

First Presbyterian Evanston

July 23, 2023 – 10 a.m.

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

FOCUS

Prelude

It Is Well With My Soul

(Words: Horatio Gates Spafford, 1873; Music: tune “Ville du Havre,” Phillip Bliss, 1873, arr. Dr. Rebecca Chu; CCLI Song #25376)

*When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."*

EXALT

Welcome

Call to Worship – from Psalm 139

Leader: O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

**All: You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.**

Leader: You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.

**All: Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.**

Leader: Where can I go from your spirit?

Or where can I flee from your presence?

**All: If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.**

Leader: If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night,”

**All: even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.**

Opening Hymn

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (*Blue Hymnal* #263)

(*Words: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867; alt. 1987; Music: tune "St. Denio," Welsh Folk Melody,
adapt. in "Caniadau y Cyssegr," 1839, CCLI Song #124466*)

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most Blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
Then wither and perish; but naught changeth Thee.

Thou reignest in glory, Thou rulest in light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Search us, O God, and know our hearts;
test us and know our thoughts.

See if there is any wicked way in us,
and lead us in the way everlasting.

Moved by these words of the psalmist, we lift our voices together,
crying out to our loving God, who never gives up on us:

**All: I've tried to hide from your searching gaze,
Jesus, Lover of my soul:**

**I've climbed mountains,
and burrowed deep into earth's caverns;
I've fled to the farthest edges of my soul,
and longed to sail in my fears to the dark side of the moon.**

**And wherever I go -
you are waiting for me!**

**Even in the dimmest corners of my heart,
your light is able to find me.**

**Lost,
I am found;
afraid to speak of my sinfulness -
you hear my stumbling words
before I shape them in my mind;
unable to help myself -
you redeem me through the gracious love
of Jesus Christ, my Lord, my Savior.**

(A time of silence is kept.)

Leader: In sorrow so deep we cannot find our way out,
God cradles us in comfort;
in moments so dark that we stumble over ourselves,
God lights the way;

in joy which cascades into our souls,

God fills us with healing.

All: Even when we cannot see it, God's hope is all around us, surrounding us with peace and healing. By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

(adapted from Thom L. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies blog, 2011)

Song of Response

Surely the Presence of the Lord

(Words & Music: Lanny Wolfe, 1977; CCLI Song #7909)

Surely the presence Of the Lord is in this place.

I can feel His mighty power And His grace.

I can hear the brush of angel's wings; I see glory on each face.

Surely the presence Of the Lord is in this place.

In the midst of His children The Lord said He would be.

It doesn't take very many; It can be just two or three,

And I feel that same sweet Spirit That I've felt oft times before.

Oh, surely I can say I have been with the Lord.

Surely the presence Of the Lord is in this place.

I can feel His mighty power And His grace.

I can hear the brush of angel's wings; I see glory on each face.

Surely the presence Of the Lord is in this place.

There's a holy hush around us As God's glory fills this place.

I've touched the hem of His garment And I can almost see His face,

And my heart is overflowing With the fullness of His joy.

I know without a doubt That I have been with the Lord.

Surely the presence Of the Lord is in this place.
I can feel His mighty power And His grace.
I can hear the brush of angel's wings; I see glory on each face.
Surely the presence Of the Lord is in this place.

ENCOUNTER

Children's Moment

Passing the Peace of Christ

Scripture

Genesis 28:10-19a

¹⁰Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. ¹²And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; ¹⁴and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. ¹⁵Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." ¹⁶Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place — and I did not know it!" ¹⁷And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

¹⁸So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. ^{19a}He called that place Bethel;

Sermon

The Meaning in the Struggle
Rev. Susan Peterson, Guest Preacher

RESPOND

Sharing of Tithes and Offerings

Anthem

The Majesty and Glory of Your Name

*(Words: Linda Lee Johnson, after Psalm 8, 1979; Music: Tom Fettke, 1979;
CCLI Song #18871)*

*When I gaze into the night skies
And see the work of Your fingers,
The moon and stars suspended in space,
Oh, what is man that You are mindful of him?
You have given man a crown of glory and honor,
And have made him a little lower than the angels.
You have put him in charge of all creation:
The beasts of the field, the birds of the air,
The fish of the sea; but what is man
That You are mindful of him?*

*O Lord, our God, The majesty and glory of Your name
Transcends the earth and fills the heavens.
O Lord, our God, Little children praise You perfectly,
And so would we.*

Alleluia, alleluia, The majesty and glory of Your name. Alleluia!

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.

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

We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder

(*Words & Music: Negro Spiritual; CCLI Song #100442*)

We are climbing Jacob's ladder,
We are climbing Jacob's ladder,
We are climbing Jacob's ladder,
Soldiers of the cross.

Ev'ry round goes higher, higher,
Ev'ry round goes higher, higher,
Ev'ry round goes higher, higher,
Soldiers of the cross.

