

# First Presbyterian Evanston

August 11, 2024 – 10 a.m.

*The Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

## FOCUS

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### **Prelude**

*The Voice of Him...Every Valley from Messiah*

*(Words: Isaiah 40:3-4, compiled Charles Jennens, 1741; Music: G.F. Handel, 1741)*

*The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness;*

*prepare ye the way of the Lord;*

*make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

*Ev'ry valley shall be exalted, and ev'ry moutain and hill made low;*

*the crooked straight and the rough places plain.*

## EXALT

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### **Welcome**

**Call to Worship** *(from Psalm 6:2-5, 8)*

Leader: God, I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,  
beholding your power and glory.

**People: Because your steadfast love is better than life,  
my lips will praise you.**

Leader: So I will bless you as long as I live;

I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

**People: My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips...**

Leader: My soul clings to you;

your right hand upholds me.

**ALL: We worship you in gratitude. Amen.**

## Opening Song\*

## Prepare the Way

*(from Blue Hymnal #13; Words: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1771-1847,  
adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980, alt. 1989; Music: Then Svenska Psalmboken, 1697;  
arr. Elda McGinty Peralta, 2015, CCLI Song #1210135)*

Prepare the way, O Zion,  
Your Christ is drawing near!  
Let every hill and valley  
A level way appear.  
Greet One who comes in glory,  
Foretold in sacred story.  
O blest is Christ that came  
In God's most holy name.

Christ brings God's rule, O Zion;  
He comes from heaven above.  
His rule is peace and freedom,  
And justice, truth, and love.  
Lift high your praise resounding,  
For grace and joy abounding.  
O blest is Christ that came  
In God's most holy name.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion;  
Your Savior's rule embrace.  
And tidings of salvation  
Proclaim in every place.  
All lands will bow rejoicing,  
Their adoration voicing.  
O blest is Christ that came  
In God's most holy name.

## **Call to Confession, Confession, and Assurance of Pardon**

*(Written by Moira Laidlaw)*

Leader: Gracious and merciful God,  
we confess to you our reluctance to enter the wilderness places  
where we are confronted with our true selves.

The places where we are tempted to put our own wants  
before our desire for you,  
and when our hunger for power and wealth is greater  
than our hunger for seeking and doing your will:

**People: Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.**

Leader: When we are tempted to use the gifts you give us  
to benefit ourselves at the expense of serving others:

**People: Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.**

**ALL: Merciful God,**

**save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**and fill us with the joy and peace of your salvation.**

**So strengthen us with your Spirit**

**that we put our whole trust in you as confidently as Jesus did.**

**This we pray in his name. Amen.**

*(Silent Prayer)*

## **Song of Confession**

Change My Heart, O God

*(Words & Music: Eddie Espinosa; CCLI Song #1565)*

Change my heart, O God,

Make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God,

May I be like You.

You are the potter,  
I am the clay;  
Mold me and make me,  
This is what I pray.

Leader: As the Apostle Paul wrote:

*"...if you confess with your lips that Jesus Christ is Lord  
and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead,  
you will be saved."* (Romans 10:9)

These words contain the good news -

**All: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## **Song of Response**

### Cleanse Me

*(Words: J. Edwin Orr, based on Psalm 139:23; Music: adapt. from Maori melody,  
arr. Robert F. Douglas; CCLI Song #5206014)*

Search me, O God, and know my heart today;  
Try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray.  
See if there be some wicked way in me;  
Cleanse me from every sin and set me free.

I praise Thee, Lord, for cleansing me from sin;  
Fulfill Thy Word and make me pure within.  
Fill me with fire where once I burned with shame;  
Grant my desire to magnify Thy name.

Lord, take my life and make it wholly Thine;  
Fill all my heart with Thy great love divine.  
Take all my will, my passion, self, and pride;  
I now surrender, Lord - in me abide.

O, Holy Ghost, revival comes from Thee;  
Send a revival, start the work in me.  
Thy Word declares Thou wilt supply our need;  
For blessings now, O Lord, I humbly plead.

