

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](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.

### GATHERING MUSIC

#### GREETING AND WELCOME

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

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

God gives us water when we are thirsty.

**Our God is great!**

God fills us when we are hungry.

**Our God is great!**

God takes a little and makes it enough.

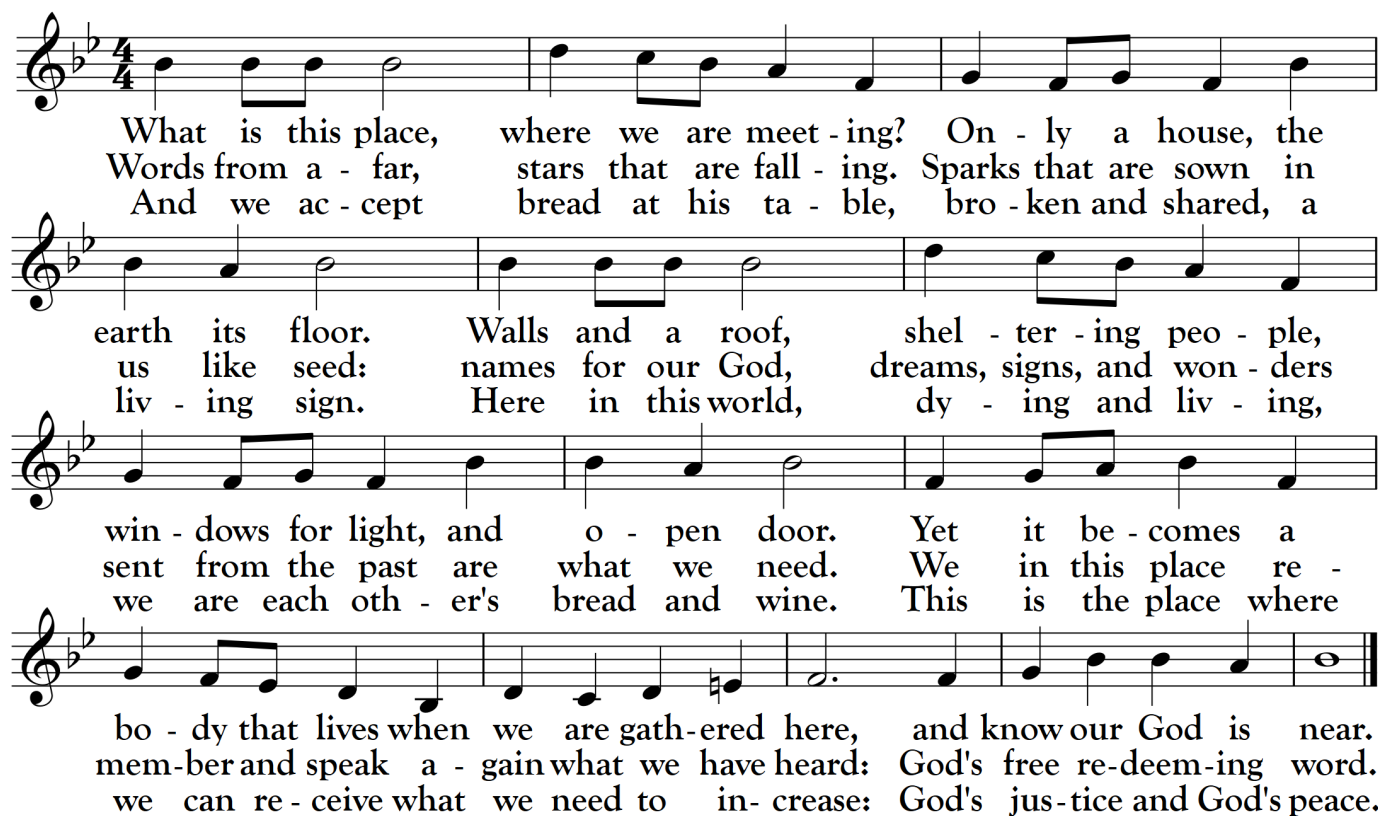
**Our God is great!**

Let us worship God!

#### \*HYMN

"What Is This Place?"

