

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 *Call to Live, Love, Pray, Grow*, 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](http://fpcevv.com),  
our Facebook page: [facebook.com/firstpresevansville](https://facebook.com/firstpresevansville),  
and our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/@firstpresbyterianevansville](https://youtube.com/@firstpresbyterianevansville)  
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

### INTROIT

"This is the Day"

Anonymous, c. 1600

*This is the day which the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it.*

- Psalm 118:24

### OPENING SENTENCES

Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed!**  
**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### GREETING AND WELCOME

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

### CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Praise God with clapping hands;  
**praise God with hands that comfort a child.**  
Praise God with silent hearts;  
**praise God with hearts broken for the world.**  
Praise God with dancing steps;  
**praise God with feet walking for justice.**

*prayer continues...*

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

### \*HYMN . . . no. 363

Darwall's 148<sup>th</sup>; John Darwall  
Charles Wesley

"Rejoice, the Lord Is King!"

*Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore!  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore.  
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

*Our Savior, Jesus, reigns, the God of truth and love;  
when he had purged our stains, he took his seat above.  
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

*His kingdom cannot fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven;  
the keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given.  
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

*Rejoice in glorious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come  
and gather all the saints to their eternal home.  
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

### \*CONFESSION AND PARDON

God of empty tombs and emptier people:  
when we hesitate to speak of your hope,  
    forgive us, and give us a voice.  
When we find it difficult to love one another,  
    forgive us, and give us fresh compassion.  
When we want to stand with the high and mighty,  
    forgive us, and seat us next to the poor and oppressed.  
When we stay locked behind our fears and doubts,  
    forgive us, and send us out to share your grace.  
When we cannot believe your Word of new life,  
    forgive us, and fill us with your joy.

*prayer continues in silence...*

...so we may proclaim the good news of mercy and forgiveness for all.

Thanks be to God, we are forgiven!

\*RESPONSE . . . no. 587

Celtic Alleluia; Fintan O'Carroll

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**  
Let us share the Peace of Christ!

*There are many ways to share signs of peace with one another. You may cross your hands across your chest or hold your hands together in front of you if you'd rather not shake hands or hug. Please ask before assuming that the person you are greeting wants a hug or handshake. Smiles are always appropriate as we share signs of peace.*

## WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

...through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the [religious leaders], Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

## ANTHEM

"Antiphon" (No. 5 from *Five Mystical Songs*)

Ralph Vaughan Williams

*Let all the world in every corner sing, My God and King!  
The heavens are not too high, His praise may thither fly:  
the earth is not too low, His praises there may grow.  
The church with Psalms must shout, no door can keep them out:  
but above all, the heart must bear the longest part.*

- George Herbert

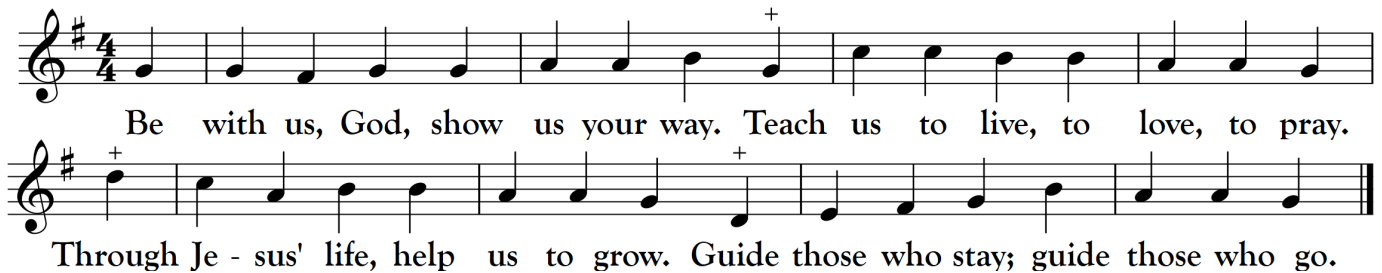
## RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 150

Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament!  
**Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness!**  
Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!  
**Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!**  
Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!  
**Let everything that breathes praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!**

## CALL TO LIVE, LOVE, PRAY, GROW

All will sing one time through together; then in canon twice each: lectern side, middle, pulpit side, choir loft.



After the song, Sunday School teachers for those 5<sup>th</sup> grade and younger will lead the children who choose to participate to the classroom, and those who wish to remain in the Sanctuary may return to their people.

