

July 30, 2023

The Seventeenth 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

"Entrée (Carillon) and Verset"
from *Heures mystiques (Mystical Hours)*

Léon Boëllman

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

One Blessed be God whose word gives hope and shapes our dreams,
All whose love has conquered death.
One Blessed be God who orders our way and guides our steps,
All who leads us into life.

*THE OPENING HYMN . . . no. 149

"All Hail to God's Anointed"

Rockport; Thomas Tertuis Noble
James Montgomery

*THE CALL TO CONFESSION

*THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

God who knows before we speak, we confess that we have turned away from you and have not lived with upright hearts. Forgive us for failing to follow you. Guide our feet to walk in your ways and serve your world to the glory of your name. Amen.

***THE SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

***THE DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

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

“Many and Great, O God, Are Thy Works”

Lacquiparle; Dakota melody
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

WE HEAR THE WORD OF LIFE

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE PSALTER LESSON

Psalm 105:1-11

- One Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name;
make known among the nations what he has done.
- All **Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts.
Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.**
- One Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.
- All **Remember the wonders he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced,**
- One you his servants, the descendants of Abraham,
his chosen ones, the children of Jacob.
- All **He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth.**
- One He remembers his covenant forever,
the promise he made, for a thousand generations,
the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac.
- All **He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree, to Israel as an everlasting covenant:
“To you I will give the land of Canaan as the portion you will inherit.”**

THE SPECIAL MUSIC

“Sheep May Safely Graze”

Johann Sebastian Bach; arr. Ricky Lombardo

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Romans 8:26-39

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all - how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died - more than that, who was raised to life - is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

One The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

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 13: 31-33, 44-52

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”

He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

"Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all these things?" Jesus asked. "Yes," they replied. He said to them, "Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old."

One The Gospel of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON

the Rev. Anna Von Winckler

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

A TIME OF INTENTIONAL SILENCE

*THE HYMN . . . no. 435

In Babilone; Dutch melody

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

Frederick William Faber

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.

There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.

There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.

And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

**If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's Word,
and our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.**

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

We believe

**that God has entrusted the church through the message of reconciliation
in and through Jesus Christ;
that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world,
that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker,
that the church is witness both by word and deed
to the new heaven and new earth in which righteousness dwells;
that God's life-giving Word and Spirit
has conquered the powers of sin and death
and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness, and enmity,
that God's life-giving Word and Spirit
will enable the church to live in a new obedience
which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.**

- from The Confession of Belhar, PCUSA

THE MORNING OFFERING

The Invitation to the Offering

The Offertory

You may give online at firstpresevansville.com/giving or by sending a check to the church office.

"Chorale and two variations"

Johann Pachelbel

from Christus, der ist mein Leben (Christ is my life)

***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. 734**

"Hope of the World"

*Donne Secours; Genevan Psalter
Georgia Harkness*

**Hope of the world, thou Christ of great compassion:
speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent;
save us, thy people, from consuming passion,
who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.**

**Hope of the world, God's gift from highest heaven,
bringing to hungry souls the bread of life:
still let thy Spirit unto us be given
to heal earth's wounds and end our bitter strife.**

**Hope of the world, afoot on dusty highways,
showing to wandering souls the path of light:
walk thou beside us lest the tempting byways
lure us away from thee to endless night.**

**Hope of the world, who by thy cross didst save us
from death and deep despair, from sin and guilt:
we render back the love thy mercy gave us;
take thou our lives and use them as thou wilt.**

**Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death victorious,
who by this sign didst conquer grief and pain:
we would be faithful to thy gospel glorious;
thou art our Lord! Thou dost forever reign!**

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***THE SENDING AND BENEDICTION**

THE POSTLUDE

"The Lord Bless You and Keep You"

*Peter Christian Lutkin;
arr. Martin Melicharek III*

Leading worship this morning:

Pastor Anna von Winckler
Liturgist Sue Schriber
Guest Organist Neal Biggers
The Flute Choir of First Presbyterian Church, Dick Bernhardt, director

Thank you to Neal Biggers for leading our music today; Director of Music Robert Nicholls is on vacation and will return to the office tomorrow.

The flowers today are given by Linda Arp to the glory of God and in memory of Larry Arp, whose birthday was August 2.

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Happening at First Presbyterian Church

It's hard to believe, but it will be only a few quick weeks before the school bells begin to ring again! Students and educators of all ages are invited to **bring their backpacks, book bags, and briefcases to worship next Sunday, August 6**, when we will celebrate our annual Blessing of the Backpacks. It's a great opportunity to invite your school friends to come to church with you that morning!

It's time for a favorite event to return! Mark your calendars and get your favorite breakfast casserole recipe ready for the **Carry-In Breakfast. On Sunday, August 13** at 9:30 a.m. come and share breakfast with your First Pres friends in Fellowship Hall. It's always a great morning, so plan to be here!

The Education Team is gearing up for the start of the new program year, and would love to add some fresh faces to the Sunday morning volunteer crew! If you'd like to **help in the nursery or children's education** on Sunday mornings, please contact Carrie Aiken at carrie@fpcevv.com or 812-484-2545.

Weekly Calendar

Elder of the Week: Gary Morris

Sunday, July 30

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 31

Tuesday, August 1

11:00 a.m. Staff meeting

Wednesday, August 2

7:00 p.m. Education Committee (Zoom)

Thursday, August 3

Friday, August 4

Church Office Closed

Saturday, August 5