*Komt num met zang  
Huub Oosterhuis*



What is this place, where we are meet - ing? On - ly a house, the  
Words from a - far, stars that are fall - ing. Sparks that are sown in  
And we ac - cept bread at his ta - ble, bro - ken and shared, a  
earth its floor. Walls and a roof, shel - ter - ing peo - ple,  
us like seed: names for our God, dreams, signs, and won - ders  
liv - ing sign. Here in this world, dy - ing and liv - ing,  
win - dows for light, and o - pen door. Yet it be - comes a  
sent from the past are what we need. We in this place re -  
we are each oth - er's bread and wine. This is the place where  
bo - dy that lives when we are gath - ered here, and know our God is near.  
mem - ber and speak a - gain what we have heard: God's free re - deem - ing word.  
we can re - ceive what we need to in - crease: God's jus - tice and God's peace.

© 1967 OCP

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

...in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and ever. **Amen.**

**\*CONFESSION AND PARDON**

Loving God,  
Thank you for the gift of one another.  
Thank you for the people who make our days better.  
Forgive us when we are not loving to the people who love us.  
Forgive us when we do not help one another  
because we disagree or have hurt feelings.  
Give us your grace  
so we can learn to listen, to apologize,  
and to love with the care of Jesus.

*- confession continues -*

In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**  
...and strengthened to begin again. **Thanks be to God!**

**\*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS . . . no. 377, v. 1**

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

Houston  
Kathleen Thomerson

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.  
In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

© 1975 Celebration

**\*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 Savior. **Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE

### GOSPEL READING

Matthew 14:13-21

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves."

Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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

### PSALM

Psalms 17:1-7, 15

Hear a just cause, O LORD; attend to my cry;  
give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit.

**From you let my vindication come; let your eyes see the right.**

If you try my heart, if you visit me by night, if you test me,  
you will find no wickedness in me; my mouth does not transgress.

**As for what others do, by the word of your lips I have avoided the ways of the violent.**

My steps have held fast to your paths; my feet have not slipped.

**I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me; hear my words.**

Wonderfully show your steadfast love,

O savior of those who seek refuge from their adversaries at your right hand.

**As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness;**

**when I awake I shall be satisfied, beholding your likeness.**

### THE READING

Genesis 32:22-31

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had.

Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me."

So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him.

So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

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

- SILENCE FOR REFLECTION -

\*HYMN

"Come to the Feast"

Marty Haugen

Ho, everyone that thirsts: **come to the waters!** here is an end to hunger: **come to the feast!**  
and everyone who labors: **come to the waters!** all you who have no money: **come to the feast!**  
**For this is life:** the waters of the Jordan: **for this is life:** the waters of your birth:  
**for this is life:** the waters that renew you: **O come to the feast.**

(solo) Come to the wa - ters! (solo)

Come to the feast! For this is life: (solo)

for this is life: (solo) for this is life: (solo)

O come to the feast.

Ho, everyone who seeks: **come to the waters!** hear me and share the riches: **come to the feast!**  
and everyone who mourns: **come to the waters!** now is an end to sadness: **come to the feast!**  
**For this is life:** the streams of joy and gladness: **for this is life:** the rains that bring you joy:  
**for this is life:** the waters that restore you: **O come to the feast.**

Let all who seek their God: **come to the waters!** heed now the one who calls you: **come to the feast!**  
the everlasting stream: **come to the waters!** drink deep the Cup that saves you: **come to the feast!**  
**For this is life:** the floods that overwhelm you: **for this is life:** the streams of death and life:  
**for this is life:** the waters that sustain you: **O come to the feast.**

And you who are enslaved: **come to the waters!** this is the feast of freedom: **come to the feast!**  
to all who live in fear: **come to the waters!** join in the feast with courage: **come to the feast!**  
**For this is life:** the waters that have freed you: **for this is life:** the saving stream of God:  
**for this is life:** to share around the table: **O come to the feast.**

And all who are oppressed: **come to the waters!** this is the feast of justice: **come to the feast!**  
and you, the last and broken: **come to the waters!** join in the feast of healing: **come to the feast!**  
**For this is life:** to die and rise in Jesus: **for this is life:** to share the life of Christ:  
**for this is life:** the bread and wine of justice: **O come to the feast.**

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## \*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

...through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THANKSGIVING

### OFFERING

#### CALL TO GIVING

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

Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

#### OFFERTORY SONG OF DEDICATION

"O God, From Whom All Blessings Flow" vs. 1, 5

Melita; John Bacchus Dykes  
Kevin Scott Fleming

O God, from whom all bless - ings flow, Your grace with - in our  
O God of peace and right - eous - ness, through us, O let the  
lives You sow, You nur - ture love and peace with - in, and  
world be blessed. With ca - ring love and ac - tion bold may  
yet for - give our ev - r'y sin. Your love is deep and  
we from none Your love with - hold. O stead - fast God of  
broad and wide, and from that love no one can hide.  
truth and peace, through us, let peace and hope in - crease.

## SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

### INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

#### GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**  
*- thanksgiving continues -*  
...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

RESPONSE . . . no. 552

*Land of Rest; American Folk*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

*- thanksgiving continues -*  
...great is the mystery of faith:

RESPONSE . . . no. 553

*Land of Rest; American Folk*

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.  
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

*- thanksgiving continues -*  
...all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

RESPONSE . . . no. 554

*Land of Rest; American Folk*

**Amen. Amen. 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.**

#### BREAKING OF THE BREAD

...The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

#### COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*The bread will be passed to you first; then the cup will be passed to you.  
You may eat the bread or drink the juice from the cup as soon as you receive them.*

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

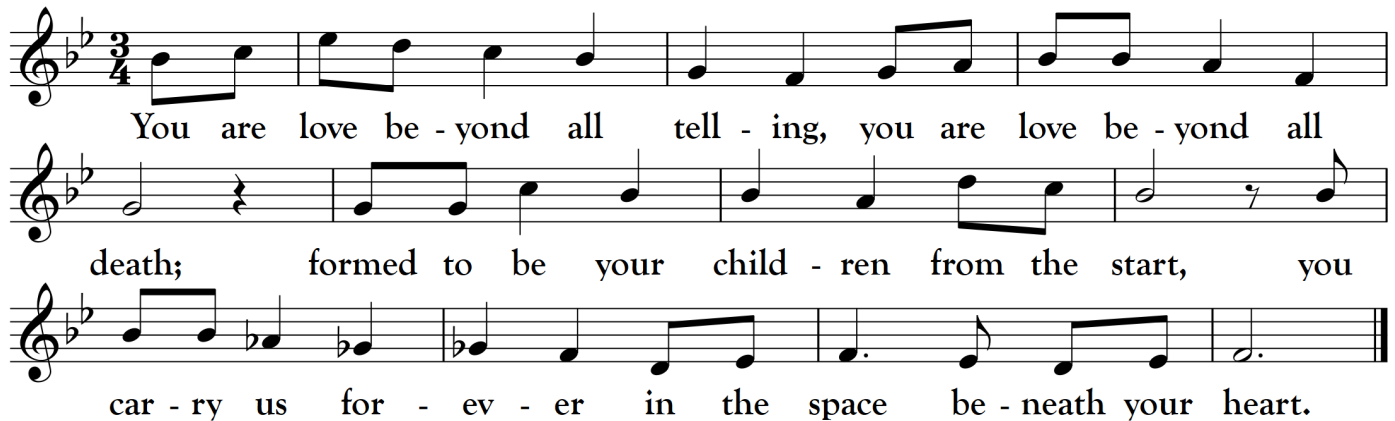
**Holy and eternal God, you are as far away as the distant stars and as close as our breath.  
You meet us at this table and we discover our hearts burning within us. Go with us as we  
leave this place, so that your light and your life may shine brightly for all to see. Amen.**

## SENDING

### \*HYMN

"Love Beyond All Telling"

Marty Haugen



*Praise to you who made creation, who shaped the skies and earth; you named us as your children and carried us to birth. You are near to all who suffer, you are one with every fear; you know our every sorrow and share our every tear. To the ones who walk in shadow, to the ones who live in fear, we sing a God of mercy, a God who holds us near; who is rest for all the weary, who is hope when hope is gone; new freedom for the captive, our story and our song.*

**Refrain**

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## INVITATION TO MINISTRY AND MISSION

