



FIRST 
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Thirty-Second Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Sunday, November 12, 2023
10:30 A.M.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 70:1, 4

Be pleased, O God, to deliver your people.

O Lord, make haste to help us!

Let all who seek God rejoice and be glad.

Let those who love the Lord's salvation say evermore, "God is great!"

*OPENING PRAYER

O great and loving God, your wisdom is radiant and unfading. When faithful people live in love and work for justice, heaven breaks into earth. Give us the grace to live confidently and expectantly, trusting that the Lord of history, who has been approaching from all eternity, comes into life continually with compassion, redemption, and hope. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*HYMN 305

Come, Sing O Church in Joy

DARWALL'S 148TH

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Jeff Moles

May God be with you in worship here.

May God be with you in worship there.

Children may depart the sanctuary with their teacher for Worship & Wonder. They will return to the sanctuary before communion.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Exod. 33:19

Beloved, we are called to live in right relationship with God by loving one another. Therefore, let us confess our sins to the One who pardons our offenses.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Amos 5:24

Loving God, we confess that we have sinned against you by not honoring you or loving one another. When we ignore injustice in the world our worship brings you no delight. Make haste to help us, that we may stand in right relationship with you and the whole of your creation and sing your praises through the mercy of Christ our resurrected Savior. Amen.

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Ps. 70: 1, 4, 5

Siblings in Christ, rejoice and be glad, for God is mighty to save and comes to you in peace to forgive, restore, and strengthen you eternally.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI (Hymn 581)

GREATOREX

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Amen.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Since we have been reconciled to God, let us also be reconciled to one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

*SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn 314)

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

- 1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.**

Refrain:

**Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine in the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair. Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice. *Refrain*
3. Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come. *Refrain*

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Amos 5:24

Send your Spirit to move in our world and stir the water of our souls that we may desire a word of instruction that awakens us to the joy of your coming reign. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Amos 5:18-24

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“No Justice, No Peace”

Rev. Matt Curry

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from the Confession of Belhar

We believe:

- That God has revealed God’s self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;
- That God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged
- That God calls the church to follow God in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;
- That God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;
- That God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly;
- That the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

He Leadeth Me

Wegner

His faithful follower I would be for by his hand he leadeth me. (J.H. Gilmore)

*THE DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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

Sung by all:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven 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!** *The prayer continues.*

THE 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 COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All who seek God are invited to the table, regardless of church affiliation or any other condition or identity. Usbers will guide you forward to partake by taking a piece of bread and dipping it in the cup. Prepackaged gluten-free elements are available in the baskets near the communion stations. Servers will come to those who prefer to remain in their seats.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Hunter Jones, Guitar

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE AND DEDICATION

O God, we are filled with gratitude:

For the gift of your creation which sustains us;

For this community of faith where we find belonging;

For the abundant gifts present here which enrich our common life;

For the ways we grow together in wisdom and love;

For those who dry our tears and make us laugh with unbounded joy.

May our gratitude be more than a good feeling, O God. Transform our thanksgiving into action:

Where there is hatred, let us do the difficult work of love.

When people are hungry, may we bring food.

When lies are spoken, give us courage to speak truth.

When people are excluded, help us to practice your radical hospitality.

Wherever we see wrong, give us creativity to make things right.

Today, we dedicate our time, talent, and treasure to your work, Creator God. May your Holy Spirit revive us, transform us, and give us growth. And may we always walk in the way of the one who surprises us with grace, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THE SENDING

*HYMN 298

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

ABBOT'S LEIGH

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

**Rise in body or spirit*

The Life of the Church

Pledges for the coming year will be received today. You may bring your pledge card forward during communion to place in the Joash Box at the baptismal font. In gratitude, we return a portion of what has been given to us for the building of God's kingdom.

An Interfaith Justice Organizing Info Session will be held in the chapel today at 3:00 P.M. Keith Sanders of the Public Life Foundation will facilitate a conversation with Yvonne Martin, the lead organizer for CAJE, Congregations Acting for Justice and Empowerment, an Evansville organization that brings together religious groups to work together on community concerns. Discussion will be held about how a similar effort might take place in Owensboro-Daviess County.

Our Thanksgiving Feast will be held after worship on Sunday, November 19 in Fellowship Hall. The Congregational Life Committee will be providing this meal for us as we give thanks for the many blessings we share. Please RSVP using the insert or by contacting the office so the committee knows how much food to prepare.

Youth Group meets this evening! Middle School from 4-6 P.M., High School 5-7 P.M.

An Inurnment Service for Burla Neeley will be held on Tuesday, November 14 at 10:00 A.M. at the columbarium.

PrimeTimers meets this Tuesday, November 14 at 10:30 in Fellowship Hall.

Dakota DeGraw, one of our Wesleyan Scholars, will give his senior recital on Sunday, November 19 at 5:00 P.M. in our sanctuary. He will be accompanied by Dr. Diane Earle and is a student of Dennis Jewett. He has been a tenor in our church choir for the past 4 years.

Hearing Assistance Devices are available. Please see an usher if you would like to use one.



LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Matt Curry* | Liturgist: *Debbie Hutchinson*

Communion Servers: *Don Preuss & Suzanne Guyer* | Worship & Wonder: *Susan Godthaab*



First Presbyterian Church is an inclusive community of faith called to proclaim the good news of the love of Jesus Christ for all people, and to join God in the building of a just, peaceful, and compassionate world.



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Rev. Matt Curry, Pastor
Jeff Moles, Director of Christian Education & Mission
Stephanie Dube, Director of Children's & Youth Ministries
Dennis Jewett, Director of Music
Tyler Simpson, Organist
Sasha O'Bryan, Office Manager & Pastoral Assistant
Dylan Schroader, Custodian
Emmy Voyles, Nursery Care Provider