

Sundays

Nursery Care 9:00 a.m.
Breakfast 9:00 a.m.
Christian Education 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Fellowship following service
Youth activities 4:00 p.m.

2701 Rochester Avenue
Iowa City, IA 52245
319-351-2660
www.firstpresioiwacity.org

Welcome to FPC.

Our prayer is that all will be blessed by the Word read and proclaimed as we are bound together by the Spirit as a community of faith.

Children are invited to participate in our worship and welcome as loved, squirmy, laughing, crying children of God. We have busy bags for younger children and binders for young readers to help them in their journey, and a staffed nursery is available for children under 5.

✦ *Please rise, in body or spirit.*

***Bold lines** are spoken or sung by **All**. Non-bold lines are spoken or sung by one.*

Please be seated by a Gathered Community Pad and sign in so that we may have a record of your time with us.



We seek to share the good news of Jesus Christ and his call to the realm of God: the practice of justice, mercy and faith. Our mission is represented by the Celtic cross, a shepherd's crook, the extension of the right arm of fellowship into the world and the church's hospitality toward the world.

28 January 2024
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Prelude *Fugue in A-flat Major, BWV 862* J.S. Bach

Greeting Psalm 118: 24

This is the day that the Lord has made | **We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

✦ **Gathering Prayer**

God, we gather declaring your name:

Creator, Christ, Comforter.

We gather aware of the demons in our own lives and institutions.

We gather in the hope that your names will cast them out.

We gather together, to ask for your blessing and sing your names aloud.

Amen.

✦ **Gathering Hymn 755** *Alleluia, Laud and Blessing*

✦ **Call to Confession**

Most of our demons are symbolic, rather than literal. But naming them in the presence of God and neighbor can lessen their hold on us all the same. Come, join in confessing our sins and transgressions.

✦ **Prayer of Communal Confession**

Gracious and most merciful God, we have sinned against you in thought and word and deed, both in what we have done and in what we have left undone. We have not trusted in your love and protection. We have lived in the past and revisited the decisions we might have made over and over again. We have not looked to the future and the challenges that will arise there, or struggled with who we will be. Help us to transform ourselves in your image, and to call upon your names as we live together as your beloved children.

✦ **Time of Individual Confession**

✦ **Words of Assurance**

Hear the Good News. Jesus Christ came to create a new world with you in it. You are forgiven. **Amen.**

✦ **Confessional Response 578** *Kyrie Eleison*

**O Lord, have mer-cy; O Lord, have mer-cy;
O Lord, have mer-cy, have mer-cy on us.
O Christ, have mer-cy; O Christ, have mer-cy;
O Christ, have mer-cy on us**

✠The Peace

The peace of Jesus Christ be with you. | **And also with you.**
(*The people may exchange signs of Christ's peace and reconciling love.*)

Prayer for Illumination

May these words shed new light on our lives.

The First Lesson

Psalm 111

©Order of St. Helena

Alleluia! I will give thanks to you, O God, with my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

**Great are your deeds, O God;
they are studied by all who delight in them.**

Your work is full of majesty and splendor,
and your righteousness endures for ever.

**You make your marvelous works to be remembered;
you are gracious and full of compassion.**

You give food to those who fear you;
you are ever mindful of your covenant.

**You have shown your people the power of your works in giving them
the lands of the nations.**

The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;
all your commandments are sure.

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

You sent redemption to your people; you commanded your covenant
for ever; holy and awesome is your Name.

**The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom; those who act
accordingly have a good understanding; God's praise endures for
ever.**

Response

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. | **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Time

All children, if they are so moved, are invited to gather on the steps.

The Second Lesson

Mark 1:21-28

Pew Bible, New Testament, p.

