

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,
our Facebook page: facebook.com/firstpresevansville,
and our YouTube channel: 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

This is the day that the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness.
Come into God's presence with singing!
Let us worship God!

*HYMN . . . no. 19

"God of Great and God of Small"

God of Great and Small
Natalie Sleeth

*God of great and God of small, God of one and God of all,
God of weak and God of strong, God to whom all things belong,
Alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.*

*God of land and sky and sea, God of life and destiny,
God of never-ending power, yet beside me every hour.
Alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.*

*God of silence, God of sound, God by whom the lost are found,
God of day and darkest night, God whose love turns wrong to right.
Alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.*

*God of heav'n and God of earth, God of death and God of birth,
God of now and days before, God who reigns forevermore.
Alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.*

© 1973, Carl Fischer, Inc. NY. All rights reserved. International copyright secured. Used by permission

*GATHERING PRAYER

...we praise you now and forever. **Amen.**

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our failure to be what you created us to be. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. By your loving mercy, help us to live in your light and abide in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.

- silence is kept -

...I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God!**

*RESPONSE

Hymn to Joy; Ludwig von Beethoven

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (verse 3)

Henry Van Dyke

Al- ways giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,
well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!
God, cre - a - tor, Christ, re - deem - er, let your light up - on us shine; teach
— us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine.

*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

PSALM

Psalm 32

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

While I kept silent, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;

my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;

at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

You are a hiding place for me;

you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;

I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,

whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.

Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

So [Jesus] told them this parable: “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.’ So he divided his assets between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe - the best one - and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”

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

- SILENCE FOR REFLECTION -

*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 (United Church of Canada)

*HYMN . . . no. 173

"A Woman and a Coin"

Life Restored; Fred Kimball Graham
Jaroslav J. Vajda

*A woman and a coin: the coin is lost!
How much it means to her, what time and toil,
what part it was to play in her bright dreams!
Am I that treasured coin worth waiting for?
I'm found, and you rejoice! What love! What love!*

*A shepherd and a sheep: the sheep is lost!
Far from the flock, the one in hundred cries,
then, risking life, the shepherd's voice and staff!
Am I that treasured sheep worth dying for?
I live, and you rejoice! What love! What love!*

*A parent and a child: the child is lost!
The parent feeds on memories and hope,
the prodigal on husks and one last chance.
Am I that treasured child worth waiting for?
I'm home, and you rejoice! What love! What love!*

*Dear God, you sought us when the world was lost;
you gave your only son at what a cost;
your Spirit welcomes home the tempest-tossed:
now we can be all you were dreaming of.
We're safe, and you rejoice! What love! What love!*

© 1990 Jaroslav J. Vajda

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 fpcev.com/giving
...Let us offer our lives to God.

OFFERTORY

“Panis Angelicus”

Mélanie Bonis

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE . . . no. 606

Old Hundredth; Genevan Psalter

“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 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 -

...through Jesus Christ our 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. 771

New World; Sally Ann Morris

“What Is the World Like”

Adam M.L. Tice

*What is the world like when God's will is done?
Mustard seeds grow more than we can conceive; roots thread the soil; branches reach for the sun.
This is how God moves us each to believe.*

*What is the world like when God's will is done?
Witness the wandering child coming home; watch as the parent breaks into a run.
This is how God longs for us when we roam.*

*What is the world like when God's will is done?
No more is neighbor just ally or friend; peace thrives in places where once there was none.
This is how God works when rivalries end.*

*What is the world like when God's will is done?
Ready for feasting, we watch through the night, tending our lamps till the new day's begun.
This is how God readies us for the light.*

*These are the stories that Jesus imparts,
filled with the Spirit who joins us as one. Born through our voices, our hands, our hearts,
this is a new world where God's will is done.*

© 2009 GIA Publications, Inc.

