

First Presbyterian Church in Evansville, Indiana,
is called to embody God's love, made known in Jesus Christ,
in life-giving ways, and to engage with God
in transforming lives, communities, and institutions
to reflect God's goodness.

As a community of open-hearted disciples,
we covenant to support and encourage one another
as we explore God's grace on our journey of faith.

Convinced of God's Grace and Love,
we affirm that there can be no exclusiveness in the worship of Christ.
We welcome all regardless of race, ethnic heritage, national origin, age,
gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or socio-economic standing.
We encourage the full participation of all in the life of our congregation.



Welcome to Sanctuary Worship

We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate
in the worship, service, and program life of First Pres!

First things first! Children and their people are always welcome in worship.

- Activity sheets for children to use during worship are available near the nametag table by the doors to the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall.
- During the 10:30 Service, childcare for small ones up to age 4 is available in room 109 in the education wing.
- After the children's moment, children from kindergarten through fifth grade may go with the teachers to room 107 for Sunday School.

Please note that our worship services are live streamed.

You may visit our website: fpcevv.com,
our Facebook page: facebook.com/firstpresevansville,
and our YouTube channel: youtube.com/@firstpresbyterianeansville
to join us online and stay up to date on the ministry and mission of First Pres.

Following worship, please stay for refreshments and conversation in the parlor.

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

GATHERING

**You may rise in Body or Spirit.*

Congregational responses are printed in bold.

PRELUDE

"Kind Maker of the World"

arr. Robert Nicholls

INTROIT

"Create In Me a Clean Heart"

Healey Willan

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with thy free Spirit.

- Psalm 51:10-12

GREETING AND WELCOME

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

The Lord is merciful and gracious,

slow to anger and abounding in love.

God's promise is for all generations;

God's covenant is with every living being.

prayer continues...

...Hear us as we pray. **Amen.**

*HYMN . . . no. 618

Deo Gracias; "The Agincourt Song"

"O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High"

Thomas á Kempis

*O love, how deep, how broad, how high, beyond all thought and fantasy,
that God, the Son of God, should take our mortal form for mortals' sake.*

*For us baptized, for us he bore his holy fast and hungered sore;
for us temptations sharp he knew, for us, the tempter overthrew.*

*For us by wickedness betrayed, for us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
he bore the shameful cross and death; for us gave up his dying breath.*

*For us he rose from death again; for us he went on high to reign;
for us he sent the Spirit here to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.*

*All glory to our Lord and God, for love so deep, so high, so broad:
the Trinity whom we adore forever and forevermore.*

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

We hear people crying out for justice, God of compassion, but tell them to be quiet so we can hear our favorite politicians. There are those who stand by the side of the road with a sign reading 'will work for hope,' and we speed up to get past them. There are those who have been tripped by the struggles of life, and we wonder why they can't pull themselves back to their feet.

Have mercy on us, God whose tears mingle with those we have ignored. You challenge us to gather up the poor, the angry, the hopeless, the lost, the most vulnerable and to bring them to you, even as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, has brought us to you through his life and love.

prayer continues in silence...

*RESPONSE . . . no. 695
"Change My Heart, O God"

Change My Heart
Eddie Espinosa

Change my heart, O God; make it ever true. Change my heart, O God; may I be like you. You are the Potter; I am the clay. Mold me and make me; this is what I pray. Change my heart, O God; make it ever true. Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

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Take heart, dear friends. Look at what God has done!
God gathers us from wherever we have wandered and brings us home along hope's highway.
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven!

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

As we share signs of Christ's peace, ushers will collect the prayer cards. There are many ways to share signs of peace with one another. Feel free to cross your hands across your chest or to hold your hands together in front of you if you'd rather not shake hands or hug. Please ask before assuming the person you are greeting wants a hug or handshake. Smiles are always appropriate as we share signs of peace with one another.

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

READING

Jeremiah 31:7-9

For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back; I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path where they shall not stumble, for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

“Libera Me” from *Requiem*

Maurice Duruflé

Libera me, Domine, de morte aeterna, in die illa tremenda, quando coeli movendi sunt et terra, dum veneris judicare saeculum per ignem. Tremens factus sum ego et timeo dum discussio venerit atque ventura ira, quando coeli movendi sunt et terra. Dies illa, dies irae, calamitatis et miseriae, dies magna et amara valde. Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis. Libera me, Domine, de morte aeterna, in die illa tremenda, quando coeli movendi sunt et terra, dum veneris judicare saeculum per ignem.

Deliver me, O Lord, from eternal death on that dreadful day when the heavens and the earth shall be moved, and you will come to judge the world by fire. I quake with fear and I tremble awaiting the day of account and the wrath to come, when the heavens and the earth shall be moved. Day of mourning, day of wrath, of calamity, of misery, the great day, and most bitter. Eternal rest give to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. Deliver me, O Lord, from eternal death on that dreadful day when the heavens and the earth shall be moved, and you will come to judge the world by fire.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalms 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.”