Response

The words of the prophets for the people of God. | **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 394

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

Message

"Wrestling with Church Demons" Pastor Nathan Willard

Preparation for Prayer 267 *Come, Christians, Join to Sing v3*

We will sing again after the Silent Prayer

**Praise yet our Christ a-gain: Al-le-lu-ia! A-men! Life shall not end the
strain: Al-le-lu-ia! A-men! On heav-en's bliss-ful shore his good-ness
we'll a-dore, sing-ing for-ev-er-more: Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!**

Prayers of the People and Silent Prayer

*During the prayers of the people, please respond to the words "God in
your mercy" with "Hear our prayer."*



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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

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory *Now God Be Praised in Heav'n Above* Henry Wilder Foote

✠Doxology (tune: 607)

OLD HUNDRETH

**To God, all glorious heavenly Light,
to Christ revealed in earthly night
To God the Spirit now we raise
our joyful songs of thankful praise. Amen**

✠Prayer of Dedication

God, thank you for showing us how to wrestle with demons, how to call on your name, and how to live in the freedom that gives us. We dedicate these gifts to the work we do together. Amen.

Commissioning

Ordination and Installation of Deacons and Elders

There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

**There are different ways of serving God,
but it is the same Lord who is served.**

God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.

Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

Hymn 312

Take Us As We Are, O God

Clerk of Session: Representing the one holy catholic and apostolic church, the session of First Presbyterian Church now ordains Travis Martin to ministry as a ruling elder, and installs him to active service in this congregation.

The session also installs to active service those who have been previously ordained:

deacons Sue Van Duyn, Annie Westfall, Kristin Marrs, and Cynthia Chou-Laing and ruling elders Judy Whitford, John Barr, and David Van Dusseldorp

Ordination Questions

Questions to the Congregation

Elder: Do we, the members of the church, accept Travis, Sue, Annie, Kristin, Cynthia, Judy, John, and Dave as ruling elders and deacons, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church? **We do.**

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*Ruling Elders and ministers of Word and Sacrament are invited to come to
 the front and lay hands on Travis Martin*

Prayer of Ordination and Charge


✠ **Sending Hymn 305** *Come Sing, O Church, in Joy*

✠ **Charge and Blessing**

Postlude *The Church's One Foundation* arr. J. Kyle Coleman

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP THIS MORNING

Preacher: Pastor Nathan Willard
 Ministry of Music: J. Kyle Coleman
 Liturgist: Rebecca Stockman
 Ushers: Becky and Perry Ross
 Elder: Bill Follows
 Fellowship: Finance Committee



The Congregational Health Ministries Team provides blood pressure screenings on **the first Sunday of each month**. They will provide blood pressure measurements and discuss the results with you in Ryerson Hall during the 30 minutes before and after worship. All are welcome!

FPC's week at a glance

Sunday, 28 January

8:00 JuBELLation Choir, Choir Room
 9:00 Childcare, Nursery
 9:00 Breakfast & Good Morning, Ryerson Hall
 9:30 Parent's Group, Pastor's Place
 9:30 Bibel Study, Coover
 9:30 3rd-6th Grade Sunday School, Young Youth Room
 9:30 K-2nd Grade Sunday School, Beach Room
 9:30 Wired Word, Room 14, Hybrid
 9:45 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary, Choir Loft
 10:30 Worship, Sanctuary
 11:30 Fellowship, Ryerson Hall
 7:00 Jeremiah Justice Initiative, Zoom

Tuesday, 30 January

11:00 FPC Book Club, Room 14, Hybrid

Wednesday, 31 January

7:00 Men's Group, Zoom
 10:30 Staff Mtg., Coover
 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

Saturday, 3 February

9:00 Session Retreat, Vintage Cooperative

Sunday, 4 February

8:00 JuBELLation Choir, Choir Room
 9:00 Childcare, Nursery
 9:00 Breakfast & Good Morning, Ryerson Hall
 9:30 Parent's Group, Pastor's Place
 9:30 Bibel Study, Coover
 9:30 3rd-6th Grade Sunday School, Young Youth Room
 9:30 K-2nd Grade Sunday School, Beach Room
 9:30 Wired Word, Room 14, Hybrid
 9:45 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary, Choir Loft
 10:00 Blood Pressure Screening, Ryerson Hall
 10:30 Worship, Sanctuary
 11:30 Fellowship, Ryerson Hall
 11:35 Blood Pressure Screening, Ryerson Hall
 4:00 The 3Gs, Young Youth Room
 6:00 Sunday Night Dinner, Ryerson Hall, Kitchen
 6:45 The 3Ts, Young Youth Room
 7:00 Jeremiah Justice Initiative, Zoom

First Presbyterian Church Staff

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