## SECOND READING

Acts 5:27-32

When [the religious leaders] had brought Peter and the apostles, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you are determined to bring this man’s blood on us.” But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted [Jesus] at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

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

## SERMON

“A Surprising Turnaround”

- SILENCE FOR REFLECTION -

## \*HYMN . . . no. 372

“O for a World”

Azmon; Carl Gotthelf Gläser  
Miriam Therese Winter

*O for a world where everyone respects each other’s ways,  
where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.*

*O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,  
where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.*

*We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice  
that opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.*

*The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the foolish ones are wise.  
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.*

*O for a world preparing for God’s glorious reign of peace,  
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.*

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## \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

- A New Creed, the United Church of Canada

## SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we pray, you may respond to "Living God," with "hear our prayer."  
...through Jesus Christ, our living Lord. Amen.

## THANKSGIVING

### OFFERING

#### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

You may send a check to the church office, or give online at [fpcew.com/giving](http://fpcew.com/giving)

"Christ The Lord Is Risen Today"

Easter Hymn; arr. Bill Holcombe

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE . . . no. 609

Lasst Uns Erfreuen; Geistliche Kirchengesäng

"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

Brian Wren

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low.*

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.*

*Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

### 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...*

...Praise, Glory, and thanksgiving to you, our God, forever and ever. 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. 817

Dunlap's Creek; Samuel McFarland  
Henry Alford

"We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight "

*We walk by faith and not by sight; with gracious words draw near,  
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."*

*We may not touch your hands and side, nor follow where you trod;  
but in your promise we rejoice and cry, "My Lord and God!"*

*Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; and may our faith abound  
to call on you when you are near and seek where you are found.*

*And when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light  
may we behold you as you are, with full and endless sight.*

## INVITATION TO MINISTRY AND MISSION

## BLESSING AND CHARGE

...be with you all. **Alleluia!**

...rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Alleluia! Amen.**

## BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"Choral Amen"

John Schwandt

## POSTLUDE

## Leading worship this morning:

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| Pastor   | Mary Beth McCandless |
| Liturgist  | Gary Morris          |
| Director of Music  | Robert Nicholls      |
| The Choir of First Presbyterian Church                                 |                      |
| The Flute Choir of First Presbyterian Church, Dick Bernhardt, Director |                      |

Portions of today's liturgy are adapted from the *Book of Common Worship* and from Thom Shuman's *Lectionary Liturgies*.

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## Happening at First Presbyterian Church

**First Light** will meet today, but not at its usual time or place! The group will gather at **High Score Player Two from 1:30 to 3:30** this afternoon for fellowship, fun, and food! If you didn't pre-arrange for a pass with Pastor MB, you can purchase one at the door for \$12/person.

First Pres is pleased to welcome **Hayden Ives-Glasgow** from the Jacobs School of Music at IU to the Fisk Organ bench this **Friday, May 2 at 7:00 p.m.** Be sure to invite your friends downtown to start the weekend at **First Fridays at First Pres!**

Spring is here, and that means **Graduation season** is quickly approaching. We need your help as we prepare to celebrate the graduates in our congregation next month. *Even if you think the church office already knows*, please send the details of those in your household who will graduate (High School and beyond) this spring (including folks who graduated since last May). Feel free to include a picture, their school/degree, future plans, and **send the info to Lora in the church office ([lora@fpcevv.com](mailto:lora@fpcevv.com)) by May 5.**

### Weekly Calendar

#### **Sunday, April 27**

- 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
- 1:30 p.m. First Light at *High Score Player 2*

#### **Monday, April 28**

- 9:30 a.m. Mission Committee
- 2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

#### **Tuesday, April 29**

- 3:45 p.m. Choir Teens
- 4:45 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal
- 5:45 p.m. Choristers Rehearsal

#### **Wednesday, April 30**

- 3:00 p.m. Connections Team

#### **Thursday, May 1**

- 4:00 p.m. Choir Beginners
- 5:00 p.m. Choristers Rehearsal
- 5:15 p.m. Personnel Committee
- 6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

#### **Friday, May 2**

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

#### **Saturday, May 3**

- 8:30 a.m. Outside Cleanup Crew
- 12:00 p.m. Music Recognition BBQ/Awards



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First Presbyterian Church  
is a partner congregation with  
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