

**November 24, 2024**  
**Christ the King/Reign of Christ**  
**11:00am — Sanctuary**



*"Saying Grace", Cornelis Pietersz Bega, 1663*



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**WEST WAYNE STREET**

## Welcome to First Presbyterian Church!

**Thank you for joining us today!** We're grateful for your presence and invite you to take part in our worship, mission, and programs. Please join us after worship for a Thanksgiving meal in our fellowship hall, called McKay Hall. Just follow the crowd, and you cannot miss it! Livestreaming is available to watch via the website or YouTube, but we know this is no substitute for the community built through in-person connections. We're glad you're here!

Rev. Dr. Anne Epling (she/her), Rev. Carrie Winebrenner (she/her)

Rev. Dr. Youngsoo An (he/him), Rev. Ann Pitman (she/her)

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**Please silence and put away your cellphone as you enter this worship space.**

*\*Those who are able, please stand*

**Congregation responds in bold**

## GATHERING

### Prelude

O God Beyond All Praising  
Abide with Me

David Blackwell  
Robert A. Hobby

### Tolling of the Hour

### Call to Worship

Come, let us gather with joyful hearts, for God has blessed us in so many ways!

**We lift our voices in thanksgiving, grateful for God's goodness and love.**

For the beauty of creation, for family, for friends near and far, and for laughter, we give thanks!

**Our hearts are full of gratitude! God's blessings overflow in every season.**

So let us come together with joy, ready to celebrate and praise God's endless generosity.

**With thankful hearts, we worship God, whose love endures forever! Amen.**

**\*Call to Confession**

In this season of gratitude, we come before God with open hearts, acknowledging that we sometimes fall short in giving thanks. Let us bring our burdens and our doubts, trusting that God meets us with mercy and grace. With honesty and hope, let us confess our sins before our loving Creator.

**\*Prayer of Confession**

**Gracious God, we come before you with honest hearts. We confess that while we know we should give thanks in all circumstances, we often struggle to do so. When life feels uncertain, our hearts can be filled with worry rather than gratitude. When things don't go as planned, we are quick to focus on what is lacking instead of your many blessings.**

**Forgive us, Lord, for the times we let our challenges overshadow your goodness. Renew in us a spirit of thankfulness, and open our eyes to see your gifts, even in difficult seasons. Teach us to trust in your steadfast love, so that we may live with hearts full of gratitude and joy. Amen.**

**\*Assurance of Forgiveness**

Friends, hear the good news: God's love and mercy are from everlasting to everlasting. Even when we struggle to be grateful, God's grace abounds. Through Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven, our hearts are renewed, and we are set free to live in the light of God's love.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*Passing the Peace of Christ**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*As you are comfortable, we invite you to take a moment to share the Peace of Christ with those around you with a smile, wave, or other signs of connection.*

**\*Responsive Hymn No. 37** Let All Things Now Living

Ash Grove

Let all things now liv - ing a song of \_ thanks - giv - ing to God our Cre - a - tor tri -  
um - phant - ly raise; who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed \_ and stayed us, by guid - ing us  
on to the end of our days. God's ban - ners are o'er us; pure light goes be - fore us, a  
pil - lar of \_ fire shin - ing forth in the night: till shad - ows have van - ished, all fear - ful - ness  
ban - ished, as for - ward we \_ trav - el from light in - to light.

## HEARING THE WORD

### Time with Children

Children and youth in kindergarten thru 9th grade are encouraged to head to Sunday School after the Time with Children

### New Testament Reading

Philippians 4:1-13

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

### Anthem Eternal God

John Rutter

*Eternal God, we give you thanks for music, blest gift from heaven to all your servants here on earth: in time of joy a crown, in sorrow consolation; companion through our days of tears and mirth. We give you thanks for every sound of beauty: for sweetest harmony that echoes in our hearts. For melodies that soar on high like birds at morning, for voice and instrument in all their parts. As we are blest, so may our gifts bless others: may hearts be touched and spirits lifted up anew. Let music draw together those who live as strangers; bring joy to those we love, in thankfulness true.*

*And when at last we come into your kingdom, all discord over and all earthly labor done, then sound and silence yield before one equal music, and with the Giver shall our souls be one.*

**Gospel Reading**

Luke 17:11-19

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon** “Choosing Gratitude”

Rev. Dr. Annie Bain Epling

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**\*Hymn No. 367** Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

St. George’s Windsor

**Announcements**

**Prayers of the People and 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.**

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Offertory** Thanksgiving!

