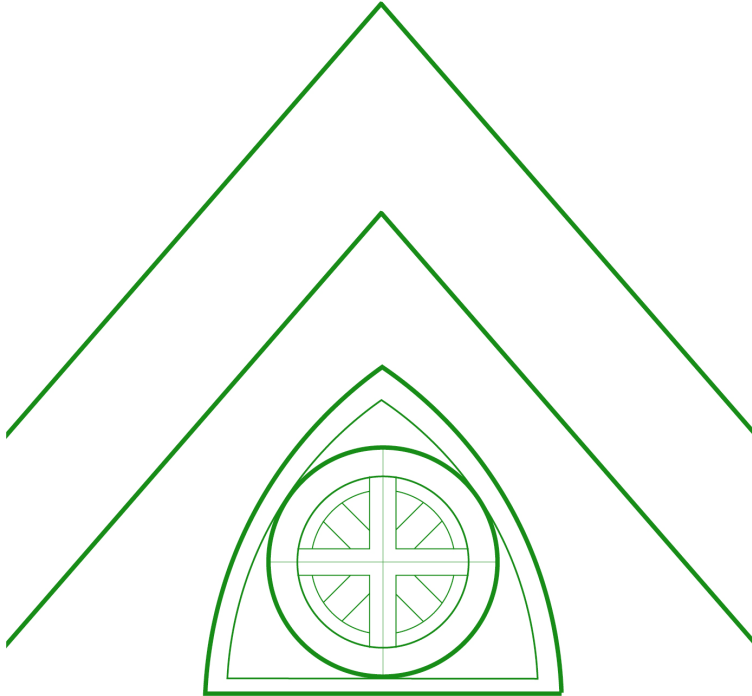


July 16, 2023

The Fifteenth 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](http://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](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 WORSHIP GOD

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

#### THE PRELUDE

"Deep River"  
"Adoration"

Adolphus Hailstork  
Florence Price

#### THE INTROIT

"Ego Sum Panis"

William Byrd

*Ego sum panis vivus, qui de caelo descendi.*

*Si quis manducaverit ex hoc pane vivet in aeternum. Alleluia.*

I am the living bread which came down from heaven.

If any man eat of this bread he shall live forever. Alleluia.

- John 6:51a

#### \*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

One God's creation delights and astonishes.

**All Let the people pause and wonder!**

One God, the Creator, has made it all.

**All Let all creation shout and sing! Alleluia!**

**\*THE OPENING HYMN . . . no. 305**

*Darwall's 148<sup>th</sup>; John Darwall*

*"Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!"*

Brian Dill

**Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!  
For Christ the Lord has led us through the ages long!  
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!**

**Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns supreme,  
Empowering us to catch the vision, dream the dream!  
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!**

**Let courage be our friend; let wisdom be our guide,  
As we in mission magnify the Crucified!  
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!**

**Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!  
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er the ages long!  
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!** © 1989 Brian Dill

**\*THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

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

**Faithful God, your word falls on hardened ground when our worldly anxiety  
and attachment to wealth crowd out your place in our lives. Forgive our frail and  
human ways and cultivate in us a spirit of trust and faithfulness, for you are our  
hope for deliverance. Amen.**

**\*THE SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

**\*THE DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

**\*THE RESPONSE . . . no. 21, verse 2**

*Lacquiparle; Dakota melody*

*"Many and Great, O God, Are Thy Works"*

Joseph R. Renville

**Grant unto us communion with thee, thou star-abiding One.  
Come unto us and dwell with us. With thee are found the gifts of life.  
Bless us with life that has no end, eternal life with thee.**

**THE WORDS OF WELCOME**

The Greetings Among the People of God  
The Announcements  
The RSCM Midwest Presentation

# WE HEAR THE WORD OF LIFE

## THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### THE PSALTER READING

Psalm 65:1-13

One Praise awaits you, our God, in Zion; to you our vows will be fulfilled.

**All You who answer prayer, to you all people will come.**

One When we were overwhelmed by sins, you forgave our transgressions.

**All Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts!**

**We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple.**

One You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds, God our Savior,  
the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas,

**All who formed the mountains by your power,  
having armed yourself with strength,**

One who stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves,  
and the turmoil of the nations.

**All The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders;  
where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call forth songs of joy.**

One You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly.

**All The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain,  
for so you have ordained it.**

One You drench its furrows and level its ridges;  
you soften it with showers and bless its crops.

**All You crown the year with your bounty,  
and your carts overflow with abundance.**

One The grasslands of the wilderness overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness.

