

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.

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

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. 596

"You Are Holy"

Du Är Helig
Per Harling

Your are holy, you are whole. You are always ever more than we ever understand.
You are always at hand. Blessed are you coming near.
Blessed are you coming here to your church in wine and bread,
 raised from soil, raised from dead.
You are whole, you are wholeness; you are present.
Let the cosmos praise you, Lord! Sing hosanna in the highest!
Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna to our God!

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*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!**

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

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

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!

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 -

***SONG**

"Servant Song"

Ziggy Stardust and Bobby Fischer

Refrain



Be fair and just. Be mer-ci-ful and true. These are the things I am
ask-ing of you. Walk hum-bly with your God, in
ev-'ry-thing you do. This is the way that will lead you to the truth.

To you, O Lord, we lift our souls. To you, O Lord, we pray.

For we open our hearts to you, O God, awaken us, show us the way. Refrain

Lead us on the path of truth. Guide us along the way.

Remember your kindness and mercy, O God. Give us your wisdom today. Refrain

Breathe in us the spirit of life. Awaken our senses this day

to feel your presence in all of the earth. Move in us, lead us to you. Refrain

Mold our hearts for all that is good. Let kindness be our guide.

May we be your voice to others in need, your shelter where friends can hide. Refrain

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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

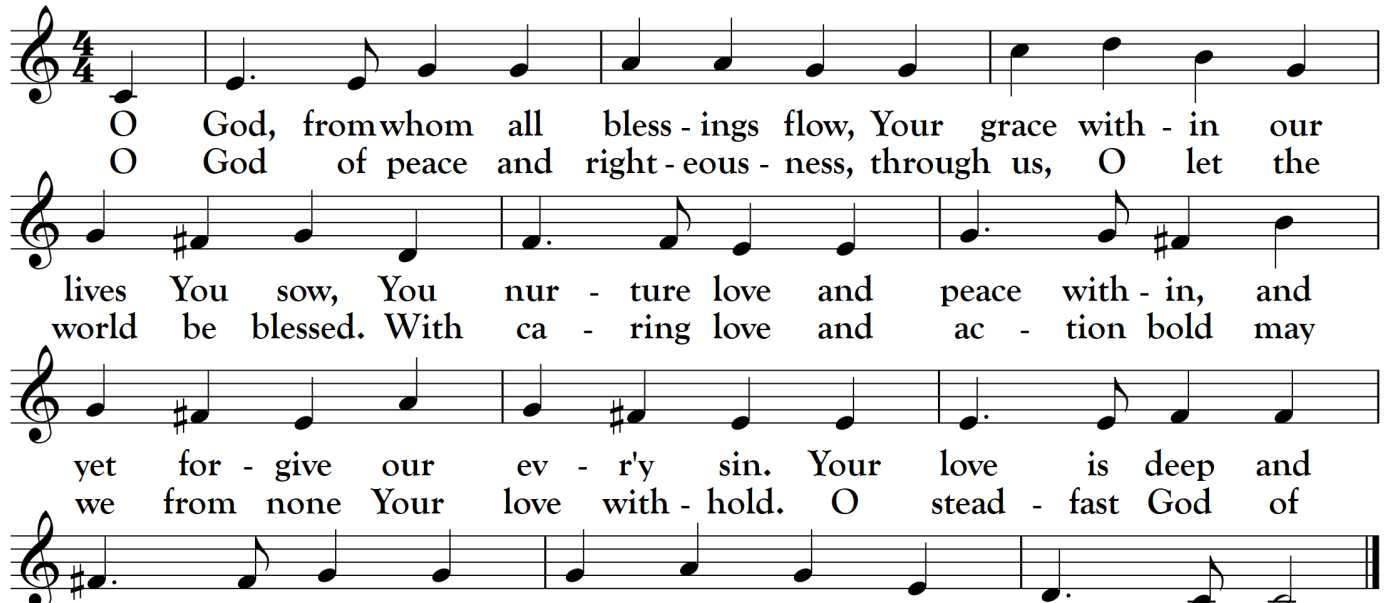
CALL TO GIVING

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

Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

OFFERTORY SONG OF DEDICATION

Melita; John Bacchus Dykes



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.

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

Kevin Scott Fleming

Text © 2003 Kevin Scott Fleming

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

"Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

The Ash Grove; Welsh Folk Song

Omer Westendorf



Sent forth by God's bles - sing our true faith con - fes - sing, the
 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the
 peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave. The ser - vice is
 tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er
 en - ded, O now be ex - tend - ed the fruits of our wor - ship in
 shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em - brac - ing God's child - ren of
 all who be - lieve. The seed of the teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
 each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with your light now
 reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all. God's
 lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share. Then
 grace did in - vite us, and love shall u - nite us to
 may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing give
 work for God's king - dom and an - swer the call.
 hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.

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INVITATION TO MINISTRY AND MISSION

BLESSING AND CHARGE

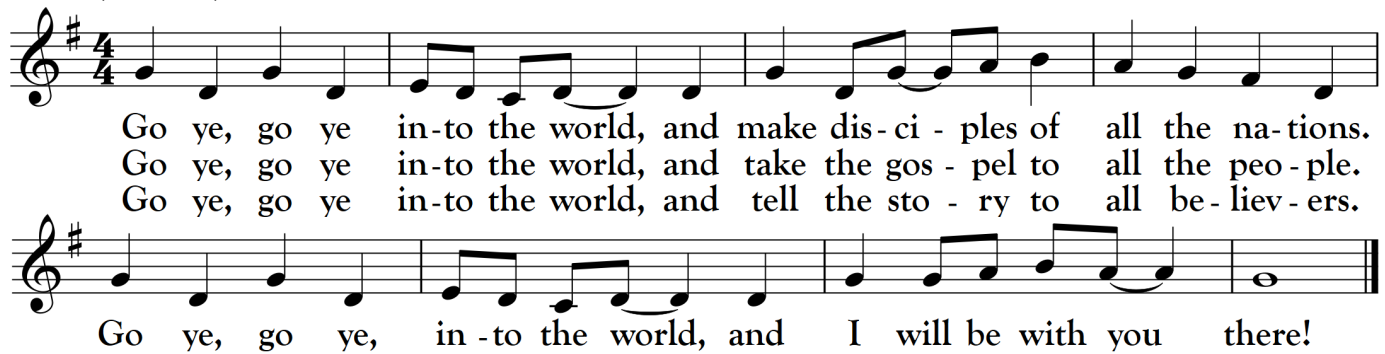
...and the song of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Alleluia!**

...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

Leading worship this morning:

Pastor	Mary Beth McCandless
Liturgist	John Strange
Director of Music	Robert Nicholls
Wide Awake Band	Tony Aiken, Bri Alley Mack Gramooré, Jeff Haywood, Matt O'Neill
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.

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



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