

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 and at the rear of the Sanctuary.
- During the 10:30 Service, childcare for small ones up to age 4 is available in room 109 in the education wing.

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

### GREETING AND WELCOME

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

### CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

On days when we think God has nothing to do with work or family or the world:  
**the Book tells us of One who was a carpenter; who wandered the streets;  
who upset his family.**

On days when we think the purpose of life is to make more money and fewer friends:  
**the Book speaks of a life of giving away of ourselves  
and finding a community as we do so.**

On days aching with loneliness and empty of love and laughter:  
**the Book draws us into the embrace of God's open heart.**

- prayer continues -

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

### \*HYMN . . . no. 619

*Lauda Anima*; John Goss  
Henry Francis Lyte

"Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven"

*Praise, my soul, the God of heaven; glad of heart your carols raise;  
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven who, like me, should sing God's praise?  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Maker all your days!*

*Praise God for the grace and favor shown our forebears in distress;  
God is still the same forever, slow to chide, and swift to bless.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Sing our Maker's faithfulness!*

*Like a loving parent caring, God knows well our feeble frame;  
gladly all our burdens bearing, still to countless years the same.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! All within me, praise God's name!*

*Angels, teach us adoration, you behold God face to face.  
Sun and moon and all creation, dwellers all in time and space:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!*

## \*CONFESSION AND PARDON

Redeeming God, how easily we say we would follow you, but how often we live as if we don't have a clue as to what that means. We choose to gossip about our friends, rather than surrounding them with love. Our competitive nature wills us to win at all costs, when we could be engaged in costly service. We expect others to do for us and rarely ask what we might do for them.

Forgive us, High and Holy One. Set us free to serve in love and compassion; help us to feast on the fruit the Spirit offers to us; put us on the path of faithful discipleship, as we walk with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

- silence is kept -

...we will serve others. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

\*RESPONSE . . . no. 662, verse 1

Ratisbon; German folk melody

"Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

Charles Wesley

*Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true, the only light;  
Sun of Righteousness, arise; triumph o'er the shades of night;  
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.*

## \*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

### READING

II Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan.

Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and the two of them crossed on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing, yet if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not."

As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the water. He said, "Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah? Where is he?" He struck the water again, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha crossed over.

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

### PSALM

Psalms 77

I cry aloud to God, aloud to God, that the HOLY ONE may hear me.

**In the day of my trouble I seek the HOLY ONE;**

**in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying;**

**my soul refuses to be comforted.**

I will call to mind the deeds of the HOLY ONE; I will remember your wonders of old.

**I will meditate on all your work and muse on your mighty deeds.**

Your way, O God, is holy. What god is so great as our God?

**You are the God who works wonders;**

**you have displayed your might among the peoples.**

With your strong arm you redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.

**When the waters saw you, O God, when the waters saw you, they were afraid;**

**the very deep trembled.**

The clouds poured out water; the skies thundered; your arrows flashed on every side.

**The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind;**

**your lightnings lit up the world; the earth trembled and shook.**

Your way was through the sea, your path through the mighty waters,

yet your footprints were unseen.

**You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.**

## SPECIAL MUSIC

### READING

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become enslaved to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law.

Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

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

### GOSPEL

Luke 9:51-62

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to prepare for his arrival, but they did not receive him because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." And Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

Another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." And Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### SERMON

*Following the Right Leader*

- SILENCE FOR REFLECTION -

“O God, Show Mercy to Us ”

Psalms 67; The New Metrical Version of the Psalms

*O God, show mercy to us, and bless us with your grace;  
and cause to shine upon us the brightness of your face,  
so that your way most holy on earth may soon be known,  
and unto every people your saving grace be shown.  
Let all the peoples praise you; let all the nations sing;  
in every land let praises and songs of gladness ring.*

*For you will judge the peoples in truth and righteousness,  
and on the earth all nations will your just rule confess.  
Let all the peoples praise you; let all the nations sing.  
Then earth in rich abundance to us its fruit will bring.  
The Lord our God will bless us; our God will blessing send,  
and all the earth will worship to its remotest end.*

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

In life and in death we belong to God.  
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.  
We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.  
We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.  
We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

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!"  
With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

- from A Brief Statement of Faith (PCUSA)

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

...by the witness of our faith, our worship, and our life. Amen.

