

First Presbyterian Evanston

September 17, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

FOCUS

Prelude

Goodness of God

(Words & Music: Ben Fielding, Brian Johnson, Ed Cash, Jason Ingram, Jenn Johnson)

*I love You Lord, Oh, Your mercy never fails me. All my days I've been held in
Your hands. From the moment that I wake up Until I lay my head,
I will sing of the goodness of God.*

*All my life, You have been faithful. All my life, You have been so, so good. With
every breath that I am able,
I will sing of the goodness of God.*

*I love Your voice. You have led me through the fire; In darkest night, You are
close like no other. I've known You as a father, I've known You as a friend.
I have lived in the goodness of God.*

*Your goodness is running after, It's running after me.
With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now, I give You everything.*

EXALT

Welcome & Call to Worship *(Hebrews 11:23-29)*

Leader: By faith in our mighty God, Moses' parents hid him for 3 months after he was born.

People: By faith in our mighty God, Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

Leader: He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.

People: He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

Leader: By faith in our mighty God, he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw God who is invisible.

People: By faith in our mighty God, Moses kept the Passover and the application of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.

Leader: By faith in our mighty God, the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land!

ALL: Let us praise and worship our mighty God who rescues, both then and now!

Opening Song

Everlasting God

(Words & Music: Brenton Brown & Ken Riley, 2005; CCLI Song #4556538)

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,
We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,
We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.

Our God, You reign forever, Our Hope, our strong Deliv'rer.

You are the everlasting God, the everlasting God.
You do not faint, You won't grow weary.
You're the defender of the weak, You comfort those in need.
You lift us up on wings like eagles.

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,
We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,

We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.

Our God, You reign forever, Our Hope, our strong Deliv'rer.

You are the everlasting God, the everlasting God.

You do not faint, You won't grow weary.

You're the defender of the weak, You comfort those in need.

You lift us up on wings like eagles.

Our God, You reign forever, Our Hope, our strong Deliv'rer.

You are the everlasting God, the everlasting God.

You do not faint, You won't grow weary.

You're the defender of the weak, You comfort those in need.

You lift us up on wings like eagles.

You are the everlasting God, the everlasting God.

You do not faint, You won't grow weary.

You're the defender of the weak, You comfort those in need.

You lift us up on wings like eagles.

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Leader: When we come together and confess, we recognize our humanity and pray for peace over our brokenness. Together, let us pray the prayer of confession:

All: Jesus, we ask that you take these prayers to the heart of God. We know the ways in which sin separates us from God. We confess our slowness to claim the sin in our lives. Today, move us past prideful notions to look closer at what we don't do, to look at our own complicity with what is wrong in the world. We want to love as you commanded, Jesus, but too often we catch ourselves justifying the injustice of hunger, poverty, war, and

all the prejudices we didn't know we had. Forgive us so that we may catch ourselves righting our wrongs. Forgive us so that the lessons we learn at the Spirit's nudging may help bring the peace and love you seek in our families, the church, and the world. Help us to become more and more like Jesus through your Spirit.

(Silent Prayer)

Amen.

Christ is our peace and reconciles us to God. As we confess our sins, we are promised God's mercy and are assured that God's grace will follow us all the days of our lives. What wondrous love is this? In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Song of Response

Come to Save Us

(Words & Music: Leslie Jordan & David Leonard; CCLI Song #5887842)

You have come to save us
You have come to save us
You have come to save us Lord
You have made a way here
You have made the way clear
You have come to save us Lord

Jesus You're the One who saves us
You're the One who saves us
King of all the other kings on earth
Jesus You're the One who saves us
You're the One who saves us
King of all the other kings on earth

You are light and fire
You are our desire

You have come to save us Lord
You're the hope among us
You're the peace that binds us
You have come to save us Lord
You have come to save us Lord

Jesus You're the One who saves us
You're the One who saves us
King of all the other kings on earth
Jesus You're the One who saves us
You're the One who saves us
King of all the other kings on earth

King of all kings and Lord of all lords
Light of the world You shine
You're the King of all kings and Lord of all lords
Light of the world You shine

King of all kings and Lord of all lords
Light of the world You shine
You're the King of all kings and Lord of all lords
Light of the world You shine