**All The meadows are covered with flocks  
and the valleys are mantled with grain; they shout for joy and sing.**

### THE ANTHEM

"Rivers of Living Water"

Trevor Weston

*Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water, a river flowing in a parched land.*

*"If anyone thirst, let him come to me and drink."*

- John 7:37-8

### 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 FIRST READING

Matthew 13:1-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!" Then the disciples came and asked him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" He answered, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. The reason I speak to them in parables is that 'seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand.' With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says: 'You will indeed listen, but never understand, and you will indeed look, but never perceive. For this people's heart has grown dull, and their ears are hard of hearing, and they have shut their eyes; so that they might not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and understand with their heart and turn - and I would heal them.' But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it. "Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

One    The Gospel of the Lord.

All    **Thanks be to God.**

## THE ANTHEM

“O Sacrum Convivium”

Stephanie Martin

*O sacrum convivium: in quo Christus sumitur: recolitur memoria passionis ejus; mens impletur gratia, Et futurae gloriae nobis pignus datur.*

O sacred feast, in which Christ is partaken: recalling the memory of his suffering, our minds are filled with gratitude and a pledge of future glory to us is given.

- Saint Thomas Aquinas

## THE SECOND READING

Matthew 13:44-53

Jesus said, “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

When Jesus had finished these parables, he left that place.

One The Gospel of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

## THE SERMON

the Rev. Erika Takacs

“The Purpose of Parables”

## WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

### A TIME OF INTENTIONAL SILENCE

\*THE HYMN . . . no. 644

*Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein; 17<sup>th</sup>C*

“Give Thanks, O Christian People”

Mary Jackson Cathey

**Give thanks, O Christian people, for workers of our day  
who heed the call to service and make it their life’s way  
to go to feed the hungry, to tend to those in need,  
to work for equal justice, till all God’s folk are freed.**

**Give thanks, O Christian people, for leaders of our years  
who live to share with others our joy when Christ appears,  
to teach the ones who seek light, to guide the faltering feet,  
to lead the followers forward our living Lord to meet.**

**Give thanks, O Christian people, for all who love the Lord,  
who live each day believing in God's eternal Word:  
to share Christ's love in living, to witness with each deed,  
to use the talents given to plant the gospel seed.**

**Give thanks, O Christian people, for life in fellowship  
with all who trust our Savior their serving to equip:  
to ease another's burdens, to cope in joy and stress,  
to magnify God's message and Christ's great love confess.**

© 1986 *Fresh Winds of the Spirit* by Lavon Bayler (admin. The Pilgrim Press)

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

**We know that God is not confined to the story we can tell. The story itself tells us  
God works his sovereign will among all peoples of the earth. We believe God  
works beyond our imagining throughout the universe. We acknowledge no other  
God. We must not set our ultimate reliance on any other help. We must not yield  
unconditional obedience to any other power. We must not love anyone or  
anything more than we love God. We praise and enjoy God. To worship God is  
highest joy. To serve God is perfect freedom. Amen.**

*-from Declaration of Faith, PCUSA*

**THE MORNING OFFERING**

The Invitation to the Offering

The Offertory

*You may give online at [firstpresevansville.com/giving](http://firstpresevansville.com/giving) or by sending a check to the church office.*

*"Thou, O God, Art Praised in Sion"*

*Malcolm C. Boyle*

*Thou, O God, art praised in Sion, and unto Thee shall the vow be performed in Jerusalem.*

*Thou that hearest the prayer, unto Thee shall all flesh come.*

*Blessed is the man whom Thou chooseth and receivest unto Thee.*

*He shall dwell in Thy courts and shall be satisfied with the pleasures of thy house,  
even of Thy holy temple.*

*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee.*

*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace because he trusteth in Thee.*

*Trust ye in the Lord for ever, for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength.*

*Let the people praise Thee, O God, yea, let all the people praise Thee.*

*Then shall the earth bring forth her increase: and God shall give us His blessing.*

*- Psalm 65: 1,2,4; Isaiah 26:3,4; Psalm 67:3,6,7*

\*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 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. 719

*Ora Labora*; Thomas Tertius Noble

"Come, Labor On"

Jane Laurie Borthwick; descant by Stephen Buzard

**Come, labor on. Who dares stand idle on the harvest plain  
while all around us waves the golden grain?  
And to each servant does the Master say, "Go work today."  
Come, labor on. Claim the high calling angels cannot share;  
to young and old the gospel gladness bear.  
Redeem the time; its hours too swiftly fly. The night draws nigh.  
Come, labor on. Cast off all gloomy doubt and faithless fear!  
No arm so weak but may do service here.  
Though feeble agents, may we all fulfill God's righteous will.  
Come, labor on. No time for rest, till glows the western sky,  
till the long shadows o'er our pathway lie,  
and a glad sound comes with the setting sun, "Well done, well done!"**



## **\*THE SENDING AND BENEDICTION**

### **THE CHORAL 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 POSTLUDE**

“Final” from *Symphony II*

Charles-Marie Widor

### **Leading worship this morning:**

Pastor	Anna von Winckler
Guest Preacher	Erika Takacs
Liturgist	Gary Morris
Director of Music	Robert Nicholls
The RSCM Midwest Choral Residency	

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## Happening at First Presbyterian Church

We are pleased to welcome the musicians of the **RSCM Midwest Choral Residency** to worship this morning! They have been singing, learning, serving, and worshipping at the University of Evansville this past week, and we are grateful for their leadership in today's worship.