## THANKSGIVING

### OFFERING

#### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

You may send a check to the church office, or give online at [fpcevv.com/giving](http://fpcevv.com/giving)  
...Let us offer our lives to God.

### OFFERTORY

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE . . . no. 606

Old Hundredth; Genevan Psalter  
Thomas Ken

“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly 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 -

...you call us to bear your presence into all the world. **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. 726

“Will You Come and Follow Me” (The Summons)

Kelvingrove; Scottish melody  
John L. Bell and Graham Maule

*“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;  
will you let my life be shown in you and you in me?”*

*“Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?”*

*“Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?”*

*“Will you love the you you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?”*

*Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.*

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## INVITATION TO MINISTRY AND MISSION

### BLESSING AND CHARGE

...who abides in you now and always. **Amen!**

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

### POSTLUDE

### Leading worship this morning:

Guest Preacher     Steve Wylie  
Liturgist             Elesha Downs  
Director of Music   Robert Nicholls  
The Gathering Choir of First Presbyterian Church  
Audio/Visual        Finch Parker, Blake Foerster-Daniels

We thank Steve Wylie for preaching this morning; Rev. McCandless is on vacation and will return to the office on July 4.

The flowers today are given by the Igleheart children to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jim and Diane Igleheart, on what would have been their 79<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.



## Happening at First Presbyterian Church

This year, July's First Friday lands on **Independence Day** - which gives Director of Music Robert Nicholls a great opportunity to play your Sousa favorites, accompany you in patriotic songs, and much more! Come downtown this Friday, get a great parking spot, enjoy the concert **at 7:00 p.m.**, stay for an **Ice Cream Social** after the music, and then walk down to the riverfront for the fireworks! **See you this Friday!**

**Study Groups begin July 8** for conversation on John Pavlovitz's book, *A Bigger Table - Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community*. Rev. MB and Rev. Jerusha will lead **four groups**: Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m., Wednesdays at noon (bring your lunch), Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m., or Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. All options will be hybrid experiences (both in person and on Zoom.) Watch for more information!

Presbyterian Women invite all for **Yoga and Yummies, Saturday, July 12, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall. All ages and abilities are welcome (children should be able to focus on directions and must accompanied by an adult) for an hour-long **beginner Yoga** class led by certified instructor Delanie Davis. A **healthy lunch** of salad, fruit, and other treats will be enjoyed following the class. There's **no cost** to attend (although a tip jar for Ms. Davis will be available); your **RSVP is helpful** - (let us know if you need to borrow a mat) [contact the church office](#) or make a note on your yellow worship slip.

Mark your calendars and plan to explore *Mindfulness and Christianity* with First Pres' own Dr. Emma Nicholls. This 4-week study group will look at what mindfulness is and isn't, what different religious traditions have to say about it, as well as how to incorporate a mindfulness practice in your daily life. There are two sessions available each week, one on **Sundays at 9:30 a.m.** (7/13, 7/18, 8/10, 8/17), and one on **Fridays at Noon** (7/11, 7/20, 8/15, 8/22).

**Book Group** at First Pres meets next on **Monday, July 14, 6:30-8:00 p.m.** in Room 105. A Zoom option is available; contact Francie Hubbard ([francie@myhubbards.com](mailto:francie@myhubbards.com)) to learn how to sign in. July's book is *Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland* by Patrick Radden Keefe. The author is an American Writer and investigative journalist, and his book is eminently readable. According to Maureen Corrigan of NPR, it "captures the complexities of a historical moment by digging deep into the lives of people on all sides of [Northern Ireland's Troubles]."

## Weekly Calendar

### Sunday, June 29

7:30 a.m. Band Rehearsal  
8:30 a.m. Wide Awake Worship  
9:15 a.m. Fellowship Time  
9:30 a.m. Gathering Choir  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship  
11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time

### Monday, June 30

2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

### Tuesday, July 1

6:00 p.m. RSCM Midwest Rehearsal

### Wednesday, July 2

### Thursday, July 3

6:00 p.m. RSCM Midwest Rehearsal

### Friday, July 4

Church Office Closed

7:00 p.m. First Friday:  
Independence Day Concert  
Ice Cream Social

### Saturday, July 5

8:30 a.m. Outside Cleanup Crew  
10:00 a.m. RSCM Midwest Rehearsal