Jesus You're the One who saves us
You're the One who saves us
King of all the other kings on earth
Jesus You're the One who saves us
You're the One who saves us
King of all the other kings on earth

Jesus You're the One who saves us
You're the One who saves us
King of all the other kings on earth

Jesus You're the One who saves us
You're the One who saves us
King of all the other kings on earth

You're the King of all the other kings on earth
You're the King of all the other kings on earth

ENCOUNTER

Children's Moment

Passing the Peace of Christ

Faith in Action – Small Groups

Scripture Exodus 12:1-14, 25-27

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ² “This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³ Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴ If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶ You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷ They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸ They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹ Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰ You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains

until the morning you shall burn with fire. ¹¹ This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand, and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the LORD. ¹² I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from human to animal, and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. ¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ “This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

²⁵ When you come to the land that the LORD will give you, as he has promised, you shall keep this observance. ²⁶ And when your children ask you, ‘What does this observance mean to you?’ ²⁷ you shall say, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice to the LORD, for he passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt when he struck down the Egyptians but spared our houses.’” And the people bowed down and worshiped.

Anthem of Response

“He Sent a Thick Darkness”

from the oratorio *Israel in Egypt*

(Text from Exodus 10:21, compiled by Charles Jennens; Music: G.F. Handel, 1739)

*He sent a thick darkness over the land,
even darkness which might be felt.*

Sermon

Do Not Enter

Rev. Dr. Tassie Green, Interim Senior Pastor

RESPOND

Sharing of Tithes and Offerings

Anthem

I to the Hills Lift Up Mine Eyes

(Words: Psalm 121 from "Bey Psalm Book," 1640; Music: Jean Berger, 1978)

I to the hills lift up mine eyes, from where shall come mine aid? Mine help doth from Jehovah come, which heav'n and earth hath made. He will not let thy foot be mov'd, nor slumber that thee keeps. Lo, he that keepeth Israel, he slumb'reth not, nor sleeps: the LORD thy keeper is, the LORD on thy right hand the shade. The sun by day, nor moon by night, shall thee by stroke invade. The LORD shall keep thee from all ill, thy soul he keeps always, thy going out and thy income, the LORD keeps now and aye. Amen.

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 Songs

You Alone Can Rescue

(Words & Music: Jonas Myrin, Matt Redman; CCLI Song #5376377)

You alone can rescue,
You alone can save.
You alone can lift us from the grave.
You came down to find us, led us out of death,
To You alone belongs the highest praise.

Who, O Lord, could save themselves,
Their own soul could heal?
Our shame was deeper than the sea,
Your grace is deeper still.

And You alone can rescue,
You alone can save.
You alone can lift us from the grave.
You came down to find us, led us out of death,
To You alone belongs the highest praise.

You, O Lord, have made a way,
The great divide You heal.
For when our hearts were far away,
Your love went further still,
Yes, Your love goes further still.

And You alone can rescue,
You alone can save.
You alone can lift us from the grave.
You came down to find us, led us out of death,
To You alone belongs the highest praise.

To You alone belongs the highest praise.

To You alone belongs the highest praise.

We lift up our eyes, Lift up our eyes, You're the giver of life.

We lift up our eyes, Lift up our eyes, You're the giver of life.

We lift up our eyes, Lift up our eyes, You're the giver of life.

We lift up our eyes, Lift up our eyes, You're the giver of life.

And You alone can rescue,

You alone can save.

You alone can lift us from the grave.

You came down to find us, led us out of death,

To You alone belongs the highest praise.

To You alone belongs the highest praise.

To You alone belongs the highest praise.

The Day of Resurrection (Blue Hymnal # 118, v. 1)

(Words: John of Damascus, c. 675-749, transl. John Mason Neale, 1862;

Music: Henry Thomas Smart, c. 1835; CCLI Song #2725914)

The day of resurrection!

Earth, tell it out abroad;

The Passover of gladness,

The Passover of God.

From death to life eternal,

From this world to the sky,

Our Christ hath brought us over

With hymns of victory.

