

Welcome to Worship from First Presbyterian Church

We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in the worship, service, and program life of First Pres!

- Please visit the church website: www.firstpresevansville.com to stay up-to-date on our ministry and service opportunities.
- Please visit our Facebook page - First Presbyterian Church - Evansville, Indiana. We hope you'll "like" us!

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

WE GATHER TO CELEBRATE NEW LIFE

THE PRELUDE

"Peaceful Blessing"

Vesper Hymn; arr. Sandra Eithun

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

One For God alone our souls in silence waits;
truly, our hope is in God.

All **God alone is our rock and our salvation,
our stronghold, so that we shall not be shaken.**

One In God is our safety and our honor;
God is our strong rock and our refuge.

All **Let us put our trust in God always,
and pour out your hearts before God, who is our refuge.**

THE OPENING PRAYER

THE HYMN

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

Dix

**For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to Thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
Lord of all, to Thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight:
Lord of all, to Thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to Thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For Thy Church, that evermore lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore her pure sacrifice of love:
Lord of all, to Thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.**

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

Forgiving God, we repent of all the ways we turn from you.
You call, but we do not listen;
you show us your path, but we prefer our own way.
Forgive us, heal us, and lead us back to you,
that we might show mercy to others.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

THE WORDS OF WELCOME

The Greetings Among the People of God
The Concerns of the Church

WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF NEW LIFE

THE PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

THE LESSON FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

THE PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalms 62:5-12

One For God alone my soul in silence waits;
truly, my hope is in God.
All God alone is my rock and my salvation,
my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken.
One In God is my safety and my honor;
God is my strong rock and my refuge.
All Put your trust in God always, O people,
pour out your hearts before God, who is our refuge.
One Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath,
even those of low estate cannot be trusted.
All On the scales they are lighter than a breath,
all of them together.
One Put no trust in extortion;
in robbery take no empty pride;
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.
All God has spoken once, twice have I heard it,
that power belongs to God.
Steadfast love is yours, O Lord,
for you repay all people according to their deeds.

THE SPECIAL MUSIC

"Will You Come and Follow Me"

Kelvingrove; arr. Robert Nicholls

THE LESSON

Mark 1:14-20

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea - for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

THE SERMON

"What If God Really Means It?"

Kevin Scott Fleming

WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE GIFT OF NEW LIFE

A TIME OF INTENTIONAL SILENCE

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(in unison)*

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

**In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image,
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.**

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.

**Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.**

We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

**In everlasting love,
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.**

Hearing their cry,

God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.

Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

**Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.**

- from A Brief Statement of Faith Presbyterian Church (USA)

THE MORNING OFFERING

You may send a check to the church office or give online at <http://firstpresevansville.com/giving/>

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The Spoken Prayers

The Lord's Prayer (*in unison*)

**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.**

WE DISPERSE TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF NEW LIFE

THE HYMN

"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

Beecher

**Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.**

**Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
Let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old,
Blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.**

**Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,
Help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,
Bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.**

**So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.**

THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

"Brightly Sound the Chimes"

Lynn Holländer

Leading worship this morning:

Pastor Rev. Kevin Scott Fleming
Liturgists Jessica Montgomery (8:30), Tracy Shaw (10:30)
Director of Music Robert Nicholls
The Handbell Choir of First Presbyterian Church, Mark G. Fox, Director

Happening at First Presbyterian Church

Education

You can still join **Kevin Fleming on Zoom** for a discussion of Morgan Guyton's challenging book, *How Jesus Saves the World from Us* on **Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.** It is a powerful, eye-opening treatise that should change the way we think about and practice our faith. You can purchase a copy of the book from Amazon (or your favorite bookseller) or order one from the church (\$14). See the Forms tab on the First Web homepage or contact the church office to register. When you register for the study, you will be sent a link to join via Zoom.

The Energy Independent Home: it is possible for your home to produce more energy than it consumes. Rev. Dr. Trisha Tull achieved a "net-zero" home and will share how she did it via a **Zoom** presentation **tomorrow at 6:30 p.m.** Obviously, this saves dollars but it also immensely helps our planet. To join the meeting, send an email to tristate.creation.care@gmail.com and a Zoom link will be sent to you. All are invited.

Weekly Offerings

We continue to offer thirty minutes of **music on Thursdays at 12:00 p.m.** This week, we welcome **Diana Chou from the Jacobs School of Music** at IU Bloomington to the Fisk bench. Join us on the church's website or Facebook. You can also see all of the previous recitals on the church's YouTube page.

Every week, an Elder from Session is "on call" to assist in responding to those of the congregation with special needs. The **Elder of the Week** may be contacted directly or by calling the church office. This week's elder is **Rob Henson**.

This week's **daily reading schedule** includes:

Sunday, January 24	Mark 7:31-37	Thursday, January 28	John 5:30-47
Monday, January 25	John 4:43-54	Friday, January 29	John 6:1-15
Tuesday, January 26	John 5:1-18	Saturday, January 30	John 6:16-27
Wednesday, January 27	John 5:19-29		