

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 seated in the sanctuary, you'll see orange and yellow papers nearby. 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 these in the offering plate when it is passed later in the service.

**Children are always welcome in worship with their people!** Childcare for pre-kindergarten and younger is available in room 109 in the education wing. Carts with books and activities for all ages are available in the rear of the room and outside the door at the front. After the choir sings the Anthem, children from kindergarten through fifth grade may go to *Follow Me Time* with the leaders to room 107 in the education wing.

**Please note:** our worship services are live streamed and available on Facebook and YouTube. For more information please visit [fpcevv.com](http://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.

### PRELUDE

### INTROIT

"O Nomen Jesu"

Robert Nicholls

*O nomen Jesu, nomen dulce! Nomen Jesu, nomen delectabile!  
Nomen Jesu, nomen comfortans! Quid est enim Jesus, nisi salvator?  
Ergo Jesu, proper nomen sanctum tuum, esto mihi Jesus, et salva me.*

O name of Jesus, name of sweetness! Name of Jesus, name of delights!  
Name of Jesus, name of comfort! For what is Jesus but Savior?  
Therefore, Jesus, on account of thy holy name, be to me Jesus, and save me.

- Litany of the Holy Name

### GREETING AND WELCOME

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

### CALL TO WORSHIP

People of God, make a joyful noise! Shout Alleluia!

**Alleluia!**

What does the Lord require of us?

**to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.**

God calls us to take care of each other and to love our neighbors.

**Then our light shall rise like the morning sun.**

Let us worship God.

### \*HYMN . . . no. 35

"Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty"

Lobe den herren; Stralsund  
Joachim Neander

*Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near; join me in glad adoration!*

*Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been granted in what he ordaineth?*

*Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!  
Let the amen sound from his people again; gladly for aye we adore him.*

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

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

**\*CONFESSION AND PARDON**

Loving God, in Christ you have made us one, but we confess how often we forget.  
We let differences divide us. We are not always kind. We ignore the needs of others.  
Forgive us. Change our hearts and change our lives.  
Help us to love and to follow your ways of peace, through Christ our Lord.

- silence is kept -

...In Christ we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

\*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS . . . no. 441, v1      Nettleton; Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music  
"Hear the Good News of Salvation"      Dakota; John B. Renville

*Hear the good news of salvation: Jesus died to show God's love.  
Such great kindness! Such great mercy! Come to us from heaven above.  
Jesus Christ, how much I love you! Jesus Christ, you save from sin!  
How I love you! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.*

**\*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.*

- USHERS WILL COLLECT THE ORANGE PRAYER CARDS DURING THE SHARING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST. -

**WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

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

## SCRIPTURE

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 58:1-12

Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side. "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers. You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am." If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

The LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

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

### ANTHEM

"Jubilate Deo"

Benjamin Britten

*O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands: serve the Lord with thanksgiving and come before his presence with a song.  
Be ye sure that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us and not we ourselves;*

*We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

*O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise.*

*Be thankful unto him, and speak good of his name, for the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting:  
and his truth endureth from generation to generation.*

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.*

*As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.*

- Psalm 100

- DURING THE PSALM, CHILDREN 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE AND YOUNGER WHO WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN **FOLLOW ME TIME** ARE INVITED TO COME TO THE FRONT OF THE SANCTUARY NEAR THE FONT.  
AFTER THE ANTHEM, CHILDREN WILL GO TO **FOLLOW ME TIME** WITH THEIR LEADERS. -

Praise the LORD!

**Happy are those who fear the LORD, who greatly delight in his commandments.**

Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

**Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever.**

They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright; they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.

**It is well with those who deal generously and lend, who conduct their affairs with justice.**

For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever.

**They are not afraid of evil tidings; their hearts are firm, secure in the LORD.**

Their hearts are steady; they will not be afraid;

in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.

