

August 20, 2023

The Twentieth 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

"Allemande and Allegro" from *Partita in G Major*

George Frideric Handel

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

One Turn us, O God,

All away from the world's temptations and distractions.

One Return us, O God,

All to the quiet calm of your presence.

One Restore us, O God,

All to the path you call us to follow.

One Orient us, O God,

All to the hope of all that is possible through you.

*THE OPENING HYMN . . . no. 372

"O for a World"

Azmon; Carl Gottelf Gläser

Miriam Therese Winter

**O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.**

**O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved,**

**We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
that opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.**

**The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.**

**O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.**

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***THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

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

**God our refuge, you hear our cries for mercy. You lift the lowly and offer hope to
the hopeless. But we, who benefit from your grace, do not emulate you and your
ways. We are quick to condemn, exaggerate critique, and act mercilessly. We
confess the ways we demean and dehumanize others. We pray for your
forgiveness. Amen.**

***THE SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

***THE DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

***THE RESPONSE . . . no. 168, verses 1-2**

"Within Your Shelter, Loving God"

*Abbey; Scottish Psalter
John G. Dunn*

**Within your shelter, loving God, my refuge and my tower,
I safely walk by day and night beneath your guiding power.**

**Because I trust in you alone, no evil shall come near.
The strong defender of my home, with you I have no fear.**

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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 133

One How good and pleasant it is

All when God's people live together in unity!

One It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard,

All running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe.

One It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion.

All For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.

THE SPECIAL MUSIC

"Courante" from *Partita in G Major*

George Frideric Handel

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew.

...for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable. Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you. For God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.

Matthew 15:10-20

Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand. What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them." Then the disciples came to him and asked, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?" He replied, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit." Peter said, "Explain the parable to us." "Are you still so dull?" Jesus asked them. "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. For out of the heart come evil thoughts - murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them."

One The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

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 107 in the education wing.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 45:1-15

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, "Have everyone leave my presence!" So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh's household heard about it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living?" But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. Now hurry back to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay. You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me - you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.'

"You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you. Tell my father about all the honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly." Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

One The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON

Jerusha Van Camp

"What's in Your Heart?"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

A TIME OF INTENTIONAL SILENCE

***THE HYMN . . . no. 161**
"Woman in the Night"

New Disciples; Alfred V. Fedak
Brian Wren

**Woman in the night, spent from giving birth,
guard our precious light; peace is on the earth.
Woman in the crowd, creeping up behind,
touching is allowed: seek and you will find!**

Refrain **Come and join the song, women, children, men.
Jesus makes us free to live again!**

**Woman at the well, question the Messiah;
find your friends and tell: drink your heart's desire!
Woman at the feast, let the righteous stare;
come and go in peace; love him with your hair!** *Refrain*

**Woman in the house, nurtured to be meek,
leave your second place, listen, think, and speak!
Women on the road, from your sickness freed,
witness and provide, joining word and deed:***Refrain*

**Women on the hill, stand when men have fled;
Christ needs loving still, though your hope is dead.
Women in the dawn, care and spices bring,
earliest to mourn, earliest to sing!** *Refrain*

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

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

**The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

**The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.**

**In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

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

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.

“Aria” from *Partita in G Major*

George Frideric Handel

*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

One Lord, help us.

All We trust in you.

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. 756

Llangloffan; Welsh Folk Melody

“O God of Every Nation”

William W. Reid, Jr.

**O God of every nation, of every race and land,
redeem the whole creation with your almighty hand.
Where hate and fear divide us and bitter threats are hurled,
in love and mercy guide us and heal our strife-torn world.**

**From search for wealth and power and scorn of truth and right,
from trust in bombs that shower destruction through the night,
from pride of race and station and blindness to your way,
deliver every nation, eternal God, we pray.**

**Lord, strengthen those who labor that all may find release
from fear of rattling saber, from dread of war's increase;
when hope and courage falter, your still small voice be heard;
with faith that none can alter, your servants under-gird.**

**Keep bright in us the vision of days when war shall cease,
when hatred and division give way to love and peace,
till dawns the morning glorious when truth and justice reign
and Christ shall rule victorious o'er all the world's domain.**

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***THE SENDING AND BENEDICTION**

THE POSTLUDE

“Toccatà in F”

Johann Pachelbel

Leading worship this morning:

Guest Preacher	Jerusha Van Camp
Liturgist	Sarah Cross
Director of Music	Robert Nicholls

Thank you to First Pres' own Jerusha Van Camp for preaching today. Pastor Anna von Winckler is on vacation and will return to the office on Wednesday.

The flowers today are given by Jack Schriber to the glory of God and in celebration of Sue's birthday.

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Happening at First Presbyterian Church

Please plan to attend the **Congregational Meeting** next Sunday, **August 27 following the 10:30 service**. This will be a brief, but very important meeting to approve the membership of the Pastoral Nominating Committee. They will begin the search for First Pres' next permanent pastor shortly after the completion of the congregation-wide book study.

Beginning September 10, the **entire congregation** is encouraged to take part in the **study and discussion** of *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*. This book is available in the church office for \$15.75. There will be multiple groups (in person, online, and hybrid) meeting weekly through November 5, led by pairs of Session members. Watch for group times to be announced soon. Lessons learned during this study will inform the Pastor Nominating Committee in their search for our next permanent pastor.

Our Mission Committee organizes a crew to serve **lunch at United Caring Services** every second Friday of the month, and always **welcomes new hands** to help! There are opportunities for all - shopping, prepping, serving, cleaning - with time commitments as short as an hour lunch! September's menu (9/8) is tacos, rice, salad, and dessert. For more information, please contact Debbie Meyer (debbiejmeier@outlook.com; 812-568-6102) or Janet Cash (janet1219@msn.com; 812-629-3102).

First Pres is pleased to announce the formation of the an **LGBTQ small group!** This group will meet for lunch on Sundays approximately every 6 weeks. The first LGBTQ gathering will be hosted by Kathryn and Jerusha Van Camp on **Sunday, September 3**, at noon in their home at 259 Washington Ave. Attendees are invited to bring a side dish. Pulled pork and drinks will be provided. RSVP by phone or text at 812-774-7402. Future dates are October 29 and December 3. We hope all First Pres LGBTQ folks will join us!

Elder Jill Griffin and Pastor Anna are looking for a few grateful people to join the **Generosity Team**. These folks will help implement this year's fall stewardship campaign. If you have ideas about how to **help your First Pres friends show gratitude and generosity**, make a note on your yellow worship slip or contact either Jill or Pastor Anna (jg121@evansville.edu; anna@fpcevv.com).

Weekly Calendar

Elder of the Week: Gary Morris

Sunday, August 20

7:30 a.m. Band Rehearsal
8:30 a.m. Wide Awake Worship
9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
Children's Sunday School
11:45 a.m. Fellowship Time
5:30 p.m. First Light

Monday, August 21

10:00 a.m. Mission Committee

Tuesday, August 22

Wednesday, August 23

12:00 p.m. Staff meeting

Thursday, August 24

Friday, August 25

Church Office Closed

Saturday, August 26