

October 29, 2023

The Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:30 a.m.

Generosity

A GIFT OF THE HEART



First Presbyterian Church

609 South East Second Street

Evansville, Indiana 47713

(812)423-6297

www.firstpreesevansville.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

THE INTROIT

"Let Us with a Gladsome Mind"

Alan Ridout

*Let us with a gladsome mind, praise the Lord for he is kind:
for his mercies shall endure, ever faithful, ever sure.*

Let us blaze his name abroad, for of gods he is the God:

He, with all-commanding might, filled the new made world with light:

He, the golden-tressed sun, called all day his course to run:

The horned moon to shine by night, 'mid her spangled sisters bright:

All things living he doth feed: His full hand supplies their need:

for his mercies shall endure, ever faithful, ever sure.

- Psalm 136; arr. John Milton

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

One This is the day the Lord has made:

All a day for praise and prayer; a day for gratitude and generosity.

One This is the time God has given us:

All a time for singing and silence; a time for speaking and listening.

One This is the life to which God calls us:

All a life of humility and service; a life of faith and trust.

***THE OPENING HYMN . . . no. 20**
"All Things Bright and Beautiful"

Royal Oak; English Melody
Cecil Frances Alexander

Refrain **All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.**

**Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors; God made their tiny wings.** *Refrain*

**The purple-headed mountain, the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky:** *Refrain*

**The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one.** *Refrain*

**God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well.** *Refrain*

***THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

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

No words can express the depth of our need or reveal the extent of our sin. But you know us completely, O God. When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us, you forgive our transgressions. You rescue us from evil and clothe us with love. Humbly, we thank you; for no words can express our gratitude for the gift of your salvation. Amen.

***THE SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

***THE DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

***THE RESPONSE . . . no. 529, verse 1**

"Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether"

Union Seminary; Harold Friedell
Percy Dearmer

**Draw us in the Spirit's tether, for when humbly in your name,
two or three are met together, you are in the midst of them.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Here we touch your garment's hem.**

THE WORDS OF WELCOME

The Greetings Among the People of God
The Announcements
The Generosity Minute

WE HEAR THE WORD OF LIFE

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE PSALM

Psalm 136 (*selected verses*)

- One Give thanks to the Lord who is good, for the mercy of God endures for ever.
All Give thanks to the God of gods, for the mercy of God endures for ever.
One Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for the mercy of God endures for ever;
All who only does great wonders, for the mercy of God endures for ever;
One who by divine wisdom made the heavens,
for the mercy of God endures for ever;
All who spread out the earth upon the waters,
for the mercy of God endures for ever;
One who created great lights, for the mercy of God endures for ever;
All the sun to rule the day, for the mercy of God endures for ever;
One the moon and the stars to govern the night,
for the mercy of God endures for ever;
All who struck down the firstborn of Egypt,
for the mercy of God endures for ever;
One and brought out Israel from among them,
for the mercy of God endures for ever;
All with a mighty hand and a stretched-out arm,
for the mercy of God endures for ever;
One who divided the Red Sea in two, for the mercy of God endures for ever;
All and made Israel to pass through the midst of it,
for the mercy of God endures for ever;
One but swept Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea,
for the mercy of God endures for ever;
All who led this people through the wilderness,
for the mercy of God endures for ever;
One who remembered us in our low estate,
for the mercy of God endures for ever.
All and delivered us from our enemies, for the mercy of God endures for ever.

THE ANTHEM

"God so loved the world"

Bob Chilcott

*God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whoso believeth in him,
should not perish but have everlasting life.*

- John 3:16

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

2 Corinthians 8:1-12

We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia, for during a severe ordeal of affliction their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the favor of partnering in this ministry to the saints, and not as we expected. Instead, they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us, so that we might urge Titus that, as he had already made a beginning, so he should also complete this generous undertaking among you. Now as you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you - so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

I do not say this as a command, but I am, by mentioning the eagerness of others, testing the genuineness of your love. For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. And in this matter I am giving my opinion: it is beneficial for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something. Now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.

