

A Service of Evening Prayer

Welcome to this service of Evening Prayer. While we are living in a dispersed community, we are grateful that the Spirit of God joins us together, blesses the space between us, and assures us of God’s presence and peace in these troubling times.

For this evening’s service, you may wish to have the following items available:

- A candle
- A cross
- A Bible
- A flower or blossom

Worship with us this Sunday. We hope you will join us for Sunday morning worship by gathering with us at 8:30 or 10:30 a.m. in person or on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/firstpresevansville/>

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The Prelude

“Voluntary in G”

H. Purcell

The Opening Sentences

- One This day of blessing is drawing to an end.
- All We have experienced the goodness of God from the rising of the sun.**
- One We gather together across the miles to give thanks.
- All We celebrate all that God has provided.**
- One Sisters and brothers, join hearts and voices!
- All Let us offer God our thanks and praise!**

The Hymn

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

St. Columba

**The King of love my Shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His and He is mine forever.**

**Where streams of living water flow my ransomed soul He leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.**

**Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love He sought me,
And on His shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing brought me.**

**In death’s dark vale I fear no ill with Thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still, Thy cross before to guide me.**

**Thou spreadest a table in my sight; Thy unction grace bestoweth;
And O what transport of delight from Thy pure chalice floweth.**

And so through all the length of days Thy goodness faileth never;

**Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise within Thy house forever.
The Kindling of the Evening Light**

*You are invited to place a candle in the center of your worship space
and join in kindling the evening light.*

One Among God's people,
lighting a candle has always been a symbol of our prayer.

As we light our candles tonight, let us pray together:

**All Lord, may this candle which I light
illuminate all my difficulties and decisions.
May this candle be a fire that burns away all my pride,
selfishness and all my other sins.
May this candle be a flame that warms my heart and incites me to love.**

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

One The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

One Let us pray.

...the prayer continues.

*As we move to hearing God's Word,
you are invited to place a Bible in the center of your worship space.*

The Evening Psalm

Psalm 103

One Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

**All Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all the benefits of the LORD,
who forgives all your sins and heals all your infirmities;
who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;
who satisfies you with good things,
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.**

One The LORD executes righteousness
and judgment for all who are oppressed.

**All To Moses were made known God's ways
and to the children of Israel the works of the LORD.**

One The LORD is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.

**All The LORD will not always accuse us
nor remain angry forever.**

One The LORD has not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

**All For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so is the LORD's mercy great upon the God-fearing.
As far as the east is from the west,
so far has the LORD removed our sins from us.**

One As a father cares for his children,
so does the LORD care for the God-fearing.

All For the LORD knows whereof we are made

and remembers that we are but dust.

One Our days are like the grass;
we flourish like a flower of the field;
when the wind goes over it, it is gone,
and its place shall know it no more.

**All But the merciful goodness of the LORD
endures forever on the God-fearing,
and the righteousness of the LORD on children's children;
on those who keep the holy covenant
and remember the commandments and do them.**

One The LORD has set up a throne in heaven,
and the sovereignty of the LORD has dominion over all.

**All Bless the LORD, you holy angels,
you mighty ones who do God's bidding,
and hearken to the voice of God's word.**

One Bless the LORD, all you holy hosts,
you holy ministers who do God's will.

**All Bless the LORD, all you works of God,
in all places of God's dominion;
bless the LORD, O my soul.**

The Reading

"Strange Surprise"

Malcom Guite

None of this need have happened, all of this,
These unexpected gifts, this overflow
Of things we know, and things we'll never know,
None of this had to be, but here it is,
The here-and-now in all its strange surprise;
A space to be ourselves in, and a grace
That spins us round and turns us to the source
Whence all these gifts and graces still arise.

And now the one through whom all this was made,
Whom we ignore, on whom we turn our back,
Whom we denied, insulted and betrayed,
Gathers and offers for us all we lack,
Voices on our behalf creation's praise,
And calls us to become the song he plays.

*As we hear the Gospel,
you are invited to place a cross in the center of your worship space.*

The Gospel Lesson

Matthew 6:25-33

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like

one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

*As we enter our closing prayers,
you are invited to place a flower or blossom in the center of your worship space.*

The Closing Prayers

One The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

One Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...the prayer continues

**All 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.**

The Hymn

“Now the Day Is Over”

Merrial

**Now the day is over, night is drawing nigh,
Shadows of the evening steal across the sky.**

**Jesus, give the weary calm and sweet repose;
With Thy tenderest blessing may my eyelids close.**

**Comfort those who suffer, watching late in pain;
Those who plan some evil from their sin restrain.**

**When the morning wakens, then may I arise
Pure, and fresh, and sinless in Thy holy eyes.**

The Blessing

The Postlude

“Verse in G”

J. Blow

Leading the service:

Pastor	Kevin Scott Fleming
Director of Music	Robert Nicholls

First Presbyterian Church Staff:

Pastor
Director of Music
Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator
Parish Visitor
Office Administrator

Kevin Scott Fleming
Robert Nicholls
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First Presbyterian Church
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