John Ness Beck

*For seedtime and harvest and the good will of men, we give thanks to God the Father once again; for shelter in winter, for the thaw in the spring, our praise and thanksgiving to the Lord now we bring. For those we have loved who have gone on before through that shining bright celestial door; for all who shall follow in their place, we implore thy continuing saving grace. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly hosts; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.*

**\*Responsive Hymn. 643** Now Thank We All Our God

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT



Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voice, who wondrous things hath  
done, in whom this world rejoices; who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our  
way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Loving God, we offer these gifts as symbols of our gratitude and as acts of our trust in your abundant grace. Take what we have given—our resources, our time, and our hearts—and use them to bring hope and healing in this world. May these offerings bless those in need and spread your love far beyond this place. Teach us to live generously, sharing all that we have as we give thanks for all that you have given us. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

**SENDING**

**\*Hymn No. 363** Rejoice, the Lord Is King!

DARWALL'S 148TH

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude** Improvisation on *Darwall's 148th*

**Chancel Flowers**

The Chancel flowers are given in celebration of the 55th Wedding Anniversary of Joan and Scott Pattison

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## Assisting with Worship this Morning

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**Pastors:** Rev. Dr. Anne Epling, Rev. Carrie Winebrenner

**Elders of the Month/Greeters:** Jake Huffman, Carolyn Krebs

**Ushers:** Eric Evans, Penny Pulz, June Schwertfager, Anita Wolfe

**Director of Music Ministries & Organist:** Brent Neuenschwander

**Assistant Organist:** Kathryn Miller

**Chancel Choir**

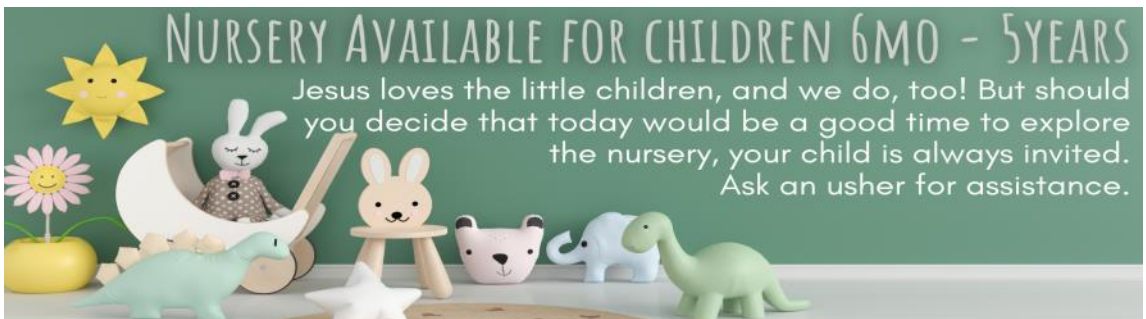
**Live Stream Operator:** Dick Florea

**Sound Board Operator:** Jeff Slater

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**Hearing Loop:** To use the “Hearing Loop” during the service, please switch your hearing aid or cochlear device to the “T,” T-Coil or telephone position.

*Large Print Hymns are available from the Ushers*



**Sunday School for Children and Youth meets during church. We'll all start in worship together, and then head to our SS rooms as a group. Grown-ups, please pick your children up in the education wing after worship.**



## **This Week at First Pres!**

**You're invited to the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving worship service** at Congregation Achduth Vesholom on Tuesday, November 26, 7:00pm. Come celebrate a Harvest of Compassion with your friends of many faiths. First Presbyterian Church is honored to be a sponsor of this event.

**Advent/Christmas Eve Service Music:** The music of Christmas Eve is enhanced by members of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic made possible through generous donations. We look forward to hosting an orchestra at the 5:30pm service. If you would like to give in honor or memory of a loved one, please be sure to include that information with the donation. Please have your contribution in by December 15th to be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. To donate, make check payable to First Presbyterian Church, memo line: Music – Christmas or online at [www.firstpresfortwayne.org](http://www.firstpresfortwayne.org). Thank you in advance for your generosity!

**Christmas Decorations:** Christmas decorations are made possible through monetary gifts given in loving memory of family and friends. Memorialized names, with the names of the donors, will appear with the Christmas Eve worship bulletin. Please have your donation to the church by December 15th. To donate, make check payable to First Presbyterian Church, memo line: Chancel Guild – Christmas or online at [www.firstpresfortwayne.org](http://www.firstpresfortwayne.org).

### **Advent Series: “Walk in the Light”:**

This Advent, journey with us as we reflect on three characters in the Nativity story and their responses to God’s call: Mary, who embraced her role with faith; Joseph, who yielded to the angel's command with trust; and Herod, who failed to learn and remained in darkness. Through their stories, we’ll explore what it means to walk in the light and how their choices can inspire our own as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.

Join us each Sunday at 11:00am during worship and discover how we, too, are called to walk in the light of God’s love.

***\*Reminder that our campus will be closed Thursday and Friday for Thanksgiving***