

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, ability, or socio-economic standing. We encourage the full participation of all in the life of our congregation.



Welcome to Worship

We are grateful for your presence and welcome you to participate in all First Pres has to offer!

New here? If you are here in Fellowship Hall, you'll see orange and yellow papers near you on the table. If you have joys or prayer concerns to share with the congregation during today's service, please fill out an orange prayer card. Ushers collect the orange cards when we share the Peace of Christ. The yellow slips of paper are to let us know you are here. We hope everyone will fill out their name(s) and any information you'd like us to have. Please place the yellow slips in the offering plate when it is passed later in the service.

Children are always welcome in worship with their people! Just outside the door, there is a cart with books, activities etc. for children - feel free to pick up anything that looks interesting - then return the books and crayons to the cart after worship.

Please note: our worship services are live streamed and available on Facebook and YouTube. For more information please visit fpcevv.com.

Following worship, you are invited to 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.

GATHERING MUSIC

GREETING AND WELCOME

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

In 1963, in his challenging letter to complacent white clergy in the South, Dr. King wrote, "We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the vitriolic words and actions of the bad people, but for the appalling silence of the good people. In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

O God, we pray, transform our silence into action, our fear into courage.

President John F. Kennedy in an address that led to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 said, "The heart of the question is whether all Americans are to be afforded equal rights and equal opportunities; whether we are going to treat our fellow Americans as we want to be treated."

O God, we pray, help us to love you and to love others as ourselves.

Rosa Parks said, "You must never be fearful about what you are doing when it is right. I have learned over the years that when one's mind is made up, this diminishes fear; knowing what must be done does away with fear."

O God, we pray, remind us that you did not give us a spirit of fear.

Ann Braden, a white Southern activist and ally of the Civil Rights movement wrote, "In every age, no matter how cruel the oppression carried on by those in power, there have been those who struggled for a different world. I believe this is the genius of humankind, the thing that makes us half divine: the fact that some human beings can envision a world that has never existed."

O God, we pray, help us to envision and struggle for a world where justice will roll down like water, righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Let us worship God.

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

*Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies;
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on, till victory is won.*

*Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died.
Yet, with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our parents sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.*

*God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.*

OPENING PRAYER

...one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

We wait patiently for you, O God.
Draw us from the desolate pit
and set our feet upon a rock.
Forgive the foolish things we have said
and put a new song of praise in our mouths.
Help us receive your mercy
and share it with the world
In Jesus' name we pray.
- silence is kept -

The love of Christ has made us new. Jesus has given us a new song.
In Christ we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS
"We Belong to You"

Sheldon Sorge



We be-long to you, Lord; we be-long to you. We would be your
treas - ure to bring you joy and pleas - ure serv - ing with - out
meas - ure: if we live, or if we die, still this song we
raise on high: we be-long to you, Lord; we be - long to you.

© Sheldon Sorge/Presbyop

*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

FIRST READING

Isaiah 49:1-7

Listen to me, O coastlands; pay attention, you peoples from far away! The LORD called me before I was born; while I was in my mother's womb he named me. He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the LORD and my reward with my God."

And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the LORD, and my God has become my strength - he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

*HYMN . . . no. 726

"Will You Come and Follow Me"

Kelwingrove; arr. John L. Bell
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 grown 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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I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

**He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.**

He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.

Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD.

**Happy are those who make the LORD their trust,
who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods.**

You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us;
none can compare with you. Were I to proclaim and tell of them,
they would be more than can be counted.

Sacrifice and offering you do not desire, but you have given me an open ear.

Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.

Then I said, "Here I am; in the scroll of the book it is written of me.

I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."

**I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation;
see, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O LORD.**

I have not hidden your saving help within my heart;

I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;

I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation.

Do not, O LORD, withhold your mercy from me;

let your steadfast love and your faithfulness keep me safe forever.

GOSPEL READING

John 1:29-42

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One."

