

First Presbyterian Evanston

August 20, 2023 – 10 a.m.

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

FOCUS

Prelude

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty

(arr. Rebecca Chu)

EXALT

Welcome & Call to Worship *(Psalm 34:1-8)*

Leader: I will extol the LORD at all times; God's praise will always be on my lips.

People: I will glory in the LORD; let the afflicted hear and rejoice.

Leader: Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt God's name together.

People: I sought the LORD, and God answered me; God delivered me from all my fears.

Leader: Those who look to God are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame.

People: This poor person called, and the LORD heard; God saved me out of all my troubles.

Leader: The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear God, and God delivers.

ALL: Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in God.

Opening Hymn

The God of Abraham Praise (*Blue Hymnal* #488)

(Words: Daniel ben Judah, 1404, transl. Max Landsberg & Newton Mann, 1885, alt.; Music: Hebrew melody, adapt. Thomas Olivers & Meyer Lyon, 1770; CCLI Song #111149)

The God of Abraham praise, Who reigns enthroned above;
The ancient of eternal days, The God of love!
The Lord, the great I AM, By earth and heav'n confessed,
We bow before Your holy name, Forever blest.

Your spirit still flows free, High surging where it will;
In prophet's word You spoke of old And You speak still.
Established is Your law, And changeless it shall stand,
Deep writ upon the human heart, On sea, or land.

You have eternal life Implanted in the soul;
Your love shall be our strength and stay, While ages roll,
We praise You, living God! We praise Your holy name;
The first, the last, beyond all thought, And still the same.

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

All: Almighty God, you have made us and made all things to serve you; now prepare us and the world for your rule. Spark your love in our hearts and lives, forgiving our sins, and fanning the flame of your Spirit. Come quickly to save us and change us to become more like Jesus each day, so that wars and violence shall end, and all your children may live in peace, honoring one another with justice and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Silent Prayer)

Amen.

Leader: Scripture promises, "As high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is God's love for those who fear him. As far as the

east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.” Friends, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Songs of Response

Seek Ye First (*Blue Hymnal* #333)

(*Words & Music: Karen Lafferty, b. 1948; CCLI Song #1352*)

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness,
And all these things will be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!

Ask and it shall be given unto you,
Seek and ye shall find,
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you,
Allelu, alleluia!

Speak, O Lord

(*Words & Music: Keith Getty & Stuart Townend, 2005; CCLI Song #4615235*)

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
To receive the food of Your holy word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us,
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
All Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
Holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of Your purity.

Cause our faith to rise,
Cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority,
Words of power that can never fail,
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds,
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us,
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
That will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises,
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built
And the earth is filled with Your glory.

ENCOUNTER

Children's Moment

Passing the Peace of Christ

Scripture

Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. 3 Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." 4 When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." 5 Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy

ground.” 6 He said further, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

7 Then the Lord said, “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, 8 and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. 9 The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. 10 Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” 11 But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” 12 He said, “I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”

13 But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” 14 God said to Moses, “I am who I am.” He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I am has sent me to you.’ ” 15 God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you’:

This is my name forever,
and this my title for all generations.

Sermon

Spark

Rev. Dr. Tassie Green, Interim Senior Pastor

RESPOND

Sharing of Tithes and Offerings

Songs of Response

Holy Ground

(Words & Music: Christopher Beatty, 1982, CCLI Song #19526)

This is holy ground; We're standing on holy ground,
For the Lord is present and where He is is holy.
This is holy ground; We're standing on holy ground,
For the Lord is present and where He is is holy.

Holy Ground

(Words & Music: Geron Davis, 1983, CCLI Song #21198)

We are standing on holy ground,
And I know that there are angels all around.
Let us praise Jesus now;
We are standing in His presence on holy ground.

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 Song Lead Me, Guide Me

(Words & Music: Doris Akers, 1953, arr. Richard Smallwood, One License Song #195322)

Lead me, guide me along the way,
For if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

I am weak and I need your strength and power
To help me over my weakest hour.
Help me through the darkness your face to see.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Lead me, guide me along the way,
For if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Sending & Benediction

Postlude

Sonata in F major, Op. 36 No. 4, Movement 1

(Muzio Clementi, 1752-1832, arr. Rebecca Chu)

Today's Worship Service Leaders

Crofton Coleman, Worship Band Director, Vocals, Keyboard

Hannah Dixon McConnell, Dir. Of Worship & Music, Vocals, Piano

Rebecca Chu, Organist

Tina Laughlin, Percussion

Rev. Dr. Tassie Green, Interim Senior Pastor, Welcome, Sermon, Offering Invitation & Offering Prayer, Sending & Benediction

Richard Bell, Elder, Confession, Prayers of the People

Rev. Amanda Golbek, Minister of Children & Youth, Children's Message, Peace

Nancy Sadek, Scripture Reading

Evan Peters, A/V Coordinator, Live Audio

Keith Jacobson, Projection

Jim Teague, Director of Communications, Video Switcher

John Carlson, A/V Volunteer, Online Chat

Joe Sickles, Building Team

Tony Brown, Carol Clanton, Marcia Smith, Usher

Bob Bastian, Greeter

Bob Hecker, 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 10, with Youth Group meeting for the first time on September 17. Look for more information coming soon 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!**

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, to slip to the offering basket every week. August 20, 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)

Sunday Worship moves to 9:30 a.m. on September 10

On Fall Kickoff Sunday, September 10, we return to the 9:30 a.m. fall worship schedule.

Interfaith Action seeks SNAPGap Donations

Interfaith Action seeks donations of shampoo, toothpaste, and toothbrushes by September 11 to be distributed during the monthly Producers Mobile at the Robert Crown Community Center. Items can be purchased and delivered from Amazon or bought locally and dropped off at **St. Mark's Episcopal Church**. Do NOT drop off items at First Pres.

Details: <http://firstpresevanston.org/snapgap>

Faith-based fertility support group

For those feeling lonely, disappointed, or hopeless in their fertility journey, a West Evanston small group wants you to know you aren't alone and invites you to join them. Moms in the Making is a faith-based fertility ministry that provides hope, encouragement, and the powerful truth of Scripture to married women who, in partnership with their husbands, are trying to grow their families.

For more, contact Nicole Smith: nicolesmith@momsinthemaking.com or visit <https://www.momsinthemaking.com/illinois>.

Officer Nominations Sought

Please find the Officer Nominations Form at the front desk or online. The 2023 Nominating Committee is seeking your input as they build a slate of candidates to be voted on in October.

Realm/Directory Photos taken September 10

Staff and volunteers will be on hand after the 9:30 a.m. worship service on September 10 (during and after Pastries with the Pastor) and will help get these photos into Realm, our members and regular attendees' database. If we get enough photos, we will create a new First Pres Church Directory! If you can't be here on September 10 but want to have your photo included, contact Janice at the church office (847-864-1472).



First Pres Announcements

August 20, 2023

Lemonade on the Lawn

Join us today on the front lawn following the service for Lemonade on the Lawn, weather permitting.

Wednesday Prayer Gathering August 23

Our bi-monthly prayer gathering meets Wednesday at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Gather for a brief devotional, then lift up your concerns to our loving, gracious God. Join at <http://firstpresevanston.org/prayer-zoom>.



Pastries with the Pastor

Sunday, September 10

Immediately after the worship service

First Pres members and regular attendees are invited to get to know Senior Interim Pastor Rev. Dr. Tassie Green in an engaging Q & A over pastries and coffee.

