

February 11, 2024

The Transfiguration of the Lord

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

"Alabama Jubilee"

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

One The glory of God shines like a consuming fire.

All **We have seen the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

One The voice of God thunders like a mighty storm.

All **Out of the cloud, God speaks: This is my beloved Son; listen to him!**

*THE OPENING HYMN . . . no. 835

Closer Walk

"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

Trad. North American

Refrain: **Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
daily walking close to thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**

**I am weak, but thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.** *Refrain*

**Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?**

None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. *Refrain*

**When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;
guide me gently, safely o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore.** *Refrain*

***THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

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

God of all glory, beauty, and grace, we have tried to hide from you - to hide our faces, to hide our sin - yet you have never hidden your love for us. We have tried to search for you - in temples, in clouds, on mountaintops - yet you have already revealed yourself to us in the face of Jesus Christ. Forgive us, and transform us so that our lives may shine with your glory, beauty, and grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***THE SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

***THE DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

***THE RESPONSE**

“St. James Infirmary”

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 50:1-6

One The Lord, the God of gods, has spoken
and has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.
All Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, God reveals the divine glory.’
One Our God will come and will not keep silence;
before whom there is a consuming flame,
and round about whom a raging storm.
**All God calls the heavens and the earth from above
to witness the judgment of this people.**
One “Gather before me my loyal followers,
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice.”
**All Let the heavens declare the rightness of the divine cause;
for God, God alone, is judge.**

THE SPECIAL MUSIC

“Original Dixieland One-Step”

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

2 Kings 2:1-12

When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; the Lord has sent me to Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel.

The company of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and asked, “Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master from you today?” “Yes, I know,” Elisha replied, “so be quiet.” Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here, Elisha; the Lord has sent me to Jericho.” And he replied, “As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So they went to Jericho.

The company of the prophets at Jericho went up to Elisha and asked him, “Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master from you today?” “Yes, I know,” he replied, “so be quiet.” Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.” And he replied, “As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them walked on.

Fifty men from the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?” “Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,” Elisha replied. “You have asked a difficult thing,” Elijah said, “yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours - otherwise, it will not.” As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw this and cried out, “My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!” And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two.

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

Mark 9:2-9

After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters - one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

One The Gospel of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON

Anna von Winckler

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

A TIME OF INTENTIONAL SILENCE

***THE HYMN**

"Down By the Riverside"

Gon-na lay down my sword and shield down by the ri-ver - side,
Gon-na walk with the Prince of Peace down by the ri-ver - side,
Gon-na shake hands a-round the world, down by the ri-ver - side,

down by the ri-ver - side, down by the ri-ver - side. Gon-na
down by the ri-ver - side, down by the ri-ver - side. Gon-na
down by the ri-ver - side, down by the ri-ver - side. Gon-na

lay down my sword and shield down by the ri-ver - side, gon-na stu - dy
walk with the Prince of Peace down by the ri-ver - side, gon-na stu - dy
shake hands a-round the world, down by the ri-ver - side, gon-na stu - dy

war no more. I ain't gon-na stu-dy war no more, I ain't gon-na
stu-dy war no more, ain't gon-na stu - dy war no more.

I ain't gon-na stu - dy war no more, I ain't gon-na
stu-dy war no more, ain't gon-na stu - dy war no more.

***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 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.

"Do You Know What It Means to Miss New Orleans?"

***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 Response

"Lazy River"

THE PRAYERS

The Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The Prayers of the People

One Lord, by your Spirit,

All grant what we ask.

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

"When the Saints Go Marching In"

Traditional

Oh, when the saints go march-ing in, oh, when the
Oh, when the sun be-gins to shine, oh, when the
Oh, when the trum - pet sounds its call, oh, when the

saints go mar - ching in, Lord, I want to be in that
sun be - gins to shine, Lord, I want to be in that
trum - pet sounds its call, Lord, I want to be in that

num - ber, when the saints go mar - ching in.
num - ber, when the sun be - gins to shine.
num - ber, when the trum - pet sounds its call. *Repeat verse 1*

*THE SENDING AND BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

"Royal Garden Blues"

Leading worship this morning:

Pastor Anna von Winckler
Liturgist Tracy Shaw
Director of Music Robert Nicholls
The Purple Aces in the Hole

We welcome and thank the Purple Aces in the Hole from the University of Evansville for leading our music today.

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Happening at First Presbyterian Church

Today's the day for the Music Department's annual **Soup and Bread Sale!** Soups include split pea, lentil, chili, taco soup, broccoli cheese, and many more for **only \$10/quart**. First-come, first-served sales will take place at 9:30 and 11:30 today. All proceeds help our musicians attend summer music camps.

Two 30-minute **Ash Wednesday** services will mark the beginning of Lent this Wednesday, **February 14**. The two identical services will be held in **Kerr Chapel** at **12:15 and 5:15 p.m.** Each service will include the imposition of ashes. Please join us for one of the services as we take up the Lenten discipline.