The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 10:46-52

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.” So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.” Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CALL TO LIVE, LOVE, PRAY, GROW

All children and youth are invited to come to the front of the Sanctuary as we sing:

Be with us, God, show us your way. Teach us to live, to love, to pray.

Through Je - sus' life, help us to grow. Guide those who stay; guide those who go.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. Both staves include a '+' sign above the first measure, indicating a breath mark or a place to start singing.

Children 5th grade and younger may choose to go to Sunday School with their leaders while the singing continues; those who wish to remain in the Sanctuary will sing to the end and then return to their seats.

- SILENCE FOR REFLECTION -

***HYMN . . . no. 443**

“There Is a Redeemer”

Green
Melody Green

*There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God’s own Son;
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.*

Refrain *Thank you, O my Father, for giving us your Son,
and leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done.*

*Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names,
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, hope for sinners slain.* Refrain

*When I stand in glory, I will see his face;
there I’ll serve my King forever in that holy place.* Refrain

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SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

...In your steadfast love, O Lord, have mercy on us.

prayer continues in silence...

...In Christ’s holy name we pray. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

You may send a check to the church office, or give online at fpcevv.com/giving

“Hide Not Thou Thy Face”

Richard Farrant

*Hide not thou thy face from us, O Lord, and cast not off thy servants in thy displeasure;
for we confess our sins unto thee, and hide not our unrighteousness.*

For thy mercy’s sake deliver us from all our sins.

- Psalm 27:10

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE . . . 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.**

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

prayer continues...

...our crucified and risen Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

SENDING

*HYMN . . . no. 275

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

Ein' Feste Burg
Martin Luther

*A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing.
Our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe.
His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.
Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he.
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same, and he must win the battle.
And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him.
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure. One little word shall fell him.
That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth.
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also.
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still. His kingdom is forever.*

INVITATION TO MINISTRY AND MISSION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

“Sevenfold Amen”

John Stainer

BLESSING AND CHARGE

...this day and always. Amen.

...rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

POSTLUDE

“Ein' Feste Burg”

Johann G. Walther

Leading worship this morning:

Pastor Mary Beth McCandless
Liturgist Becky Sparks-Thissen
Director of Music Robert Nicholls
The Choir of First Presbyterian Church
The Handchime Choir of First Presbyterian Church

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Happening at First Presbyterian Church

This year First Pres participate in *A Lenten Call for Disrupting Power: TURNING OVER TABLES* by Kathy Escobar. This **daily devotional guide** (a few books are still available in the office) has questions for reflection and action at the end of each week. There are two weekly opportunities to join in discussion led by Pastor Mary Beth starting this Saturday: Mondays at 11:00 a.m. in Kerr Chapel (and on [Zoom](#)) and Saturdays at 8:00 a.m. via [Zoom](#) (no in-person meeting on Saturdays).

Book Group at First Pres meets **tomorrow evening, March 10 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.** (A Zoom option is available; contact [Francie Hubbard](#) to learn how to sign in.) March's book is *How the Post Office Created America*, a history of an institution we often take for granted. Author Winifred Gallagher makes an interesting and effective case that the Post Office contributed to most of the significant events and innovations in American history. As today's Postal Service faces new challenges, Gallagher urges readers to know its history and imagine its possibilities as the nation decides its future.

Longtime First Pres choir member **John Gibson** passed away on January 3. Family and friends are gathering for a **time of remembrance on Saturday, March 15** in Fellowship Hall. A brief, informal program including remembrances from family and friends will begin at 2:00 p.m., with a time of fellowship to follow. All are welcome.

Please note: the **church office** will be **closed this week on Thursday** in addition to Friday (March 13 and 14). Pastor Mary Beth is reachable by cell or email (812-872-4882; mb@fpcevw.com) in the case of emergencies.

First Pres is pleased to host the first author event in the Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library's 2025 **SPEAK series on Wednesday, March 19** at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. **Timothy Egan's** most recent book, *A Fever in the Heartland*, describes the rise of the KKK in Indiana (Evansville is featured many times), and how one brave woman brought about its downfall. He will discuss his work and research at this free event.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, March 9

- 7:30 a.m. Band Rehearsal
- 8:30 a.m. Wide Awake Worship
- 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Time
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
- Music Support Committee
- 5:30 p.m. First Light

Monday, March 10

- 11:00 a.m. *Turning Over Tables* discussion
- 2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. *Book Group*

Tuesday, March 11

- 3:45 p.m. Choir Teens
- 4:45 p.m. Handbell/Chime Rehearsal
- 5:45 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 12

- 5:30 p.m. Education Committee

Thursday, March 13

- Church Office Closed*
- 4:00 p.m. Beginner Rehearsal
- 5:00 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal
- 6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Friday, March 14

- Church Office Closed*

Saturday, March 15

- 8:00 a.m. *Turning Over Tables* Zoom
- 2:00 p.m. John Gibson memorial gathering



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

