

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 on our Facebook page:

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

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The Prelude

“Hornpipe”

S. Wesley

The Opening Sentences

- One Stay with us Lord, for it is nearly evening.
- All Do not leave us, Lord, for we need your presence.**
- One Stay with us Lord, for it is nearly evening.
- All You are the light that shatters darkness.**
- One Stay with us, Lord, for it is nearly evening.
- All In you we put our trust and look to you for life.**

The Hymn

“We Praise You, O God”

Kresmer

**We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
 In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
 We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you:
 We bless your holy name: glad praises we sing.**

**We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;
 Through trial and tempest our guide you have been.
 When perils o’ertake us, you will not forsake us,
 And with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.**

**With voices united our praises we offer
 And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
 With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us.
 To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!**

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 111

One Hallelujah!
I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

**All Great are the deeds of the LORD!
they are studied by all who delight in them.**

One Full of majesty and splendor is the work of the LORD,
whose righteousness endures forever.

**All Gracious and full of compassion is the LORD,
whose marvelous works are to be remembered.**

One The LORD gives food to the God-fearing,
ever mindful of the covenant.

**All The LORD has shown the chosen people works of power
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

One The hands of the LORD work faithfulness and justice;
all the commandments of the LORD are sure.

**All They stand fast forever and ever,
because they are done in truth and equity.**

One The LORD sent redemption to the chosen people,
commanding the covenant forever;
holy and awesome is the name of the LORD.

**All The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
those who act accordingly have a good understanding;
the praise of the LORD endures forever.**

A Poem

"Peace"

Malcolm Guite

Not as the world gives, not the victor's peace,
Not to be fought for, hard-won, or achieved,
Just grace and mercy, gratefully received:
An undeserved and unforeseen release,
As the cold chains of memory and wrath
Fall from our hearts before we are aware,
Their rusty locks all picked by patient prayer,
Till closed doors open, and we see a path
Descending from a source we cannot see;
A path that must be taken, hand in hand,
Only by those, forgiving and forgiven,
Who see their savior in their enemy.
So reach for me. We'll cross our broken land,
And make each other bridges back to heaven.

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

The Gospel Lesson

John 14:1-7

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

*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

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

Ar Hyd Y Nos

**“Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love’s baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”**

**“Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Have you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son’s story; here you touched him, say his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”**

**“Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit’s power filled you; here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”**

The Blessing

The Postlude

“Voluntary in A Minor”

W. Boyce

Leading the service:

Pastor Kevin Scott Fleming
Director of Music Robert Nicholls



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First Presbyterian Church
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