

Welcome to Worship from First Presbyterian Church

We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in the worship, service, and program life of First Pres!

- Please visit the church website: www.firstpresevansville.com to stay up-to-date on our ministry and service opportunities.
- Please visit our Facebook page - First Presbyterian Church - Evansville, Indiana. We hope you'll "like" us!

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

WE GATHER TO CELEBRATE NEW LIFE

THE PRELUDE

"All the Ends of the Earth" (8:30)
 "Fugue in c minor, *Nöel en Duo*" (10:30)

Bob Dufford
 Jean Jacques Charpentier

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

One Sing praise to God, who gathers us here,
All from the ends of the earth we come.
 One With a word of promise, a spring of water,
 a loaf of bread, and a cup of wine,
All God turns our mourning into dancing,
our sorrow into joy.

THE OPENING PRAYER

THE HYMN

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Gloria

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
 And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
 Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
 What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
 Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
 Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
 Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

Holy God, you have given us everything;
we have failed to respond with gratitude.
In Jesus Christ, you have given us your Word;
we answer with empty promises and lies.
In Jesus Christ, you have given us your light;
we try to hide ourselves from your glory.
In Jesus Christ, you have given us your life;
even this precious gift we have not received.
Have mercy on us, O God; forgive us.
In Jesus Christ, give us the faith and power
to become what you created us to be:
beloved children, full of grace and truth.

THE SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

THE WORDS OF WELCOME

The Greetings Among the People of God
The Concerns of the Church

WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF NEW LIFE

THE PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

THE LESSON

Jeremiah 31:7-14

For thus says the LORD:
Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel."
See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.
With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.
Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."
For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.
Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

THE SPECIAL MUSIC

“A New Year’s Carol”

Benjamin Britten

*Here we bring new water from the well so clear
for to worship God with, this happy New Year.
Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;
The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.
Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her toe,
open you the West Door, and turn the Old Year go.
Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;
The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.
Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her chin,
open you the East Door, and let the New Year in.
Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;
The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.*

THE LESSON

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’”) From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

THE SERMON

Kevin Scott Fleming

“The Promise of Beginnings”

WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE GIFT OF NEW LIFE

A TIME OF INTENTIONAL SILENCE

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(in unison)*

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation;
in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible.
All things have been created through him and for him.
He himself is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.
He is head of the body, the church;
he is the beginning,
the firstborn of the dead,
so that he might come to have first place in everything.
For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

- Colossians 1:15-20

THE MORNING OFFERING

You may send a check to the church office or give online at <http://firstpresevansville.com/giving/>

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Sharing of Joys and Concerns
The Invitation to the Table
The Prayer of Thanksiving
The Lord's Prayer *(in unison)*

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 Words of Institution
The Communion of the People of God
The Prayer After Communion *(in unison)*

God of grace and peace,
as you have shared your life with us through the child in the manger
and this simple meal together,
let us share your life with others as the body of Christ in the world;
through Jesus, bread of heaven. Amen.

WE DISPERSE TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF NEW LIFE

THE HYMN

“On This Day Earth Shall Ring”

Personent Hodie

**On this day earth shall ring with the song children sing
To the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to save us; Him the Father gave us.
Ideo-o-o, Ideo-o-o, Ideo Gloria in excelsis Deo!** (“Therefore, glory to God in the highest!”)

**His the doom, ours the mirth; when He came down to earth
Bethlehem saw His birth, ox and ass beside Him, from the cold would hide Him.
Ideo-o-o, Ideo-o-o, Ideo Gloria in excelsis Deo!** (“Therefore, glory to God in the highest!”)

**God’s bright star, o’er His head, wise men three to Him led,
Kneeling low by His bed, lay their gifts before Him, praise Him and adore Him.
Ideo-o-o, Ideo-o-o, Ideo Gloria in excelsis Deo!** (“Therefore, glory to God in the highest!”)

**One this day angels sing; with their song earth shall ring,
Praising Christ, heaven’s King, born on earth to save us; peace and love He gave us.
Ideo-o-o, Ideo-o-o, Ideo Gloria in excelsis Deo!** (“Therefore, glory to God in the highest!”)

THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

“Fugue in B Major”

Marcel Dupré

Leading worship this morning:

Pastor	Rev. Kevin Scott Fleming
Liturgists	Tony Aiken (8:30), Andy Hubbard (10:30)
Director of Music	Robert Nicholls
Vocalist	Joanna Fleming

Happening at First Presbyterian Church

The **Annual Meeting of the Congregation** is next **Sunday, January 10, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.** for the purpose of electing officers for the class of 2023 and approving changes to the pastor’s compensation. All members of First Presbyterian are welcome to attend via Zoom; the link will be shared via email prior to the meeting.

Join **Kevin Fleming on Zoom** for a 12-session discussion of Morgan Guyton’s challenging book, *How Jesus Saves the World from Us on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. starting January 13*. It is a powerful, eye-opening treatise that should change the way we think about and practice our faith. You can purchase a copy of the book from Amazon (or your favorite bookseller) or order one from the church. See the Forms tab on the First Web homepage or contact the church office to register. When you register for the study, you will be sent a link to join via Zoom.

We continue to offer thirty minutes of **music on Thursdays at 12:00 p.m.** Robert and occasional guests will use the various instruments in the sanctuary to provide you with music at the midday on the church’s website and Facebook page. You can also see all of the previous recitals on the church’s YouTube page.

This week’s **daily reading schedule** includes:

Sunday, January 3	John 6:15-27	Thursday, January 7	John 6:30-33, 48-51
Monday, January 4	John 9:1-12, 35-38	Friday, January 8	John 7:37-52
Tuesday, January 5	John 11:17-27, 38-44	Saturday, January 9	John 8:12-19
Wednesday, January 6	Matthew 12:14-21		