INVITATION TO MINISTRY AND MISSION

BLESSING AND CHARGE

...and the song of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Alleluia!**
...rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Alleluia! Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Leading worship this morning:

Pastor	Mary Beth McCandless
Liturgist	Sue Schriber
Director of Music	Robert Nicholls
Cello	Graham Cullen
Audio	Blake Foerster-Daniels
Visual	Finch Parker

The flowers today are given by Andrew Herbertz to the glory of God, celebrating music in our lives, lifting our spirits in melody, song, and praise, and the memory of musician and teacher, Mr. Terry Becker.

Liturgy adapted from the Book of Common Worship. Used with permission.

Some materials in this service bulletin are reprinted with permission under OneLicense.net #A-702939; others are under CCLI Licenses #1419649 and #20550012. All rights reserved.

Happening at First Presbyterian Church

There are two more opportunities to join Rev. MB in **IMAGINING the FUTURE** of our historic sanctuary as we talk about the dreams we imagine for the space in order to develop plans to restore and renovate the sanctuary with a view toward ministry through the next century. Taking the long view (like our First Pres ancestors did 200 years ago) means that we are not considering this work for our own benefit! We are imagining a future for this congregation and this building that will serve this congregation and this community far beyond ourselves! Your voices and ideas are important! The dates are today at 11:30 a.m. (immediately following worship) and tomorrow, Monday, August 18 at Noon. **Try to come to one** of these sessions or if you cannot, email futurehope@fpcevv.com; Subject: Sanctuary with your thoughts.

It's almost here...so get your favorite breakfast shareable ready to bring to the annual **Carry-In Breakfast next Sunday, August 24 at 9:30 a.m.!** If you're an 8:30 worshiper, plan to stay after worship, and if you're a 10:30 person, come early next Sunday! We'll all join together for wonderful food and fellowship in the middle of a First Pres morning.

Have you ever thought, 'Gee, I'd love to sing in the choir'? Well, your no-strings-attached chance is here: **Gathering Choir** will meet next **Sunday, August 24**. Join Robert and some of the regular choir members in the balcony at 10:10 a.m. (after you've enjoyed some carry-in breakfast fun) for a brief rehearsal of some simple music to be shared in 10:30 worship that morning.

Groups discussing *Mindfulness and Christianity* with First Pres' own Dr. Emma Nicholls are finishing their sessions this month. This study group looks 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. The last two sessions are **today at 9:30 a.m. (8/17)**, and this **Friday at Noon (8/22)**.

Study Groups discussing John Pavlovitz's book, *A Bigger Table - Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community* will have their final meetings this week. Rev. MB and Rev. Jerusha 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 are hybrid experiences (both in person and on Zoom.) Books are available in the church office for \$11; check recent issues of [Connect](#) and [First Reports](#) for Zoom links and opportunities for digital versions of the book.

Are you looking for ways to **share your time and/or helping hands with the church**? Opportunities are all around! Information and sign up forms for bringing after-worship treats and joining the Outside Cleanup Crew are in the parlor. How about giving flowers for our worship? There's a form on [First Web](#). How about helping on Sundays as an usher or setting up fellowship? [Contact the church office](#) to let us know!

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, August 17

7:30 a.m. Band Rehearsal
8:30 a.m. Wide Awake Worship
9:15 a.m. Fellowship Time
9:30 a.m. Be Still
9:30 a.m. Confirmation Class
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
11:30 a.m. Imagining the Future
11:30 a.m. Music Support Committee

Monday, August 18

10:00 a.m. Mission Committee
12:00 p.m. Imagining the Future

Tuesday, August 19

10:00 a.m. A Bigger Table
11:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
3:45 p.m. Teen Rehearsal
4:45 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal
5:45 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal
6:00 p.m. Session Meeting

Wednesday, August 20

12:00 p.m. A Bigger Table
7:00 p.m. A Bigger Table

Thursday, August 21

12:00 p.m. A Bigger Table
4:00 p.m. Choir Beginners
5:00 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal
6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Imagining the Future

Friday, August 22

Church Office Closed
12:00 p.m. Be Still

Saturday, August 23