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 SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 6:33

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

One The Gospel of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON

Jerusha Van Camp

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

A TIME OF INTENTIONAL SILENCE

***THE HYMN . . . no. 697**

“Take My Life”

*Hendon; H.A. César Malan
Frances Ridley Havergal*

**Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.**

**Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.**

**Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use every power as thou shalt choose,
every power as thou shalt choose.**

**Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.**

**Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself and I will be ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.**

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

**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.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive
to serve Christ in our daily tasks and
to live holy and joyful lives,**

**even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying,
“Come, Lord Jesus!”**

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

THE MORNING OFFERING

The Invitation to the Offering

The Offertory

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

“On Jordan’s Stormy Banks I Stand”

Jason W. Krug

*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 Offertory Response

"We Give Thee But Thine Own"

Schumann; Cantica Laudis

*We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.*

- William Walsham How

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. 712

Forest Green; English Folk Melody

"As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought"

Frank von Christierson

**As those of old their firstfruits brought of vineyard, flock, and field
to God, the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield,
so we today our firstfruits bring, the wealth of this good land:
of farm and market, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.**

**A world in need now summons us to labor, love, and give,
to make our life an offering that all may truly live.
The church of Christ is calling us to make the dream come true:
a world redeemed by Christ-like love, all life in Christ made new.**

**In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today,
to serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way.
O God who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ your Son,
help us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.**

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*THE SENDING AND BENEDICTION

THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“Benediction”

Holy, holy, holiness unto the lord, Love ye one another.

Slow March; arr. Kevin Siegfried

- Brother Ephraim Frost

THE POSTLUDE

“For All the Saints”

Sine Nomine; arr. Robert Nicholls

Leading worship this morning:

Guest Preacher Jerusha Van Camp
Liturgist Steve Wylie
Director of Music Robert Nicholls
The Choir of First Presbyterian Church
The Handbell Choir of First Presbyterian Church

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2023 Session - First Presbyterian Church

As in all Presbyterian congregations, the Session is the leadership team or governing board of the church, responsible for all areas of the church's life and ministry.

It includes the pastor and three classes of elders serving three-year terms of service, all elected by the congregation.

Class of 2023

Sue Hartig
Michelle Haywood
Gerald Summers
Vacancy

Class of 2024

Casey Calvert
Ronda Hurt
Gary Morris
Steve Wylie

Class of 2025

Jill Griffin
Dan Korb
Bonnie Rinks
Sue Schriber

The Reverend Anna von Winckler serves as Moderator.



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



About Today's Choral Music

Let Us With a Gladsome Mind

Alan Ridout (1934-1996) knew from early childhood that all he wanted to do was write music. By the age of twelve he had written over one hundred works. By the end of his life a complete list of his works would run to nearly a hundred pages. He was a genius at nurturing talent among young musicians and held numerous teaching positions including at elementary, secondary, and university settings. *Let Us With a Gladsome Mind* displays Ridout's effervescent and spontaneous humor in a creative arrangement of what is hymn 31 in *Glory to God*. It is to be sung very fast, with highly contrasting settings of each verse containing vivid word painting. The music ends with what can only be described as a cheeky Amen!

God So Loved the World

Bob Chilcott (b. 1955) is a British choral composer, conductor, and singer who began his musical activities as a member of the Choir of King's College, Cambridge. He was the tenor in The Kings' Singers for twelve years. *God so loved the world* is a setting of John 3:16, one of the bible's most familiar texts in an AA' structure. The repeat of the initial verse adds a soprano solo to move above the choir's material with a coda added at the end.

On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand

On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand is a lively Level 3 arrangement by Jason W. Krug. Krug is a full-time freelance composer, arranger, clinician, and teacher. He has over 300 compositions and arrangements for handbells, piano, strings, organ, and choir.