**They have distributed freely; they have given to the poor;**

**their righteousness endures forever; their horn is exalted in honor.**

## GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5:13:20

“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp put it under the bushel basket; rather they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

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

## SERMON

Seeking the Welfare of the City

- SILENCE FOR REFLECTION -

## \*HYMN . . . no. 727

The Servant Song  
Richard Gillard

“Will You Let Me Be Your Servant”

*Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?*

*Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.*

*We are pilgrims on a journey; we're together on the road.*

*We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.*

*I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear.*

*I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.*

*I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I'll laugh with you.*

*I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.*

*When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.* (Repeat vs. 1)

## \*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 IN OUR PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

## THANKSGIVING

### OFFERING

#### CALL TO GIVING

You may send a check to the church office, or give online at [fpcevv.com/giving](http://fpcevv.com/giving), or text "GIVE" to 833-921-6520.

Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

#### OFFERTORY

"Carillon Celebration"

Douglas E. Wagner

\*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 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 -

...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.**

## SENDING

\*HYMN . . . no. 65

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

CWM Rhondda; John Hughes  
William Williams

*Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but thou art mighty. Hold me with thy powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more;  
feed me till I want no more.*

*Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow.  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield;  
be thou still my strength and shield.*

*When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.  
Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to thee;  
I will ever give to thee.*

## 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.**

### BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“I Give You a New Commandment”

Peter Aston

*I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you, so you are to love one another.  
If there is this love among you, then all will know that you are my disciples.*

- John 15:12-15

### POSTLUDE

“Finale” from *Symphony No. 3*

Louis Vierne

## Leading worship this morning:

Guest Preacher	Jean Beckman
Liturgist	Tracy Shaw
Director of Music	Robert Nicholls
Organ Scholar	Magdalena Truta
The Choir of First	Presbyterian Church
Audio	Blake Foerster-Daniels
Visual	Finch Parker

We thank First Pres' own Jean Beckman for leading our worship today; Pastor Mary Beth McCandless is on vacation and will return to the office on Tuesday.

## Happening at First Presbyterian Church

Thank you to everyone who brought items for the **Souper Bowl of Caring!** A special display is in Fellowship Hall where your team's (in today's big game) cans can be placed in their "end zone"! The real winners are our neighbors who use the food pantry at Patchwork Central - all the donations will fill their shelves. Go Team!

**First Light**, our group for Junior and Senior High aged youth, will gather **this evening from 5:30 to 7:00**. The group will prepare desserts for Feeding Mission's February lunch at UCS.

**Evening Prayer continues into 2026!** Join First Pres friends in the parlor **this evening starting at 6:15 p.m.** for fellowship followed by a short evening prayer service that finishes at 7:00 p.m. Bring a friend for a great way to wind down your weekend.

**Book Group** at First Pres meets next on **Monday, February 9, 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. February's book is *Whalefall* by Daniel Kraus. The book is a scientifically accurate survival thriller about a teenage scuba diver who's been swallowed by an eighty-foot, sixty-ton sperm whale while looking for his father's remains in the Pacific Ocean off the California coast.

The Mission Committee invites you to have **lunch and learn** with them! Bring your lunch (beverages provided) to **fellowship hall on Monday, February 16 starting at 11:30 a.m.** Our guests from Patchwork Central will tell us about what they do to serve our neighborhood.

The season of Lent begins with three (identical) services on **Ash Wednesday, February 18**. Join Pastor MB for a brief time of worship including the imposition of ashes at **7:00 a.m., 12:15 p.m., or 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary**. Our theme for the season is *Unbound: Longing for Wholeness*.

## Weekly Calendar

### **Sunday, February 8**

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  
Music Support Committee  
5:30 p.m. First Light  
6:15 p.m. Evening Prayer

4:45 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal

5:45 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal

### **Wednesday, February 11**

12:00 p.m. We Make the Road

5:30 p.m. Finance Committee

7:00 p.m. We Make the Road

### **Thursday, February 12**

4:00 p.m. Choir Beginners

5:00 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal

6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

### **Monday, February 9**

6:30 p.m. Book Group

### **Friday, February 13**

Church Office Closed

### **Tuesday, February 10**

11:30 a.m. Staff Meeting  
3:45 p.m. Teen Rehearsal

### **Saturday, February 14**