Sending & Benediction

Postlude

Your Love Never Fails

(Words & Music: Anthony Skinner, Chris McClarney; CCLI Song #5337172)

*Nothing can separate Even if I ran away. Your love never fails.
I know I still make mistakes, but You have new mercies for me
ev'ryday; Your love never fails*

*You stay the same through the ages; Your love never changes. There
may be pain in the night, But joy comes in the morning. And when the
oceans rage, I don't have to be afraid. Because I know that You love
me. Your love never fails.*

*The wind is strong and the water's deep, But I'm not alone here in
these open seas, Your love never fails. The chasm is far too wide, I
never thought I'd reach the other side; Your love never fails.
You make all things Work together for my good...*

Today's Worship Service Leaders

Crofton Coleman, Worship Band Director, Vocals, Keyboard; **Dioné Ewang**, Vocals
Fred Bryant, Guitar; **Daniel Allen**, Guitar & Vocals; **Bethany Vaughan**, Bass; **Waldo Ocaña**, Drums; **Tina Laughlin**, Percussion
Hannah Dixon McConnell, Dir. Of Worship & Music, Vocals, Piano, Children's Message, Peace
Rebecca Chu, Organist
Darshaya Oden, Michelle Mariposa, Maximiliano Illanes, James Resch, Soloists, Anthem

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

Laurie Kaeser, Elder, Confession, Prayers of the People

Dan Shiau, Michael Witwer, Faith in Action

Amy Powell, Scripture Reader

Evan Peters, A/V Coordinator, Live Audio

Keith Jacobson, A/V Volunteer, Projection

Daniel Mpanda, A/V Volunteer, Video Switcher

John Carlson, A/V Volunteer, Online Chat

Andy Wallgren, Facilities Manager

Tuah Jenta, Stephanie Keene, Usher

Marge Stromberg, Greeter

Mike Denesha, Sharon Smith, 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 East Room

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

8th - 12th Grade: Room 206

Youth Group takes place from 4-6 p.m.

Fall Adult Education classes begin TODAY at 11 a.m.!

Exploring Missions Together meets in the Dining Room

Pillars of Reformed Christian Faith meets in Room 213

First Presbyterian Church
1427 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201
(847) 864-1472 Fax:(847) 864-1494
E-mail address: info@firstpresevanston.org
www.firstpresevanston.org

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.

Texts in today's service are reproduced by permission from the following: Presbyterian Hymnal: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs. Copyright 1990. Westminster/John Knox Press, CCLI License #253526. OneLicense #A-804550.

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 17, 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)

Adult Ed Courses begin TODAY at 11 a.m.

Exploring Missions Together: - Dining Room
Companionship, Cultural Humility and Co-Development

This course will jump start us to be thinking about the concepts mentioned in the title. During today's class Bridgette Gilchrist and Caryl Weinberg will share about their recent trip to the DR Congo, and on September 24, Denise Drane and Caryl will tell us about their trip to the IFES World Assembly in Indonesia. See how God is at work through FPCE and our partners around the world.

Pillars of Reformed Christian Faith Part III - Room 213

This course 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.

The general subjects of Parts I and II were God's revelation and God's nature. The general subject of Part III is sin and redemption, comprising lectures entitled Angels & Demons, The Creation of Man, The Nature of Sin, Original Sin, Transmission of Sin, The Covenants, The Christ of the Bible, The Christ of the Creeds, The Names of Christ, The States of Christ, The Offices of Christ, The Substitutionary Atonement, Why Did Christ Die?, and The Extent of the Atonement.

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

Christian Education & Childcare

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

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

K - 4th Grade: 3rd Floor East Room
5th - 7th Grade: 3rd Floor Center Room
8th - 12th Grade: Room 209

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



First Pres Announcements

September 17, 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!

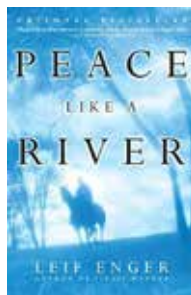
Family Small Group Kicks Off TODAY!

Today, September 17 | 4-6 p.m. in the Dining Room

Join with church families today for fellowship and a night off from cooking! Families split into age groups to begin the night then everyone comes together for dinner provided by First Pres. Contact Kalysta Harmon Witwer at kalystaharmon@gmail.com for more info.

Sign up for a Small Group today!

See the additional insert in today's bulletin for details.



Parish Nurse Book Club meets Tuesday

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..."

Life Together Class begins next Sunday

Sundays, September 24, October 8 & 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!

**No class October 1 due to Agape Meal.*

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