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

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

SERMON

The Gift of Unbridled Curiosity

- SILENCE FOR REFLECTION -

*I believe in God the Father, merciful and mighty Lord,
maker of the earth and heaven, whom we worship and adore;
and in Jesus Christ the Son, only Savior, sovereign one,
by the Holy Spirit given, born of Mary, blessed virgin.*

*Under Pilate, Jesus suffered, faithful to his final breath.
He was crucified and buried, and descended into death.
From the grave he did arise; he ascended through the skies;
now enthroned with God in heaven, he will judge the dead and living.*

*I believe in God the Spirit, and the church in every place;
saints in glorious communion, all forgiven, full of grace;
flesh and blood will live again; life in Christ will never end.
Holy Spirit, Son and Father: I will praise your name forever.*

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SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS IN OUR PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

...in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

You may send a check to the church office, or give online at fpcvvt.com/giving, or text "GIVE" to 833-921-6520.

Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

OFFERTORY SONG OF DEDICATION

"We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise"

Kirk Dearman

We bring the sac-ri-fice of praise in-to the house of the Lord;
we bring the sac-ri-fice of praise in-to the house of the Lord. And we
of-fer up to you the sac-ri-fic-es of thanks-giv-ing; and we
of-fer up to you the sac-ri-fic-es of joy.

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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 -

...be all honor and glory now and forever. **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.

*HYMN . . . no. 66

Pentecost

"Every Time I Feel The Spirit"

African American spiritual

Refrain *Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.*

Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.

*Upon the mountain, when my Lord spoke, out of God's mouth came fire and smoke.
Looked all around me, it looked so fine, till I asked my Lord if all was mine. Refrain*

Jordan River, chilly and cold, it chills the body but not the soul.

There is but one train upon this track. It runs to heaven and then right back. Refrain

SENDING

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.**

*SENDING SONG

"May You Run and Not Be Weary"

Handt Hanson and Paul Murakami

May you run and not be wea - ry. May your heart be filled with song. —

— And may the love of God con - tin - ue to

give you hope and keep you strong. And may you

run and not be wea - ry. May your heart be filled with joy! —

— And may the road you tra - vel al - ways bring you home.

Leading worship this morning:

Pastor	Mary Beth McCandless
Liturgist	Bob Jacobs
Director of Music	Robert Nicholls
Wide Awake Band	Bri Alley, Tony Aiken, Mack Gramooré, Matt O'Neill, Don Qualls
Audio	Blake Foerster-Daniels
Visual	Finch Parker

Liturgy adapted from the PAM Child of Blessing resource and the Book of Common Worship. The Call to Worship was written by More Light Presbyterian Board Member Eric Thomas. 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

First Pres is again pleased to host **United Caring Services' White Flag Walk** on Saturday, January 31 starting at 10:00 a.m. There's no cost or requirement to raise funds - the goal of the walk is to bring awareness of what it is like to be unhoused during the coldest part of the year. Participants will walk from First Pres to UCS on 6th Street and back. For more information or to sign up, please go to the UCS' website: <https://unitedcaringservices.org/events/>.

As we move into this new year, we give thanks for all our "church mice"! From ushering and greeting, to making coffee on Sunday mornings, to straightening the pews, to holiday decorating and more, these folks have done and continue to do so many small but important tasks around First Pres. **And new "church mice" are always welcomed and needed!** If you are looking for a way to give your time on a routine or occasional basis, contact the church office with the note "I Can Do That!" (firstpres@fpcevv.com; 812-423-6297) Your offer of time is deeply appreciated!

Plan to join your First Pres friends and family **next Sunday evening for 4th Sundays at 1st Pres!** Starting at 5:30 in fellowship hall, this is an engaging, intergenerational gathering for service, learning, worship including communion, and a shared meal. This month's meal will be a simple soup supper - watch for more details, and bring a friend!

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, January 18

- 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
- We Make the Road
- 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
- 5:30 p.m. First Light

Monday, January 19

- 10:00 a.m. Mission Committee

Tuesday, January 20

- 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, January 21

12:00 p.m. We Make the Road

5:30 p.m. Finance Committee

7:00 p.m. We Make the Road

Thursday, January 22

4:00 p.m. Choir Beginners

5:00 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal

5:30 p.m. Little Lambs Board Meeting

6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 23

Church Office Closed

Saturday, January 24