second Street

Evansville, Indiana 47713

(812)423-6297

www.firstpresevansville.com

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 WORSHIP GOD

**You may rise in Body or Spirit.*

THE PRELUDE

"Intermezzo in A Major" (*Op. 118, No. 2*)

Johannes Brahms

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

One God cares for us completely and calls for our total commitment.
All Christ gave his life that we might live and calls us to give our lives to him.
One Through Christ we have died to sin; in Christ we are fully alive to God.
All Come, let us worship God!

*THE OPENING HYMN . . . no. 50

Shepherds' Pipes; Annabeth McClelland Gay

"Deep in the Shadows of the Past"

Brian Wren

Deep in the shadows of the past, far out from settled lands,
some nomads traveled with their God across the desert sands.
The dawning hope of humankind by them was sensed and shown:
a promise calling them ahead, a future yet unknown.

While others bowed to changeless gods, they met a mystery,
invisible, without a name: "I AM WHAT I WILL BE";
and by their tents, around their fires in story, song, and law,
they praised, remembered, handed on a past that promised more.

From Exodus to Pentecost the promise changed and grew,
while some, remembering the past, recorded what they knew,
or with their letters and laments, their prophecy and praise,
recovered, kindled, and expressed new hope for changing days.

For all the writings that survived, for leaders, long ago,
who sifted, copied, and preserved the Bible that we know,
give thanks, and find its story yet our promise, strength, and call,
the model of emerging faith, alive with hope for all.

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*THE CALL TO CONFESSION

*THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

God of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac, God of Hagar and Ishmael,
who gave us your Son, Jesus Christ the crucified,
send your Holy Spirit to help us confess and truly repent of our sins.
We turn against one another; we fail to care for the weak and poor among us.
We pay no heed to the cries of the powerless; we seek our own advantage.
Your Son emptied himself upon a Roman cross
and revealed your eternal, self-giving love.
Forgive us, merciful God. Wipe sin from our lives
and let us find ourselves wholly in Jesus Christ, our Savior.
It is in his name that we pray. Amen.

*THE SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

*THE DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*THE RESPONSE . . . no. 378, verse 2

"We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom"

Merle's Tune; Hal H. Hopson
Kathleen R. Moore

Where is the peaceful kingdom? When will this new day start?
We long for peace and comfort to reign within each heart.
Yet not in our lives only, nor simply in our home:
we pray that all creation will one day find shalom.

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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 69:7-9, 16-18

One For I endure scorn for your sake, and shame covers my face.

**All I am a foreigner to my own family,
a stranger to my own mother's children;**

One for zeal for your house consumes me,
and the insults of those who insult you fall on me.

**All Answer me, Lord, out of the goodness of your love;
in your great mercy turn to me.**

One Do not hide your face from your servant;
answer me quickly, for I am in trouble.

All Come near and rescue me; deliver me because of my foes.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 21:8-21

The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, and she said to Abraham, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac." The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. But God said to him, "Do not be so distressed about the boy and your slave woman. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. I will make the son of the slave into a nation also, because he is your offspring."

Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the Desert of Beersheba. When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes. Then she went off and sat down about a bowshot away, for she thought, "I cannot watch the boy die." And as she sat there, she began to sob. God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation." Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer. While he was living in the Desert of Paran, his mother got a wife for him from Egypt.

One The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

THE SPECIAL MUSIC

“Bagatelle in G Major” (Op. 126, No. 5)

Ludwig van Beethoven

THE CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Following the Children’s Moment, children may return to their seats, as their Sunday School class is on summer break. Childcare (up to age 4) is available in room 109 in the education wing.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 10:24-39

“The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

“So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

“Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn

“‘a man against his father, a daughter against her mother,
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law -
a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’

“Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

One The Gospel of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON

the Rev. Anna Von Winckler

“The Meaning of Discipleship”

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

A TIME OF INTENTIONAL SILENCE

*THE HYMN . . . no. 718

Bourbon; attr. Freeman Lewis
Charles William Everest

"Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said"

**Take up your cross, the Savior said, if you would my disciple be;
take up your cross with willing heart, and humbly follow after me.**

**Take up your cross; let not its weight fill your weak spirit with alarm;
Christ's strength shall bear your spirit up
and brace your heart and nerve your arm.**

**Take up your cross; heed not the shame, and let your foolish pride be still;
the Lord for you accepted death upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.**

**Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength, and calmly every danger brave:
it guides you to abundant life and leads to victory o'er the grave.**

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*in unison*)

**Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God,
not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.**

**And being found in human form he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross.**

Therefore God also highly exalted him

**and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord!**

Amen.

- from the Book of Common Worship, PCUSA

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

"Träumerei" (Op. 15 No. 7)

Robert Schumann

*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. 546

Sicilian Mariners; 18th C

"Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

attr. John Fawcett, Geoffrey Thring

**Lord, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.**

**Thanks we give and adoration for your gospel's joyful sound;
may the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful to your truth may we be found.**

**Savior, when your love shall call us, from our struggling pilgrim way,
let no fear of death appall us, glad your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever reign with you in endless day.**

*THE SENDING AND BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

"Prelude in E Major" from *Well-Tempered Clavier I*

Johann Sebastian Bach

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Leading worship this morning:

Pastor	Anna von Winckler
Liturgist	Elesha Downs
Guest Pianist	Anne Fiedler

We thank Anne Fiedler from the University of Evansville for leading our music today; Director of Music Robert Nicholls is leading a group of FPC Musicians to Worship and Music Camp in Montreat, SC, and will return to worship next Sunday.

Happening at First Presbyterian Church

At its June meeting, Session voted to end First Pres' COVID-19 health protocols. One section of the Sanctuary will continue to provide extra spacing between seats, and hand sanitizer and masks are still available for those who need them. The **Elders and staff wish to thank** the congregation and visitors for **practicing good public health** over the past three years.

Gathering Choir is your opportunity to experience 10:30 worship from the balcony! **On Sunday, July 2**, 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!

Did you know members of the Wide Awake Band have been paid the same amount - \$50 per Sunday - for 23 years, and some band members ask not to be paid?

Weekly Calendar

Elder of the Week: Jill Griffin

Sunday, June 25

- 7:30 a.m. Band Rehearsal
- 8:30 a.m. Wide Awake Worship
- 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Time
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
- 11:45 a.m. Fellowship Time

Monday, June 26

Tuesday, June 27

- 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

Wednesday, June 28

Thursday, June 29

Friday, June 30

- Church Office Closed

Saturday, July 1