

First Presbyterian Evanston

September 10, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

FOCUS

Prelude

“Thou in thy mercy”

from the oratorio *Israel in Egypt*

(Text from Exodus 15:13, compiled by Charles Jennens;

Music: G.F. Handel, 1739)

*Thou in Thy mercy hast led forth Thy people which Thou hast redeemed;
Thou hast guided them in Thy strength unto Thy holy habitation.*

EXALT

Welcome & Call to Worship *(from Psalm 105: 1-2, 37-43)*

Leader: Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done.

People: He brought out Israel, laden with silver and gold; Egypt was glad when they left.

Leader: He spread out a cloud as a covering, and a fire to give light at night.

People: They asked, and he brought them quail; he fed them well with the bread of heaven.

Leader: He opened the rock, and water gushed out; it flowed like a river in the desert.

People: For he remembered his holy promise given to his servant Abraham.

Leader: He brought out his people with rejoicing, his chosen ones
with shouts of joy;

**ALL: Glory in God's holy name; let the hearts of those who seek
the LORD rejoice.**

Opening Hymn

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah (*Blue Hymnal* #281)

(*Words: William Williams, 1745, tr. Peter Williams, 1771, and W.W., 1772;*

Music: tune "Cwm Rhondda," John Hughes, 1907; CCLI Song #1448)

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand;
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through;
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield,
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fear subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to Thee,
I will ever give to Thee.

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

All: God of freedom, you brought your people to freedom with your mighty hand. Deliver us from our captivity to pride and our indifference to the needs and gifts of others. Help us love as you have loved us, and to give even as we have received. Forgive us for our sins and guide us in your paths, in Jesus' name.

(Silent Prayer)

Amen.

1 John 1:9 assures us, "If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Song of Response

Just a Closer Walk With Thee

(Words & Music: traditional North American hymn; CCLI Song #28263)

Just a closer walk with thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee:
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

I am weak, but Thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.

Just a closer walk with thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee:
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Through this world of toil and snares,
If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.

Just a closer walk with thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee:
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

ENCOUNTER

Children's Moment

Passing the Peace of Christ

Scripture Exodus 13:17-22, 14:1-4

17 When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was nearer, for God thought, "If the people face war, they may change their minds and return to Egypt." 18 So God led the people by the roundabout way of the wilderness bordering the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of the land of Egypt prepared for battle. 19 And Moses took with him the bones of Joseph, who had required a solemn oath of the Israelites, saying, "God will surely come to you, and then you must carry my bones with you from here." 20 They set out from Succoth and camped at Etham, on the edge of the wilderness. 21 The Lord

went in front of them in a pillar of cloud by day, to lead them along the way, and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light, so that they might travel by day and by night. 22 Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

Then the Lord said to Moses, 2 “Tell the Israelites to turn back and camp in front of Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, in front of Baal-zephon; you shall camp opposite it, by the sea. 3 Pharaoh will say of the Israelites, ‘They are wandering aimlessly in the land; the wilderness has closed in on them.’ 4 I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he will pursue them, so that I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord.” And they did so.

Sermon

Stop or Go?

Rev. Dr. Tassie Green, Interim Senior Pastor

RESPOND

Sharing of Tithes and Offerings

Anthem

Way Maker

(Words & Music: Osinachi Okoro, 2016; CCLI Song #7115744)

You are here moving in our midst

I worship You, I worship You

You are here working in this place

I worship You, I worship You

Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper,

Light in the darkness, my God, that is who You are

Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper,
Light in the darkness, my God, that is who You are

You are here touching ev'ry heart
I worship You, I worship You
You are here healing ev'ry heart
I worship You I worship You

You are here turning lives around
I worship You, I worship You
You are here mending ev'ry heart
I worship You, I worship You Lord

Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper,
Light in the darkness, my God, that is who You are

Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper,
Light in the darkness, my God, that is who You are

Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper,
Light in the darkness, my God, that is who You are

Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper,
Light in the darkness, my God, that is who You are

That is who You are, that is who You are
That is who You are, that is who You are

Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper,
Light in the darkness, my God, that is who You are

Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper,
Light in the darkness, my God, that is who You are

Even when I don't see it, You're working
Even when I don't feel it, You're working
You never stop, You never stop working
You never stop, You never stop working

Even when I don't see it, You're working
Even when I don't feel it, You're working
You never stop, You never stop working
You never stop, You never stop working

Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper,
Light in the darkness, my God, that is who You are

Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper,
Light in the darkness, my God, that is who You are

That is who you are, that is who you are
That is who you are, that is who you are

Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper,
Light in the darkness, my God, that is who You are

Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper,
Light in the darkness, my God, that is who You are

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

Trumpet Tune on "Cwm Rhondda"

(Michael Helman, b. 1956)

Today's Worship Service Leaders

Michelle Mariposa, Maximiliano Illanes, Soloists, Prelude

Crofton Coleman, Worship Band Director, Vocals, Keyboard

Erwin Yasukawa, Bass; **Waldo Ocaña**, Drums

Hannah Dixon McConnell, Dir. Of Worship & Music, Vocals, Piano, Children's Message

Dr. Rebecca Chu, Organist; **Tina Laughlin**, Percussion

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

Ellen Gabrielse, Deacon, Confession, Prayers of the People

David Jones, Scripture Reader

Jim Teague, Dir, of Communications, Live Audio

Mike Campbell, A/V Volunteer, Projection

Keith Jacobson, A/V Volunteer, Video Switcher

John Carlson, A/V Volunteer, Online Chat

Andy Wallgren, Facilities Manager

Amanda Jenta, Tuah Jenta, Stephanie Keene, Ushers

Paul Haase, Greeter

Bob Bastian, Marilyn Haase, Prayer Companions

Christian Education & Childcare

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

Youth/Children's Christian Education Classes resume TODAY at 11 a.m.!

