

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 *Call to Live, Love, Pray, Grow*, 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 fpcew.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

"God Has Gone Up"

Jack Warren Burnam

*God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of the ram's horn. Alleluia!
You have gone up on high, and led captivity captive. Alleluia!*

GREETING AND WELCOME

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.
For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth.
God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.
For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.
God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.

Let us worship God.

***HYMN . . . no. 234**

St. Kevin; Arthur S. Sullivan
John of Damascus, 8thC

"Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain"

**Come, you faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness!
God has brought forth Israel into joy from sadness,
loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke Jacob's sons and daughters;
led them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters.**

**'Tis the spring of souls today: Christ has burst his prison,
and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has risen.
All the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying
from the Light, to whom we give laud and praise undying.**

**Now the queen of seasons, bright with the day of splendor,
with the royal feast of feasts comes its joy to render;
comes to glad Jerusalem, who with true affection
welcomes in unwearied strains Jesus' resurrection!**

**Neither could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark portal,
nor the watchers, nor the seal hold you as a mortal:
but today, among your own, you appear, bestowing
your deep peace, which evermore passes human knowing.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

...and in the age to come. **Amen.**

***CONFESSION AND PARDON**

...God understands us and forgives our sin:

Loving God,

like your first disciples, we need your blessing.

We need to hear that you love us.

We need reminding that you want us to love you

and you want us to love each other.

Forgive us when we do not love everyone as you have showed us.

- confession continues -

...We are forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ! **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

***RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS . . . no. 587**

Celtic Alleluia; Fintan O'Carroll

"Alleluia!"

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.

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

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Risen Christ, break open our silence, speak peace to our fear,
and help us trust your good news. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

This is the Word of new life. **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

"Away with Gloom, Away with Doubt"

Barry Ferguson

Away with gloom, away with doubt, with all the morning stars we sing:

with all the people of God we shout the praises of a King, alleluia, alleluia, of our returning King.

Away with death and welcome life: in him we died and live again:

and welcome peace, away with strife, for he returns to reign. Alleluia, alleluia, the crucified shall reign.

Then welcome beauty, he is fair, and welcome youth, for he is young;

and welcome spring; and everywhere let merry songs be sung, alleluia, alleluia, for such a King be sung.

- Edward Shillito

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

This is the Word of new life. **Thanks be to God.**

CALL TO LIVE, LOVE, PRAY, GROW

Tallis' Cannon

All will sing one time through together - children grades 5 and younger are invited to come forward as we sing (bringing the blue information card from the pew rack with them). After the first time through, we'll sing in canon once each: lectern side, middle, pulpit side, choir loft. After the song, those 5th grade and younger may choose to go to Follow Me Time with their leaders, and those who wish to remain in the Sanctuary may return to their people.

Be with us, God, show us your way. Teach us to live, to love, to pray.

Through Je - sus' life, help us to grow. Guide those who stay; guide those who go.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 24:44-53

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you - that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

This is the Word of new life. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

You are witnesses - what do you see?

- SILENCE FOR REFLECTION -

*HYMN . . . no. 257
"The Risen Christ"

Woodlands; Walter Greatorex
Nigel Weaver

The risen Christ, who walks on wounded feet from garden tomb through darkened city street, unlocks the door of grief, despair, and fear, and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.

The risen Christ, who stands with wounded side, breathes out his Spirit on them to abide whose faith still wavers, who dare not believe; new grace, new strength, new purpose they receive.

The risen Christ, who breaks with wounded hand the bread for those who fail to understand, reveals himself, despite their ling'ring tears, enflames their hearts, then quickly disappears.

May we, Christ's body, walk and serve and stand with the oppressed in this and every land, till all are blessed and can a blessing be, restored in Christ to true humanity. Text © 1993 Nigel Weaver

*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.

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 INTERCESSION

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

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

CALL TO GIVING

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

Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

OFFERTORY

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

Conrad Kocher; arr. Brent Olstad

*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 here below.

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 -

...Because he lives, we live to praise you, our God, forever.

