

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](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

"We Praise You, O God"

Ralph Vaughan Williams, adpt. Robert Nicholls

*We praise you, O God; we acknowledge you to be the Lord. All the earth doth worship you; the Father everlasting.  
We gather here and we worship you. We believe that you will come and join us here.*

### GREETING AND WELCOME

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

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Come and listen! God is calling. **God calls us together.**  
Come and listen! God is calling. **God calls us to holy ground.**  
Come and listen! God is calling. **God calls each of us to love and serve the Lord.**  
Come and listen! God is calling. **God calls us to worship**  
**and sends us out to love one another and to work for justice.**

Let us worship God!

### \*HYMN . . . no. 264

*King's Weston; Ralph Vaughan Williams  
Caroline Maria Noel*

"At the Name of Jesus"

**At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, every tongue confess him  
King of glory now; 'tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord,  
who from the beginning was the mighty Word.**

**Humbled for a season to receive a name from the lips of sinners  
unto whom he came, faithfully he bore it spotless to the last,  
brought it back victorious, when from death he passed;**

**Bore it up triumphant, with its human light, through all ranks of creatures,  
to the central height, to the throne of Godhead, to the Father's breast,  
filled it with the glory of that perfect rest.**

**Christians, this Lord Jesus shall return again, with his Father's glory  
o'er the earth to reign; for all wreaths of empire meet upon his brow,  
and our hearts confess him King of glory now.**

### \*OPENING PRAYER

...and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

## \*CONFESSION AND PARDON

God, you are loving and just.  
Forgive us when we do not care for all of creation  
and when we do not care for one another.  
Guide us when things are unfair  
so we can learn what your justice means  
and share your love on earth.

*- confession continues -*

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

...In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **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.

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## \*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

PSALM

Psalms 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b

O give thanks to the LORD; call on his name;  
make known his deeds among the peoples.  
**Sing to him, 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.**  
Then Israel came to Egypt; Jacob lived as an alien in the land of Ham.  
**And the LORD made his people very fruitful and made them stronger than their foes,**  
**whose hearts he then turned to hate his people, to deal craftily with his servants.**  
He sent his servant Moses and Aaron, whom he had chosen.  
**Praise the LORD!**

## THE ANTHEM

"Lead Me, Lord" from *Praise the Lord, O My Soul*

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

*Lead me, Lord, in thy righteousness; make thy way plain before my face.  
For it is thou, Lord, only, that makest me dwell in safety.*

- Psalm 4:9, 5:8

## THE READING

Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to mount Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" [God] said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain." But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?"

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations."

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

## SERMON

*Anything but Ordinary: Holy Ground*

- SILENCE FOR REFLECTION -

**\*HYMN . . . no. 216**

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

St. Christopher; Frederick Charles Maker  
Elizabeth Cecilia Douglas Clephane

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand, the shadow of a mighty rock  
within a weary land; a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,  
from the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see the very dying form of One  
who suffered there for me; and from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess:  
the wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place; I ask no other sunshine than  
the sunshine of his face; content to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,  
my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

**\*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**

“A Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester”

L.J. White

O holy Jesus, most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,  
may I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly. Amen.

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE . . . no. 606  
“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”

*Old Hundredth*; Genevan Psalter  
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. 826  
“Lift High the Cross”

*Crucifer*; Sydney Hugo Nicholson  
George William Kitchin

*Refrain* Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,  
the Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*

All newborn servants of the Crucified  
bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died. *Refrain*

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
your death has brought us life eternally. *Refrain*

So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
praise to the Crucified for victory. *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!**

## BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“Siyahamba”

Zulu Folk Song

*Siyahamba ekukhanyeni kwenkos’.*

We are marching in the light of God.

## POSTLUDE

### Leading worship this morning:

|                                        |                        |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Pastor                                 | Mary Beth McCandless   |
| Liturgist                              | Elesha Downs           |
| Director of Music                      | Robert Nicholls        |
| The Choir of First Presbyterian Church |                        |
| Audio                                  | Blake Foerster-Daniels |
| Visual                                 | Finch Parker           |

The flowers today are given by Robert and Emma Nicholls to the glory of God and in celebration of their twenty-fourth wedding anniversary.

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

Start next weekend off with some wonderful music: our September **First Friday** recitalist is **James Wells**, Director of Music for St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro. James has a wonderfully varied concert planned, spanning from Bach to living composers. Bring your friends downtown and join us **this Friday at 7:00 p.m.!**

Friday isn't the only musical day of next weekend - plan to enjoy **Front Porch Fest** next Saturday afternoon and evening in the First Pres/Haynie's Corner neighborhood. Don't miss *First Street Classical* at 1115 SE First Street. **Robert Nicholls and friends** from the Evansville Philharmonic will entertain you with wonderful music between **3:00 and 5:00**, and members of the **First Pres choir will sing at 5:00 p.m.** Come downtown and have a great time!

Join Gail Riecken and the crew in providing **lunch** for our neighbors at **United Caring Services** on the second Monday of the month. The UCS kitchen is quite small, so for September, we will prepare casseroles ahead of time at First Pres. If you need more information, or would like to **help on Saturday, September 12 or Sunday, September 13**, please be in touch with Gail by making a note on your yellow worship form, or contacting Gail at 812-550-2328). Thank you!

**Book Group at First Pres** meets next on Monday, September 14, 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 *The Backyard Bird Chronicles* written and illustrated by Amy Tan. Begun in earnest in 2016, Tan's scrutiny, speculation, and delight in the birds visiting her feeders and water bowls are recorded in this witty and stunningly illustrated journal.

**The Mission Committee invites you to lunch with them!** Bring your lunch (*beverages provided*) on **Monday, September 21 at 11:30 a.m.** for an informative presentation by Elizabeth Arnold, Director of Outpatient Services at Southwestern Behavioral Healthcare, as she shares how Southwestern is making a difference in the lives of individuals and families throughout our community. Learn about the mental health services that Southwestern provides, the impact of the Friends of Mental Health program in supporting quality care, and what it means to have a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) in the area. This is a wonderful opportunity to gain insight into available resources and reduce stigma surrounding mental health.

### Weekly Calendar

#### **Sunday, August 30**

- 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
- 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
- All-Officer Retreat
- 7:00 p.m. Singing Resistance

#### **Monday, August 31**

#### **Tuesday, September 1**

- 11:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 3:45 p.m. Teen Rehearsal
- 4:45 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal
- 5:45 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal

#### **Wednesday, September 2**

- 3:15 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal

#### **Thursday, September 3**

- 4:00 p.m. Choir Beginners
- 5:00 pm. Chorister Rehearsal
- 6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

#### **Friday, September 4**

- Church Office Closed*
- 7:00 p.m. First Friday Recital:  
James Wells, Organ

#### **Saturday, September 5**



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

