

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 outside the door at the front and at the rear of the room, where there is also a *PrayGround* for children and their adults.

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

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

GATHERING

**YOU MAY RISE IN BODY OR SPIRIT.*

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES ARE PRINTED IN BOLD.

PRELUDE

"Prière" (Prayer)

Hedwige Chrétien

GREETING AND WELCOME

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

We say it out loud together. **God is good!**

We say it out loud together. **Jesus is Lord!**

We say it out loud together. **The Holy Spirit meets us here.**

Let us worship God!

*HYMN . . . no. 410

"God Is Calling Through the Whisper"

W Żłobie Leży; Polish Carol
Mary Louise Bringle

God is calling through the whisper of the Spirit's deepest sighs,
through the thrill of sudden beauties that can catch us by surprise.
Flash of lightening, crash of thunder, hush of stillness, rush of wonder:
God is calling - can you hear? God is calling - can you hear?

God is calling through the voices of our neighbors' urgent prayers,
through their longing for redemption and for rescue from despair.
Place of hurt or face of needing; strident cry or silent pleading:
God is calling - can you hear? God is calling - can you hear?

God is calling through the music of our sublime and human arts,
through the hymns of earth and angels, and the carols of our hearts.
Lift of joy and gift of singing; days and nights our praises bringing:
God is calling - and we hear! God is calling - and we hear!

Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.

*OPENING PRAYER

...in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever 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 14:22-33

Immediately [Jesus] made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

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

PSALM

Psalms 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b

O give thanks to the LORD; call on God's name;
make known God's deeds among the peoples.

Sing to God, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually.

Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles and the judgments he uttered,

O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

**When he summoned famine against the land and cut off every supply of bread,
he had sent a man ahead of them, Joseph, who had been sold as a slave.**

His feet were hurt with fetters; his neck was put in a collar of iron;
until what he had said came to pass, the word of the LORD kept testing him.

The king sent and released him; the ruler of the peoples set him free.

He made him lord of his house and ruler of all his possessions,
to instruct his officials at his pleasure and to teach his elders wisdom.

Praise the LORD!

SPECIAL MUSIC

"I Waited for the Lord" from *Hymn of Praise*

Felix Mendelssohn

*I waited for the Lord, he inclined unto me, he heard my complaint.
O blessed are they that hope and trust in the Lord.*

Jacob [who has been named Israel] settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. These are the descendants of Jacob.

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives, and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children because he was the son of his old age, and he made him an ornamented robe. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.

Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron.

[Joseph] came to Shechem, and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" "I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan.

They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them they conspired to kill him. They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him" - that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the ornamented robe that he wore, and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

Then [the brothers] sat down to eat, and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed.

When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And [the Ishmaelites] took Joseph to Egypt.

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

SERMON

Anything but Ordinary: From the Pit

- SILENCE FOR REFLECTION -

***HYMN . . . no. 470**

Longing
Anne Quigley

“There Is a Longing in Our Hearts”

Refrain There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to reveal yourself to us.
 There is a longing in our hearts for love we only find in you, our God.

For justice, for freedom, for mercy; hear our prayer.
In sorrow, in grief: be near; hear our prayer, O God. *Refrain*

For wisdom, for courage, for comfort: hear our prayer.
In weakness, in fear: be near; hear our prayer, O God. *Refrain*

For healing, for wholeness, for new life: hear our prayer.
In sickness, in death: be near; hear our prayer, O God. *Refrain*

Lord, save us, take pity, light in our darkness.
We call you; we wait: be near; hear our prayer, O God. *Refrain*

© Anne Quigley. Published by OCP Publications

***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

BLESSING OF BACKPACKS AND BLESSING FOR A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

ALL THOSE RETURNING TO SCHOOL ARE INVITED TO GATHER AROUND THE FONT
(WITH YOUR BAG/BACKPACK) FOR THE PRAYER AND BLESSING.

...in Jesus' name we pray, **amen.**

One quiet prayer that everyone can do is to breathe in for 4 counts, to hold for 2 counts, to breathe out for 4 counts, and to hold for 2 counts and to keep doing that until your mind and body are calmer. You can imagine doing this with your backpack tag...in on the long side, out on the short side, etc. Or you can vary the amount of time for each part (in 4, hold 6, out 2, hold 4, etc.)

Go with us, God. **Go with us, God.**
Open our hearts to new people. **Open our hearts to new people.**
Give us courage for new things. **Give us courage for new things.**
Help us to love like Jesus. **Help us to love like Jesus.**
Amen. 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

"My Song Shall Be Alway Thy Mercy" from *Hymn of Praise*

Felix Mendelssohn

My song shall be alway thy mercy, singing thy praise, thou only God.

My tongue ever speaks the goodness thou hast done unto me.

*I wander in night, and foulest darkness, and mine enemies stand threatening around,
yet called I upon the name of the Lord, and he redeemed me with watchful goodness.*

*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

"Into Each Life"

Chester; William Billings

Kevin Scott Fleming



In - to each life the test - ing time will come. Each one will
When days are dark and hours creep a - long, when faith's sure
When pain is sharp and tears our on - ly drink, when in - to
To You, O Lord, we lift our wea - ry souls. In - to your
walk the wil - der - ness and face their trial. And though the
cer - tain - ties both wai - ver and de - mur, when doubt's in -
death's cold coun - te - nance we be - gin to stare, God will sus -
hands, O God, we place our tat - tered trust. Your cov' - nant
Temp - ter's voice is loud and strong, God will guide us,
fect - ious pow - er takes con - trol, God will come and
tain us by grace and pro - mise true, then will God's pure
love our strength will ev - er be, and Your stead - fast
draw - ing ev - er near, to walk the jour - ney long.
lift our flag - ging trust, and make our spir - its whole.
mer - cy raise our hope, and see life's jour - ney through.
love we'll ev - er praise, through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

Text ©2006 Kevin Scott Fleming

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!

POSTLUDE

"Fugue in G"

Gottfried August Homilius

Leading worship this morning:

Pastor	Mary Beth McCandless
Liturgist	Becky Sparks-Thissen
Guest Organist	Neal Biggers
Vocalists	Bri Alley, Micaiah Van Camp
Audio	Blake Foerster-Daniels
Visual	Finch Parker

We welcome and thank Neal Biggers, Bri Alley, and Micaiah Van Camp for leading our music 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 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”!

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), or make a note on your yellow worship slip to sign up!

Presbyterian Women welcome all to a luncheon on Saturday, August 22 at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall as they kick-off a new program year. Come for fellowship, food, an address by Evansville Mayor Stephanie Terry, and the results of the pillow project for the YWCA. See the table in the lobby, make a note on your yellow worship slip, contact the church office, or use the [form on First Web](#).

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, August 9

7:30 a.m. Band Rehearsal
8:30 a.m. Wide Awake Worship
9:15 a.m. Fellowship Time
9:30 a.m. Carry-In Breakfast
10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
7:00 p.m. Singing Resistance

Monday, August 10

10:30 a.m. Feeding Mission at UCS

Tuesday, August 11

11:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

Wednesday, August 12

12:00 p.m. We Make the Road
5:30 p.m. Finance Committee
7:00 p.m. We Make the Road

Thursday, August 13

Friday, August 14

Church Office Closed

Saturday, August 15