

August 27, 2023

The Twenty-First 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

"Prelude and Fugue in D Minor"

Dietrich Buxtehude

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

One Our help is in the name of the Lord,
All **who made the heavens and the earth.**
One If it had not been the Lord who was on our side,
All **then the flood would have swept us away.**
One The God who saved Israel is still at work in the world,
All **hearing the cries of the afflicted and setting God's people free.**
Thanks be to God!

*THE OPENING HYMN . . . no. 2

"Come, Thou Almighty King"

*Italian Hymn; Felice de Giardini
Collection of Hymns for Social Worship*

**Come, thou almighty King, help us thy name to sing; help us to praise:
Father, all glorious, o'er all victorious,
come, and reign over us, Ancient of Days.**

**Come, thou incarnate Word, merciful, mighty Lord, our prayer attend.
Come, and thy people bless, and give thy word success;
Spirit of holiness, on us descend.**

Come, holy Comforter, thy sacred witness bear in this glad hour.
Thou who almighty art, now rule in every heart,
and ne'er from us depart, Spirit of power.

To thee, great One in Three, eternal praises be, hence evermore!
Thy sovereign majesty may we in glory see,
and to eternity love and adore.

***THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

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

Gracious God, you are always present and active amid your people. We confess that sometimes we fail to recognize and respond to your saving work in the world. We defer to power and privilege, expect the tried and true, and succumb to doubt and despair when your ways are not clear. Behold, you are doing a new thing; help us to perceive it. Forgive us when we do not respond to your call. Liberate us from our fears and self-imposed limitations. Guide us into the fullness of life and love that you are at work preparing. In Jesus' name we pray. 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
The Minute for Mission

WE HEAR THE WORD OF LIFE

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE PSALTER LESSON

Psalm 138

One I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.

All **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,
because of your love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**

One When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.

All **All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O Lord,
when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

One They will sing of the ways of the Lord, that great is the glory of the Lord.

All **Though you are high, you care for the lowly;
you perceive the haughty from afar.**

One Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your mighty hand shall save me.

All **O Lord, you will make good your purpose for me;
your love endures for ever; do not abandon the works of your hands.**

THE SPECIAL MUSIC

“Invocation”

Regina Pozzi

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. “Look,” he said to his people, “the Israelites have become far too numerous for us. Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country.” So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites and worked them ruthlessly. They made their lives bitter with harsh labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labor the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, “When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live.” The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, “Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?” The midwives answered Pharaoh, “Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive.” So God was kind to the

midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own. Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: "Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live."

Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said. Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?" "Yes, go," she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."

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 NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Romans 12:1-8

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God - this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give

encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

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

THE SERMON

the Rev. Anna von Winckler

“Network of Deliverers”

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

A TIME OF INTENTIONAL SILENCE

*THE HYMN . . . no. 310

St. Thomas; The Universal Psalmist

“I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord”

Timothy Dwight

**I love thy kingdom, Lord, the house of thine abode,
the church our blest Redeemer saved with his own precious blood.**

**I love thy church, O God. Her walls before thee stand,
dear as the apple of thine eye, and graven on thy hand.**

**For her my tears shall fall; for her my prayers ascend;
to her my cares and toils be given, till toils and cares shall end.**

**Beyond my highest joy I prize her heavenly ways:
her sweet communion, solemn vows, her hymns of love and praise.**

**Sure as thy truth shall last, to Zion shall be given
the brightest glories earth can yield, and brighter bliss of heaven.**

*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.

"For a Legendary Saint"

Jean Langlais

*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. 325

King's Lynn; English Melody

"By All Your Saints Still Striving"

Horatio Bolton Nelson

**By all your saints still striving, for all your saints at rest,
your holy name, O Jesus, forevermore be blessed!
For those passed on before us, we sing our praise anew
and, walking in their footsteps, would live our lives for you.**

We praise you for the Baptist, forerunner of the Word,
our true Elijah, making a highway for the Lord.
The last and greatest prophet, he saw the dawning ray
of light that grows in splendor until the perfect day.

All praise, O Lord, for Andrew, the first to welcome you,
whose witness to his brother named you Messiah true.
May we, with hearts kept open to you throughout the year
proclaim to friend and neighbor your advent ever near.

For Magdalene we praise you, steadfast at cross and tomb.
Your "Mary!" in the garden dispelled her tears and gloom.
Apostle to the apostles, she ran to spread the word.
Send us to shout the good news that we have seen the Lord!

We pray for saints we know not, for saints still yet to be,
for grace to bear true witness and serve you faithfully,
till all the ransomed number who stand before the throne
ascribe all power and glory and praise to God alone.

*THE SENDING AND BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

"Andantino in A-flat" from L'Organiste

Cesar Franck

Leading worship this morning:

Pastor	Anna von Winckler
Liturgist	Elesha Downs
Guest Organist	Neil Biggers

The flowers today are given by Rob and Emma Nicholls to the glory of God and in celebration of their twenty-first wedding anniversary.

We thank Neil Biggers for leading our music today; Director of Music Robert Nicholls is on vacation and will return to the office on Wednesday.

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Happening at First Presbyterian Church

Please stay for the **Congregational Meeting today following this 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 (debbiejmeyer@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!

Weekly Calendar

Elder of the Week: Casey Calvert

Sunday, August 27

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
11:30 a.m. Congregational Meeting
11:45 a.m. Fellowship Time
5:30 p.m. First Light at *Walther's Golf*

Monday, August 28

Tuesday, August 29

11:00 a.m. Staff meeting
6:00 p.m. Outreach and Membership

Wednesday, August 30

Thursday, August 31

4:30 p.m. New Choir Family Meeting
6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Friday, September 1

Church Office Closed

Saturday, September 2