## **ENCOUNTER**

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### **Children's Moment**

### **Passing the Peace of Christ**

### **Announcements**

**Scripture**                      Mark 1:1-15 (The Message)

<sup>1-3</sup> The good news of Jesus Christ—the Message!—begins here, following to the letter the scroll of the prophet Isaiah.

Watch closely: I'm sending my preacher ahead of you;

He'll make the road smooth for you.

Thunder in the desert!

Prepare for God's arrival!

Make the road smooth and straight!

<sup>4-6</sup> John the Baptizer appeared in the wild, preaching a baptism of life-change that leads to forgiveness of sins. People thronged to him from Judea and Jerusalem and, as they confessed their sins, were baptized by him in the Jordan River into a changed life. John wore a camel-hair habit, tied at the waist with a leather belt. He ate locusts and wild field honey.

<sup>7-8</sup> As he preached he said, "The real action comes next: The star in this drama, to whom I'm a mere stagehand, will change your life. I'm baptizing you here in the river, turning your old life in for a kingdom life. His baptism—a holy baptism by the Holy Spirit—will change you from the inside out."

<sup>9-11</sup> At this time, Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. The moment he came out of the water, he saw the sky split open and God's Spirit, looking like a dove, come down on him. Along with the Spirit, a voice: "You are my Son, chosen and marked by my love, pride of my life."

<sup>12-13</sup> At once, this same Spirit pushed Jesus out into the wild. For forty wilderness days and nights he was tested by Satan. Wild animals were his companions, and angels took care of him.

<sup>14-15</sup> After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee preaching the Message of God: "Time's up! God's kingdom is here. Change your life and believe the Message."

## **Sermon**

Re-Shaped: Inside Out

*Rev. Dr. Tassie Green, Interim Senior Pastor*

## **RESPOND**

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### **Sharing of Tithes and Offerings**

#### **Anthem**

E'en So, Lord Jesus

*(Words: from Revelation 22; Music: Paul Manz, 1954)*

*Peace be to you and grace from Him Who freed us from our sins,  
Who loved us all and shed His blood That we might saved be.*

*Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord, The Lord, Almighty God,  
Who was and is and is to come; Sing Holy, Holy, Lord!*

*Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,*

*Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,*

*For Christ is coming, is coming soon, For Christ is coming soon!*

*E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, And night shall be no more;*

*They need no light nor lamp nor sun, For Christ will be their All!*

## **Doxology & Offering Prayer**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (*Blue Hymnal* #592)  
(*Words: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709; Music: Genevan Psalter, 1551; CCLI Song #56204*)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## **Offering Prayer**

### **Prayers of the People & 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.

## **Closing Hymn\***

### **When the Lord Redeems the Very Least**

(*Glory to God* #852; *Words: Sylvia G. Dunstan, c. 1991; Music: tune "I'll Fly Away," Albert E. Brumley, 1932, arr. Evelyn Simpson-Curenton, c. 2001; One License Song #29001*)

When the Lord redeems the very least, we will rejoice.  
When the hungry gather for the feast, we will rejoice.  
We will rejoice with gladness. We will rejoice.  
All our days we'll sing to God in praise. We will rejoice!

When the Lord revives the sick and weak, we will rejoice.  
When the earth is given to the meek, we will rejoice.

We will rejoice with gladness. We will rejoice.  
All our days we'll sing to God in praise. We will rejoice!

When the Lord revives the world from death, we will rejoice.  
When the word of God fills every breath, we will rejoice.  
We will rejoice with gladness. We will rejoice.  
All our days we'll sing to God in praise. We will rejoice!

When the Lord returns in victory, we will rejoice.  
When we live in glorious liberty, we will rejoice.  
We will rejoice with gladness. We will rejoice.  
All our days we'll sing to God in praise. We will rejoice!