Gracious God, who called us from death to life, we give ourselves to you; and with the church through all ages we thank you for your saving love in 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. 247

Noël Nouwelet; French carol

“Now the Green Blade Rises”

John M.C. Crum

**Now the green blade rises from the buried grain, wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been: Love is come again like wheat arising green.**

**In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain, thinking that he would never wake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen: Love is come again like wheat arising green.**

**Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain, he that for three days in the grave had lain;
raised from the dead, my living lord is seen: Love is come again like wheat arising green.**

**When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain, your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been: Love is come again like wheat arising green.**

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! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“A Gaelic Blessing”

John Rutter

*Deep peace of the running wave to you, deep peace of the flowing air to you,
deep peace of the quiet earth to you, deep peace of the shining stars to you,
deep peace of the gentle night to you, moon and stars pour their healing light on you,
deep peace of Christ, the light of the world to you.*

POSTLUDE

“Fugue and Finale on *Noël Nouwelet*”

Marcel Dupré

Leading worship this morning:

Pastor Mary Beth McCandless
Liturgist Elesha Downs
Director of Music Robert Nicholls
Organ Scholar Magdalena Truta
The Choir of First Presbyterian Church
The Flute Choir of First Presbyterian Church, Dick Bernhardt, director
Audio Blake Foerster-Daniels
Visual Finch Parker

Liturgy for worship has been adapted from the Presbyterian Association of Musicians *Child of Blessing* and the Presbyterian Church (USA) *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.

First Presbyterian Church Staff:

Rev. Mary Beth McCandless
Senior Pastor, Head of Staff

Rev. Jerusha Van Camp
Minister of Spiritual Formation and Connection

Robert Nicholls
Director of Music

Bri Alley
Music Support Assistant

Lora Blaylock
Church Administrator

Gary Harper
Church Caretaker

Finch Parker
Technology Coordinator



609 South East Second Street
Evansville, IN 47713
(812) 423-6297
www.fpcevv.com

First Presbyterian Church
is a partner congregation with the
Covenant Network of Presbyterians
and with More Light Presbyterians.



Happening at First Presbyterian Church

Bring your friends, coworkers and neighbors to the choir's annual spring concert **this afternoon, May 17 at 4:00 p.m.** Join Director of Music Robert Nicholls for a pre-concert talk at 3:30 p.m. Donations to help our young musicians attend summer camps and other special experiences will be gratefully received. *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace* is a remarkably timely work by Karl Jenkins not to be missed.

In honor of all parent figures, from mothers to fathers and all other caring folks, you are invited to **donate diapers and wipes** (or funds) for **Little Lambs** between Mother's Day, today, May 10, and Father's Day, June 21. See [Connect](#) or [First Reports](#) for examples of store brand diapers and wipes, and bring your donations to the lobby the next time you come to church! Thank you!

Book Group at First Pres meets next on **Monday, May 18, 6:30-8:00 p.m.** in room 105. Contact [Francie Hubbard](#) for a Zoom attendance option. The Group will discuss *Buckeye* by Patrick Ryan. This sweeping novel is a story of love, loyalty, sacrifice, and forgiveness.

Next Sunday, May 24, is your first opportunity of the summer to join the **Gathering Choir!** There are no weeknight or regular commitments - simply join Director of Music Robert Nicholls in the balcony **next Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m.** to prepare a few simple pieces for 10:30 worship that morning. Come and sing!

Join your First Pres friends in showing your love and support for the LGBTQIA+ community at the **2026 River City Pride Festival** downtown on **Saturday, June 6.** Although the signup deadline to walk in the parade has passed, there are other ways to participate - from sitting at the First Pres information table to pre-preparing items to be shared at the Festival. Contact Rev. Jerusha (jerusha@fpcevv.com) for more information, or fill out the form by using the QR code to let us know you'll help!



It's back! Join Robert Nicholls for **Beer Choir at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 30** at Haynie's Corner Brewing Company (56 Adams Ave). The only requirement (besides age 21+) is to have a good time! So, bring your friends, have a tasty beverage, and let's sing!

If you enjoyed **Morning Prayer** with Pastor MB during Lent, or maybe you wanted to, but your Lenten calendar was too full, you're in luck! Pastor MB is hosting another morning prayer series on **Wednesdays through May 27 at 7:00 a.m.** Join Pastor MB on Zoom (link available in [Connect](#) and on the [Church Calendar](#)).

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, May 17

- 7:30 a.m. Band Rehearsal
- 8:30 a.m. Wide Awake Worship
- 9:00 a.m. Flute Choir Rehearsal
- 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
- 3:30 p.m. Pre-Concert Talk
- 4:00 p.m. "The Armed Man"
- 7:00 p.m. *Singing Resistance Evansville*

Monday, May 18

- 10:00 a.m. Mission Committee
- 6:30 p.m. *Book Group*

Tuesday, May 19

- 11:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

Wednesday, May 20

- 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
- 12:00 p.m. We Make the Road

Thursday, May 21

Friday, May 22

Church Office Closed

Saturday, May 23