For All the Saints

Robert Nicholls wrote this arrangement of *For all the Saints* for our handbell choir to play during the pandemic when singing was not possible during worship. The members of the handbell choir could rehearse widely separated and provided the majority of our worship music for an entire year, playing three works every two weeks.

Happening at First Presbyterian Church

First Pres' **LGBTQ small group** will meet today at noon. Kathryn and Jerusha Van Camp will host the group at their home at 259 Washington Ave. Attendees are invited to bring a side dish. The main dish and drinks will be provided. We hope all First Pres LGBTQ folks will come for lunch!

Looking for a way to wind down after the First Friday of the month? Come downtown and enjoy an hour of **fabulous organ music** this **Friday, November 3 at 7:00 p.m.** We welcome Destin Wernicke, a Masters student in Organ Performance at IU, who will share a program of German and French baroque music.

We hope you will stop by the "**Heart Card**" table in the hallway and share "what your hopes and dreams are for First Pres" as we continue our October focus on generosity. In addition, our *Connect* email newsletter features a link to [daily devotionals](#) about generosity. And if you're not receiving *Connect*, but would like to, click [HERE!](#)

Plan to have lunch with all your First Pres friends next **Sunday, November 5** as we **give thanks** for the Generosity commitments received in that day's worship. Following the 10:30 service, we'll gather in Fellowship Hall for **celebration and food**. The church will supply baked ham, hot rolls, and beverages, and attendees are encouraged to bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share. Volunteers are needed for setup (on both Saturday and Sunday morning) and cleanup - please contact Jane Bernhardt (812-480-9065; richbhart@aol.com) to help out! Let's celebrate together!

Are you curious about First Pres? Have you been attending and are interested in knowing more and/or becoming a member? Join leaders of the church for a time of **coffee and conversation on Sunday, November 12 at 9:30 a.m.** in Kerr Chapel. This is a great time to ask questions about First Pres and the Presbyterian church in general. Drop-ins are welcome, but you can also let us know you're coming by contacting the [church office](#).

Are you looking forward to cold-weather-food season? Mark **November 12** on your calendar and plan to stock up on your favorite savory soups and more at the Music Department's **Soup and Bake Sale** after both worship services. Proceeds help First Pres musicians experience special worship and music events.

November is almost here, and that means it's **Jiffy Mix time** at First Pres! The Mission Committee asks you to bring boxes of Jiffy Cornbread Mix to the church by Sunday, November 12 for the Evansville Rescue Mission's annual Gobbler Gathering. We have pledged **500 boxes** this year, so shop early, and shop often! Thank you for helping feed our neighbors!

While Pastor Anna is on vacation, **Pastoral needs** may be directed to Parish Visitor Jerusha Van Camp (812-774-7402; jerusha@fpcevv.com); or the Elder of the Week (this week's elder is Casey Calvert; swcrops@gmail.com).

Weekly Calendar

Elder of the Week: Casey Calvert

Sunday, October 29

- 7:30 a.m. Band Rehearsal
- 8:30 a.m. Wide Awake Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- 5 Practices Discussion Group
- Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
- Children's Sunday School
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
- 5:30 p.m. 5 Practices Discussion Group

Monday, October 30

- 7:00 p.m. 5 Practices Discussion Group

Tuesday, October 31

- 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

Wednesday, November 1

- 11:00 a.m. Generosity Committee
- 1:00 p.m. 5 Practices Discussion Group
- 6:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Education Committee

Thursday, November 2

- 4:00 p.m. Choir Beginners
- 4:45 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal
- 6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 p.m. 5 Practices Discussion Group

Friday, November 3

- Church Office Closed*
- 7:00 pm. First Friday Concert:
Destin Wernicke

Saturday, November 4

- 3:00 p.m. PNC meeting
with Susan McGhee
- Bedtime Put your clocks **BACK** one hour
- Daylight Saving Time ends
at 2:00 a.m. Sunday morning!*