## **Benediction**

### **Postlude**

Prepare Ye (The Way of the Lord)  
*(Words & Music: Stephen Schwarz, 1971)*



Today's Worship Service Leaders

**Crofton Coleman**, Worship Band Director, Vocals

**Hannah Dixon McConnell**, Dir. Worship & Music, Choir Director, Piano, Vocals  
**Chancel Choir**

**Rev. Dr. Tassie Green**, Interim Senior Pastor, Welcome, Sermon, Children's Moment, Peace, Offering Prayer, Benediction

**Suzanne Sawada**, Elder, Confession, Prayers of the People

**Matthew Bodan**, Scripture Reading

**Ben Graham**, Dir. of Youth, Announcements

**Evan Peters**, A/V Coordinator, Live Audio

**TBD**, A/V Volunteer, Projection

**TBD**, A/V Volunteer, Video Switcher

**Andy Wallgren**, Facilities Manager

**Tony Brown, Carol Clanton, Marcia Smith**, Ushers

**Sonia Bodi**, Greeter

**Bob Hecker, Kim Klamm**, Prayer Companions

Announcements

**Deacons' Offering Collected Today**

The Deacons' Offering, which we collect every other month, is being taken this morning. Please use the envelopes included with the bulletin to designate this donation. These funds provide for the wide variety of ministries performed by the Deacons here at First Pres.

**"When Christians Disagree" Adult Education Class today in Dining Room**

FPCE Elder Jerry Gabrielse will lead an adult education session on "When Christians Disagree" this Sunday at 11:15 a.m. in the church dining room. We will celebrate how a diverse group of God's people at First Pres are serving and worshiping together. The Bible prizes unity and stresses loving others as ourselves. What are the implications given that we will not all agree about what the Bible teaches regarding Session decisions that must be made soon in preparation for a senior pastor search?

**Last week to Support Evanston Students through the Deacons' Backpack Project**

The Board of Deacons is once again partnering with Evanston's Family Focus to help 27 area students begin their school year with new backpacks filled with school supplies and other helpful items! The congregation is asked to donate towards the cost of the backpacks and contents. Please make your donation by Friday, August 16, 2024. Thank you!



**How to Donate:**

**Option 1:** Give online:

Scan QR code.

Select "Backpack Project" from the dropdown menu.

**Option 2:** Give by check:

Make check payable to First Presbyterian Church of Evanston.

Please indicate BOD Backpack project on the memo line.

Drop check in offering plate on Sundays OR mail/bring check to the church office.

### **Small Group Leaders' Training next Sunday**

The Small Groups Committee invites all small group leaders to an information and training session to be held on Sunday, August 18, in Room 213, at 11:30 a.m., or via Zoom at <https://firstpresevanston.org/smallgrouptraining>. We are trying to bring Small Groups into the 21st century by providing a simple yet secure way for potential new members to get connected with groups. We will be introducing small group leaders to a new tool to facilitate communication between small group leaders and their groups' members and potential new members. We believe this tool will also help communication between First Pres staff, the Small Groups Committee, and the church's small group leaders. The tool will maintain each group leader's contact privacy and give each small group discretion as to whether to accept any new member into their group, all while being user-friendly for new people. We anticipate that this information and training session will last approximately 45 minutes. We look forward to seeing you—whether in person or on Zoom—on August 18.

**First Presbyterian Church**  
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Mission Statement:  
***First Presbyterian Church of Evanston  
exists to know Christ and to grow in him  
as we serve and make disciples in Evanston, the Chicago area,  
and the world.***



*This QR code will take you to a web page with links for giving and recording your attendance at today's service via the Connect Card.*

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**Welcome!** We're glad you are here. We ask everyone to complete and return this page. Please tear it off from the stapled bulletin and slip it into the offering basket every week. August 11, 2024

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Your Name

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Family members' names/ages

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Street Address, City, State, Zip

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Phone:     Cell         Home

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Email address

- Send me the weekly E-newsletter
- First time visitor
- Occasional attendee
- Regular attendee/member
  
- Single
- Married
- Have children at home
- Junior/High School student
- College student/Graduate student

I'm interested in:

- Knowing Jesus better
- I need prayer or support
- I would like to speak with a pastor
- Joining a Small Group
- Joining the Welcome Team
- Worship Music Team
- Sound/AV/Video Team
- Prayer Team
- Becoming a Member
- I need a Stephen Minister
- Communion at home suggested for  
\_\_\_\_\_ (name)

Please pray for:

*(This is shared with pastors & confidential prayer team)*