

January 28, 2024

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

10:30 a.m.



First Presbyterian Church

609 South East Second Street

Evansville, Indiana 47713

(812)423-6297

www.fpcevv.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.fpcevv.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

"I Will Worship the Lord"

John Rutter

I will worship the Lord all the days of my life; I will tell of his glory and show forth his praise; I will sing and rejoice, for the Lord is my stronghold. Alleluia!

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

One Come! Let us give thanks to the Lord with whole hearts.
All Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
One Glory be to the One whose wonders are to be remembered.
All Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
One The Lord is gracious and full of compassion.
All Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
One The Lord feeds the righteous with truth.
All Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
One Come! Let us give thanks to God.

***THE OPENING HYMN . . . no. 307**
"God of Grace and God of Glory"

Cwm Rhondda; John Hughes
Harry Emerson Fosdick

God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

Cure thy children's warring madness; bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore.
Let the gift of thy salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore,
serving thee whom we adore.

***THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

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

Holy and all-powerful God, who commands all spirits, comforts those in distress,
and casts out destructive forces, we confess that we are unable to do your will.
We protect what is familiar and reject what is unknown. We admire those with
courage but excuse ourselves when we falter from the truth. We forget that you
are always with us, and that with you all things are possible.

Forgive us, lead us, make us new. Remove our desire to heed false prophets, and
show us your way; in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God,
Mother of us all. Amen.

***THE SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

***THE DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

***THE RESPONSE . . . no. 494, verse 1**
"Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts"

Quebec; Henry Baker
12thC Latin

Jesus, thou joy of loving hearts, thou fount of life, thou light of all,
from the best bliss that earth imparts we turn, unfilled, to heed thy call.

THE WORDS OF WELCOME

The Greetings Among the People of God
The Announcements

WE HEAR THE WORD OF LIFE

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE PSALM

Psalm 111

- One Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.
- All Great are the deeds of the Lord!**
They are studied by all who delight in them.
- One O Lord, your work is full of majesty and splendor,
and your righteousness endures for ever.
- All You make your marvelous works to be remembered;**
you are gracious and full of compassion.
- One You give food to those who fear you;
you are ever mindful of your covenant.
- All You have shown your people the power of your works**
in giving them the lands of the nations.
- One The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;
all your commandments are sure.
- All They stand fast for ever and ever,**
because they are done in truth and equity.
- One You send redemption to your people;
you commanded your covenant for ever; holy and awesome is your name.
- All The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;**
those who act accordingly have a good understanding;
the praise of the Lord endures for ever.

THE ANTHEM

“O Where Shall Wisdom Be Found?”

William Boyce

*O where shall wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding?
Man knoweth not the price thereof; neither is it found in the land of the living.
The depth saith, 'it is not in me'; and the sea saith, 'it is not with me'.
It cannot be gotten for gold, and neither shall silver be weighed for the price thereof.
No mention shall be made of coral, or of pearls: for the price of wisdom is above rubies.
Whence then cometh wisdom? and where is the place of understanding,
Seeing it is hid from the eyes of all living?
God understandeth the way thereof and he knoweth the place thereof.
The fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil, that is understanding.*

- Job 28: 12-15, 18, 20-28

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 61:1-3, 7

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,
because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion -
to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,
the oil of joy instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.

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 25:31-46

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick

and in prison and you did not look after me.' "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

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

THE SERMON

Anna von Winckler

"Invisible? Or Invisible No More"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

A TIME OF INTENTIONAL SILENCE

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*in unison*)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

- *The Apostles' Creed*

THE ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS AND DEACONS

The Words of Scripture

The Introduction of Candidates

The Constitutional Questions

The Prayer of Ordination and Installation

*Ruling Elders and Ministers of the Word and Sacrament are invited to come forward,
stand behind the candidates for ordination, and participate in the laying on of hands.*

The Declaration of Ordination and Installation

THE RECOGNITION OF RETIRING OFFICERS

THE MORNING OFFERING

The Invitation to the Offering

The Offertory

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

*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 Choral Response

“Commit Your Way to God the Lord”

Guiltsborough; Thurlow Weed

*Commit your way to God the Lord; to peace and truth and grace aspire;
then mercy shall be your reward; God’s promises, your heart’s desire.*

-Michael Perry

THE PRAYERS

The Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The Prayers of the People

One Hear us, O God,

All **your mercy is great.**

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

Donne Secours; Genevan Psalter

“Hope of the World”

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 CHORAL RESPONSE

"Grant to your servants, O God"

Richard Lloyd

*Grant to your servants, O God, to be set on fire with your love,
to be strengthened by your power, to be illuminated by your Spirit,
to be filled with your grace, and to go forward by your help;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

THE POSTLUDE

"Fanfare"

Richard Proulx

Leading worship this morning:

Pastor Anna von Winckler
Liturgist Elesha Downs
Director of Music Robert Nicholls
The Choir of First Presbyterian Church

We ordain and install new officers today in our morning services: Deacons Jean Beckman, Elesha Downs, Francie Hubbard, Glen Killion, Jake Kohlmeyer, Julie Lim, Debbie Shepherd, and Carolyn Stilwell; Elders Joan Fedor-Bassemier, Tom Kohlmeyer, Allison Mooney, and Jenny Singleton. And we gratefully acknowledge the service of our retiring officers: Deacons Tony Aiken, Lisa Foerster-Daniels, Jessica Montgomery, and Tracy Shaw; Elders Michelle Haywood, Sue Hartig, and Gerald Summers.

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Happening at First Presbyterian Church

BRIDGE - Building Respect and Integrity in Diverse Greater Evansville - is sponsoring a week of focus on Racial Justice culminating in a **Community Prayer Service**. Make plans to attend this inclusive and uplifting event next **Sunday, February 4, 2:00 p.m.** at Neu Chapel on the University of Evansville Campus.

As part of First Pres' participation in Racial Justice week, all are welcome to attend an event sponsored by the AIDS Resource Group **tomorrow evening at 6:00 p.m.** LGBTQ+ advocate, Cathy Renna, will speak on the **"State of the LGTQ Movement"**. This evening of discussion is expected to inform, inspire, and motivate the community.

A screening of the documentary *The Right to Read* is scheduled for tomorrow evening, **January 29, 6:00 p.m. at Nazarene Baptist** on Walnut Street. CAJE invites all to attend this this informative and inspiring evening.

Plan to wind down to next weekend at First Pres by attending this year's first **"First Friday" concert on February 2 at 7:00 p.m.** Chase Loomer, Associate Director of Music at Christ Church Cathedral, Indianapolis, will present a varied program on the CB Fisk Organ. Bring your friends and start next weekend downtown!

Weekly Calendar

Elder of the Week: Steve Wylie

Sunday, January 28

- 7:30 a.m. Band Rehearsal
- 8:30 a.m. Wide Awake Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 a.m. Session Meeting
- 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
Children's Sunday School
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time

Monday, January 29

- 6:00 p.m. Social Justice Event

Tuesday, January 30

- 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 3:45 p.m. Choir Teens
- 4:45 p.m. Handbell/Chime Rehearsal
- 5:45 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 31

Thursday, February 1

- 4:00 p.m. Choir Beginners
- 4:45 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal
- 5:00 p.m. PNC
- 6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Friday, February 2

- Church Office Closed*
- 7:00 p.m. First Friday Concert

Saturday, February 3