### BLESSING AND CHARGE

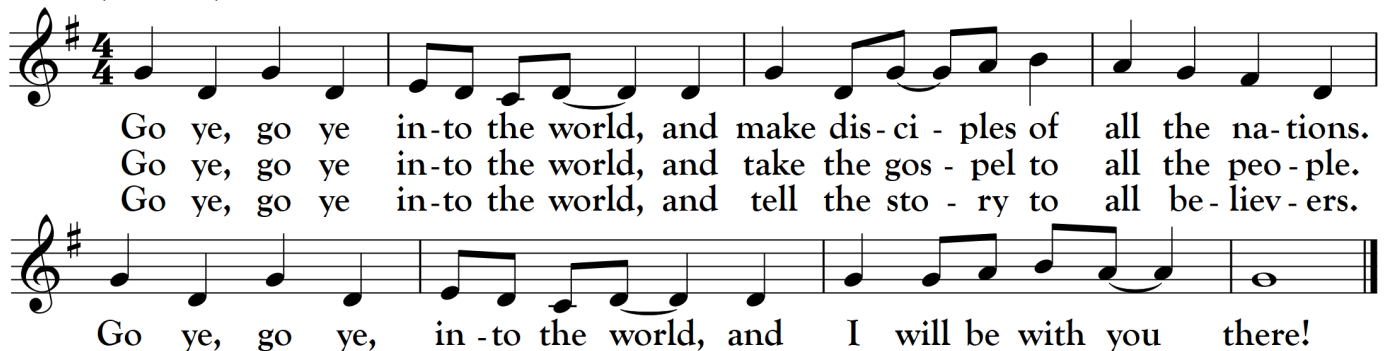
...and the song of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Alleluia!**

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

### \*SENDING SONG

"Go Ye, Go Ye, Into the World"

Natalie Sleeth



© 1979 Choristers Guild



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



## Leading worship this morning:

|                 |                                                                                   |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pastor          | Mary Beth McCandless                                                              |
| Liturgist       | Jerusha Van Camp                                                                  |
| Wide Awake Band | Tony Aiken, Bri Alley, Mack Gramooré, Jeff Haywood,<br>Matt O'Neill, Sue Schriber |
| Audio           | Blake Foerster-Daniels                                                            |
| Visual          | Finch Parker                                                                      |

We thank Sue Schriber for joining the band today; Director of Music Robert Nicholls is on vacation and will return to worship on August 16.

Liturgy for worship has been adapted from the Presbyterian Association of Musicians *Child of Blessing* resource, the July 2026 *Illustrated Ministry* resource 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.

## Happening at First Presbyterian Church

Presbyterian Women invite you to help those in need find **“A Soft Place to Land”**. Donate funds so the PW can supply the YWCA’s Domestic Violence and Emergency Housing programs with new pillows. **PW will do all the shopping**, so donate today - mark your gift “pillow”!

It’s that time of year! Dust off your favorite shareable breakfast recipe and plan to make it for the annual congregation-wide **carry-in breakfast on Sunday, August 9 at 9:30 a.m.** Both worship services will take place in the Sanctuary at their regular times. There’s always plenty of food and fellowship, so mark your calendars and come!

School-Year activities will soon return! Bring your backpack, bookbag, briefcase, etc. with you to church on **Sunday, August 9** as we celebrate the **Blessing of the Backpacks**. Besides a time of blessing, we’ll have special tags you can put on your bag at **both services** that morning.

**Book Group** at First Pres meets next on **Monday, August 10**, 6:30-8:00 p.m. in room 105. A Zoom option is available; contact Francie Hubbard to learn how to sign in. The group will discuss *What You Are Looking For is in the Library* by Michiko Aoyama, a novel of five interconnected short stories where people look to librarian Sayuri Komachi at a time of uncertainty in their careers and dreams.

On Saturday morning, **August 15**, First Pres will serve **lunch at Sister Joanna’s Table** at our First Street neighbor, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church. There are opportunities for all abilities to jump in and help! See the table in the church lobby, contact Guy Crouch ([wmguycrouch@gmail.com](mailto:wmguycrouch@gmail.com)), or make a note on your yellow worship slip to sign up!

All are invited to **lunch with Presbyterian Women!** **Saturday, August 22 from 11:00 to 1:00 p.m.**, enjoy time together in Fellowship Hall as the PWs kick-off their 2026-2027 program year. In addition to hearing the results of the “Soft Place to Land” fundraiser for the YWCA, Evansville Mayor Stephanie Terry will be PW’s guest. RSVP today by calling the church office, making a note on your yellow worship slip, or use the [form on First Web](#).

## **Weekly Calendar**

### **Sunday, August 2**

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  
We Make the Road  
10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship  
11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time

### **Monday, August 3**

11:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

### **Tuesday, August 4**

### **Wednesday, August 5**

12:00 p.m. We Make the Road  
7:00 p.m. We Make the Road

### **Thursday, August 6**

### **Friday, August 7**

*Church Office Closed*

### **Saturday, August 8**