K-4th Grade: 3rd Floor West Room

5th - 7th Grade: 3rd Floor Center Room

8th - 12th Grade: Room 209

Youth Group Kick Off takes place TODAY from 4-6 p.m.

Join us in Roy Hall after the service for 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. September 10, 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)



Portrait Session TODAY!

Photos for Realm & FPCE Directory

Following Worship in the Parlor

Today's portrait session will capture photos for Realm (our members/ attendees database). Volunteers will be on hand to help you create/ update your Realm profile with your photo. If we get enough photos, we will also create a new First Pres Church Directory!

No pre-registration is necessary, however priority will be given to families with children attending today's Christian Education classes so they are able to have their photos taken before heading to the classes.

Unable to attend, but want to have your photo included?
Contact Janice at the church office: 847-864-1472.

Christian Education & Childcare

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

Youth/Children's classes resume TODAY at 11 a.m.!

K-4th Grade: 3rd Floor West Room

5th - 7th Grade: 3rd Floor Center Room

8th - 12th Grade: Room 209

Youth Group Kick Off takes place TODAY from 4-6 p.m.



First Pres Announcements

September 10, 2023

Fellowship Time in Roy Hall

Join us upstairs after the service in our second floor gymnasium, Roy Hall, for a time of fellowship sponsored by the Deacons!



Pastries with the Pastor TODAY!

After worship in the Dining Room

Get to know Interim Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. Tassie Green! First Pres members and regular attendees are invited to join in an engaging Q & A with Tassie today in the dining room. Pastries and coffee will be provided.

First Friends Picnic TODAY!

3-6 p.m. | Garden Park

You're invited to the annual First Friends Picnic. Bring a salad or dessert to share, and beach chairs or a blanket to sit on—our Syrian Friends will do all the grilling!



For more info contact Bridgette Gilchrist at bridgettegilchrist@hotmail.com or call (847) 913-6330

SNAPGap Donations Due Tomorrow, September 11

Interfaith Action seeks donations of shampoo, toothpaste, and toothbrushes for the monthly Producemobile at the Robert Crown Community Center. Items can be purchased and delivered from Amazon or purchased locally and dropped off at **St. Mark's Episcopal Church**.

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

Please note: First Pres is NOT accepting donations.

Wednesday Prayer Gathering

September 13 | 7 p.m. on Zoom

Join us for our bi-monthly Prayer Gathering. We will have a brief devotional time and then bring our cares and those of the ones we love to our amazing, loving God!



Join online: <http://firstpresevanston.org/prayer-zoom>

Nourish Women's Bible Study

Nourish, the women's Bible study group, will resume this Thursday, September 14, with a brunch from 9:30-11 a.m. in Room 213. This fall we will study the book of Hosea and the life and works of CS Lewis. All are welcome. Childcare is provided. For more information, contact Sally at sallyivaska1@gmail.com.

Thursday Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will meet every Thursday from 5:45 to 7 p.m., beginning September 14. The group will meet in room 206. For those who cannot attend in person, we gladly welcome you by Zoom. This fall we will be studying the attributes of God, using a book by Jen Wilken. Books will be provided for you. Everyone is welcome! Please email Jen Randolph at jen.rn@verizon.net with any questions.

Watch Party—Bright Stars of Bethlehem Virtual Gala

Saturday, September 16 | FREE | 5:45 p.m. Dinner, 7 p.m. Virtual Gala

You're invited to the "Recipe for Hope" 2023 Virtual Gala! Dinner will include fellowship, a Palestinian Dinner, a virtual message from Dr. Mitri Raheb (Founder/ President of Dar-al-Kalima University), and a Palestinian student from Bethlehem Bible College will share his experience of life in Bethlehem.

To RSVP & Register visit <http://firstpresevanston.org/Gala2023>

New Adult Ed Courses Next Sunday at 10:45 a.m.

Exploring Missions Together: *Companionship, Cultural Humility and Co-Development* will feature a different subject each week and include reports from summer mission trips and interviews with mission partners serving around the world.

Pillars of Reformed Christian Faith: Part 3 examines the biblical truths that inform and instruct believers about what they should believe and how they should live. Class begins with a lecture by R.C. Sproul from his famous series, *Foundations; An Overview of Systematic Theology*, and continues with discussion in seminar format.

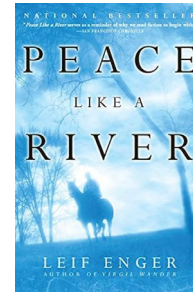
Learn more: <http://firstpresevanston.org/adult-ed>.

Life Together Class for New Members

Sundays, September 24-October 15 at 11 a.m. in the Parlor.

This is the place to be if you are considering membership at First Pres, or just want to learn more about who we are, what we believe, and all the fun things we do together as a church!

Register here: <http://firstpresevanston.org/life-together>.



Parish Nurse Book Club

Tuesday, September 19 | 1:30 p.m. in the Parlor

It's time to cozy up with the next selection for the Parish Nurse Book Club! For September we're reading *Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger. "Affecting and dynamic, *Peace Like a River* is at once a tragedy, a romance, and an unflagging exploration into the spirituality and magic possible in the everyday world..."

Officer Nominations Sought

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