Children, do you love my Jesus?
Children, do you love my Jesus?
Children, do you love my Jesus?
Soldiers of the cross.

If you love Him, why not serve Him?
If you love Him, why not serve Him?
If you love Him, why not serve Him?
Soldiers of the cross.

Rise and shine and give God glory,
Rise and shine and give God glory,
Rise and shine and give God glory,
Soldiers of the cross.

We are climbing Jacob's ladder,
We are climbing Jacob's ladder,
We are climbing Jacob's ladder,
Soldiers of the cross.

Sending & Benediction

Choral Benediction

A Gaelic Blessing

(Words: adapted from an old Gaelic rune; Music: John Rutter, 1978)

*Deep peace of the running wave to you,
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,
Deep peace of the gentle night to you,
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you,
Deep peace of Christ, the light of the world, to you.*

Postlude

Ein Feste Burg ist Unser Gott

(Words & Music: Martin Luther, arr. Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706))

*A mighty fortress is our God, A bulwark never failing;
Our helper He amid the flood, Of mortal ills prevailing...*

Today's Worship Service Leaders

Dr. Rebecca Chu, Organist

Tina Laughlin, Percussion

Hannah Dixon McConnell, Dir. of Worship & Music, Choir Director, Children's Message, Peace

Audrey Neace, Guest Choir Director

Chancel Choir

Rev. Amanda Golbek, Minister of Children & Youth, Welcome, Offering Invitation & Offering Prayer, Sending & Benediction

Jerry Gabrielse, Elder, Confession & Prayers of the People

Jim Wildenradt, Scripture Reading

Rev. Susan Peterson, Guest Preacher, Sermon, Sending & Benediction

Evan Peters, A/V Coordinator, Live Audio

Mike Campbell, A/V Volunteer, Projection

Daniel Mpanda, A/V Volunteer, Video Switcher

John Carlson, A/V Volunteer, Online Chat

Joe Sickles, Building Team

Amanda Jenta, Tuah Jenta, Stephanie Keene, Ushers

Sonia Bodi, Greeter

Marilyn Haase, Kim Klamm, Prayer Companions

Christian Education & Childcare

The Nursery will be open from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Youth/Children's Faith Formation activities will return September 18. Look for more information on the church website.

Join us outside after the service (weather permitting) for "Lemonade on the Lawn," a time of fellowship hosted by the Deacons!

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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, to slip to the offering basket every week. July 23, 2023

Your Name

Family members' names/ages

Street Address, City, State, Zip

Phone: Cell Home

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)

Register by Tuesday at 5 p.m.!



9 a.m. - Noon Ages 4-11

Register NOW!

FIRSTPRESEVANSTON.ORG/VBS

Support Evanston Students through the Deacons' Backpack Project

The Board of Deacons is collaborating with Family Focus to provide 50 area students with new backpacks filled with school supplies and other helpful items! The congregation is asked to donate toward the contents, including items such as earbuds, insulated water bottles, writing journals, and Target gift cards.



Donate by July 28, 2023



Scan the QR Code:
Select "Backpack Project"
from the dropdown menu.

Give by check:
Payable to First Presbyterian Church of Evanston. Indicate **BOD Backpack Project** on the memo line.

Drop check in offering plate or deliver to the church office.

Now hiring Nursery Coordinator

First Pres is seeking a part-time nursery coordinator. For more information visit <http://firstpresevanston.org/employment>.



First Pres Announcements

July 23, 2023

Our guest preacher: Rev. Susan Peterson

After a 23-year career as a human resources professional, Rev. Peterson responded to God's call to ministry and obtained her MDiv at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in 2007. She was ordained as a teaching elder by the Presbytery of Chicago in 2013. Rev. Peterson served as the Campus Chaplain at the Moorings of Arlington Heights, a Presbyterian Homes community, for 16 years prior to her retirement in 2022. She lives in Arlington Heights with her husband, Jim, and their dog, Linus. She is a lifelong Cubs fan and spends as much time as she can in Door County, Wisconsin.



Lemonade on the Lawn + Anniversary Celebration

Join us outside following the service for Lemonade on the Lawn, weather permitting. We will also be serving cake in special recognition of the 50th wedding anniversary of Jan and Tom Sullivan!

Pillars of Reformed Christian Faith - Summer Session

Continues today at 11:30 a.m. in Room 213. Facilitated by Richard Bell.

All-Church Picnic & Salad Potluck Sign-Up

The First Pres family will gather Sunday August 6 at 5 p.m. at Greenwood Beach in Evanston for our annual vesper service and all-church picnic! Sign up for the salad potluck here: <http://firstpresevanston.org/picnic2023>!

Outdoor Worship on July 30

Our Sunday, July 30, 10 a.m. worship service will move outdoors into the parking lot. This is a great opportunity to invite family, friends, and neighbors to find out what we're all about. This service will also be streamed live.