Devotionals for the season of **Lent** are available digitally and in paper form. The entries are written by a variety of contributors, and take on the idea of making *local pilgrimages* - visits to places in the community where the writers' daily habits don't usually take them. Paper copies of the **daily reflections** are available on the marble table in the lobby, and digital editions are available on our [website](#) and the weekly e-newsletter, *Connect*.

Join Pastor Anna this **Lent for a weekly study** based on Matthew 25. In addition to taking a deeper dive into the details of the scripture itself, the study will lead participants to look for ways in which the PC(USA)'s Matthew 25 vision calls us to build congregational vitality, dismantle structural racism, and eradicate systemic poverty. Consider taking on the call of Jesus to do justice, act with mercy, and love kindness as part of your Lenten practice this year. Duplicate sessions will take place on **Wednesdays at 1:00 and Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. starting the week of February 18.**

Weekly Calendar

Elder of the Week: Jill Griffin

Sunday, February 11

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

Monday, February 12

- 6:30 p.m. Personnel Committee

Tuesday, February 13

- 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
- 6:00 p.m. Finance Committee

Wednesday, February 14

- 12:15 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service
- 5:15 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

Thursday, February 15

- 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 16

Church Office Closed

Saturday, February 17



First Pres is a Matthew 25 church, which means our congregation has accepted the PC(USA)'s invitation to follow Jesus' teachings in Matthew 25:31-46 by becoming active disciples and making a difference in our community and the world. As part of our Matthew 25 commitment, First Pres seeks to build congregational vitality, dismantle structural racism, and eradicate systemic poverty.

Building Congregational Vitality

American life has changed radically over the past generation. The Christian share of the US population is declining across every region, age, and demographic group, and the number of adults who do not identify with any organized religion is growing. As a result, the church is no longer at the center of American culture. Some say the church is no longer relevant at all.

As much as this new reality is alarming, it is also an opportunity for our congregations, worshiping communities, and mid-councils to wake up and seize the moment.

What is congregational vitality?

You might think that the vitality of a congregation or worshiping community is based on the number of members, the scope of programs, the size of financial gifts, or some other statistics.

Not so - at least not entirely.

Rather, a community's vitality is primarily its spiritual strength and its capacity for purposeful mission. Congregational vitality is evident in a worshiping community when its structural systems, finances, and discipleship practices are aligned in such a way that the community is actively engaged in the mission of God in their local community and the world, and they are powerfully focused on growing as disciples in the way of Jesus Christ. Faith comes alive when we boldly engage God's mission and share the hope we have in Christ.



What must we do to revitalize our congregation?

To some extent, many local churches find themselves spiritually exhausted, financially fragile, and structurally unsound. Sometimes, congregational life is discouraging - both for pastors and other church leaders who see apathy in their members, and for members who see the numbers in the pews declining year by year.

The Presbyterian Mission Agency of the PC(USA) has made a profound commitment to help turn things around. It proposes seven marks to help determine a congregation's current level of vitality - and then various processes for self-assessment, discernment, and renewed commitment to the habits that foster an energetic engagement with the Spirit's work in the world.

The 7 marks are:

1. A commitment to forming disciples over every member's lifetime. This leads first to personal transformation, as people put on the heart of Christ, and then to social transformation, as people joyfully go forth into the community and tackle the issues facing today's culture.
2. Embracing the call to evangelism. We show forth the love of Christ by our actions and our lives even more than by our words. Our relationships are genuine and caring. People know we are Christians by our love.
3. An outward focus. Our church is not a place to escape from the world, but rather our gateway to our community where we may be the hands, feet, heart, and mouth of Jesus Christ for people who are suffering or marginalized.
4. Empowering every member to discover their individual calling and the gifts God has given them so they can go forth and serve.
5. Spirit-inspired worship that challenges, teaches, transforms, convicts, and energizes us so when we are sent out, we have experienced the wonder of God and are changed for the better from when we arrived.
6. Caring relationships modeled on God's love. We open our doors and hearts to all people, and we build relationships modeled on God's love, which leads to genuine reconciliation and peace.
7. Congregations with healthy systems. Our mission focuses are clear. There is fiscal responsibility and accountability. We have thoughtful decision-making structures. Our leaders and staff enjoy a sustainable balance of work/rest time.



The theology of congregational vitality

God's gifts of Word and Sacrament establish and equip the church as the body of Christ in the world. The mission of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church flows from baptism, is nourished at the Lord's supper, and serves to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to all.

Worshiping communities experiencing congregational vitality will find themselves following Jesus into places of injustice and struggle bearing light and hope, demonstrating love and mercy, and working faithfully for justice and peace. Their efforts will be sustained by personal and congregational patterns and practices of prayer and worship, learning and reflection. They will be stewards of God's abundant gifts in service to God's children here and everywhere. They will demonstrate to the world God's promises and life-giving power in this age and the world to come.

Scriptures for study and reflection

Matthew 25:31-46, Acts 2:42-47, John 4:1-41, John 13:2-17,
Isaiah 6:1-13, Acts 6:1-7, 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

For more information: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/vitality/>