It's not too late to get your ticket to the most fashionable lunch in town! Contact Little Lambs ([littlelambs.evansville@gmail.com](mailto:littlelambs.evansville@gmail.com); 812-425-5262) today to reserve your seat at their annual **Little Lambs in Chic Clothing Fashion Show and Luncheon**. The event takes place **this Thursday** from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, and all proceeds from the luncheon and silent auction support local families in need.

*Did you know that each score of the Rutter Requiem that the choir performed on its 2023 spring concert cost \$13?*

### Weekly Calendar

*Elder of the Week: Ronda Hurt*

#### **Sunday, July 16**

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, July 17**

10:00 a.m. Mission Committee

#### **Tuesday, July 18**

11:00 a.m. Staff meeting

#### **Wednesday, July 19**

5:30 p.m. Worship Committee

#### **Thursday, July 20**

#### **Friday, July 21**

Church Office Closed

#### **Saturday, July 22**



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



# RSCM Midwest

RSCM Midwest was founded in 2021 as the Midwest Choir Festival by a group of church musicians and administrators around the Midwest. Now an RSCM America Summer Choral Residency, RSCM Midwest is a seven-day immersive choral experience for any singer age 10 and up able to match pitch. Grounded in musical excellence and spiritual formation, choristers of all ages spend each day rehearsing with top choral clinicians, making friends and playing games, and praying together and growing in their faith. *(The 2023 course was offered for adults only.)*

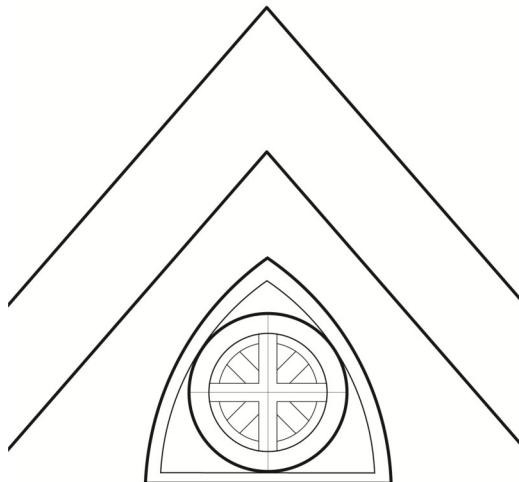
Adult choristers also have special opportunities for continuing education workshops and fellowship.

RSCM Midwest is organized by affiliates of RSCM America, the Presbyterian Association of Musicians (PAM), the Association of Anglican Musicians (AAM), the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM), and the American Guild of Organists (AGO).

We welcome singers from all traditions and faith backgrounds.

*If you would like to make a donation to support the future of RSCM Midwest, please click [HERE](#). Thank you!*

**Mark your calendars for RSCM Midwest 2024: June 10-16, 2024!**



# The 2023 RSCM Midwest Choral Residency

## *Participant Churches*

Baroque Artists of Champaign Urbana, Champaign, IL  
Bethlehem United Church of Christ, Evansville, IN  
Carthage College, Kenosha, WI  
Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, MN  
Christ Church Cathedral, Bloomfield Hills, MI  
Christ Church Cathedral, Nashville, TN  
Episcopal Church of All Saints, Indianapolis, IN  
First Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD  
First Presbyterian Church, Evansville, IN  
Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Lexington, KY  
Hope Church Movement, Phoenix, AZ  
St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, Dallas, TX  
St. James Cathedral, Chicago, IL  
St. Mary Magdalene, Toronto, ON, Canada  
St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Evanston, IL  
St. Olaf College Congregation, St. Olaf, MN  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, IN  
St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Lewes, DE  
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Cleveland, OH  
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Iowa City, IA

## *Staff*

Margaret Burk, Music Director  
The Rev. Erika Takacs, Chaplain  
James E. Bobb, Organist  
Annamarie Collins, Organ Scholar  
Isaac Drewes, Housemaster  
Robert Nicholls, Manager  
Matt Tylutki, Assistant Manager  
Joanna Fleming, Administrative Coordinator  
Jenna Freudenburg, Safe Church Officer  
Wendy McCormick, Registrar  
Jane Bernhardt, Treasurer  
Paul Blaylock, Adult Proctor  
Jake Cunliffe, Adult Education Coordinator  
Stephen Buzard, Music and Liturgy Coordinator