First Presbyterian Church of Palestine, IL **November 8, 2026**
Order of Worship for the Lord's Day
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Welcome to worship service at the First Presbyterian Church in Palestine, IL. Whether you are here in person, or watching us online, we are honored that you have chosen to worship with us!



The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins, by British Painter William John Wainwrite, 1899.

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship and Prayer of the Day

People of God, listen: The Lord has done marvelous things!
We will give thanks to you, O LORD, with our whole heart;
We will tell of all your wonderful deeds.
We will be glad and exult in you;
We will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

Let us pray…

O great and loving God, your wisdom is radiant and unfading, easily discerned by all who seek your way. When faithful people live in love and work for justice, heaven breaks into earth. Give us the grace to live confidently and expectantly, trusting that the Lord of history, who has been approaching from all eternity, comes into life continually with compassion, redemption, and hope. Amen.

***Opening Hymn** "Rejoice! Rejoice Believers" Blue Hymnal 15

1 Rejoice! Rejoice, believers, And let your lights appear;
The evening is advancing And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising And soon He will draw nigh;
Up, watch with expectation, At the midnight comes the cry.

2 See that your lamps are burning, Replenish them with oil;
Look now for your salvation, The end of sin and toil.
The marriage feast is waiting, The gates wide open stand;
Arise, O heirs of glory, The Bridegroom is at hand!

3 Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, Thou Sun so longed for, Above this shadowed sphere!
With hearts and hands uplifted, We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption, And ever be with Thee!

Time with the Younger Church

Call to Confession

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of Confession

Holy and gracious God, you are all light and wonder and glory. You are our strength and our delight; you give us all we need to live. Yet we are distracted by all that glitters, continually grasping for more. Rather than trust in your provision, we chase after our own happiness. Forgive us, Lord, and turn us back to you. Overwhelm us with your goodness and cover us with grace, for we know that you are the source of life, the fount of all that is good.

Personal Silent Confession

…in the name of Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Rejoice and be glad, for God is mighty to save and comes to you in peace to forgive, restore, and strengthen you in Christ. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel...

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

***Grateful Response**

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

Scripture Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 Matthew 25:1-13

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon *Jesus' Unpredictable Theology*

Anthem "America"

Call for the Offering

November – Presbyterian Disaster Relief

How to Give: you can go directly to our website and use our online giving platform to set up a one-time or recurring gift; you can mail your offering directly to the church (POBox 132, Palestine, IL 62451), or you can drop your tithes and offerings at the church office, Mon., Tues., or Thurs., 10 am – 2 pm.

Presentation of Offerings and Song of Dedication

*****Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (Doxology) (#606)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and 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.

Hymn of Sending "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" Blue Hymnal 562

1 Eternal Father, strong to save, Whose arm has bound the restless wave,
Who bade the mighty ocean deep Its own appointed limits keep:
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee, For those in peril on the sea.

2 O Savior, whose almighty word The wind and waves submissive heard,
Who walked upon the foaming deep, And calm amid its rage did sleep:
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee, For those in peril on the sea.

3 O Holy Spirit, who did brood Upon the chaos wild and rude,
And bade its angry tumult cease, And gave, for fierce confusion, peace:
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee, For those in peril on the sea.

4 O Trinity of love and power, All travelers guard in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe, Protect them wheresoe'er they go;
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee Glad praise from air and land and sea.

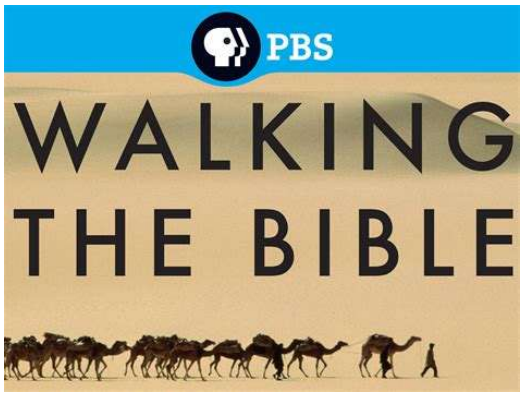
***Benediction**

***Postlude**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Walking the Bible – A Journey by Land through the Five Books of Moses



Adult Sunday School continues a video series featuring Bruce Feiler's book "Walking the Bible" on Sunday. The stories in the first five books of the Bible, also known as the Torah, come alive as Feiler searches across three continents for the stories and heroes shared by Christians and Jews. Please arrive for Sunday School **before 9:30 am** as we'll start the 32-minute video segment right on time; then we'll have time for brief discussion before we adjourn at 10:15 am. All are welcome!

Lunch with Nan
November 18th, 11:30 a.m.

let's do lunch

Please sign up on the clipboard in the back of the church.

Menu is as follows:

Homemade All-Butter Croissants with Smoked Ham, Shredded Carrot and Raisin Salad, Pasta Salad, Potato Salad and Chocolate or Lemon Dessert Cups, Coffee, Tea, or Water

Welcome! We are delighted that you are worshipping with us today. Please know that we do not pass an offering plate during worship but offering plates are located near both entrances to the Sanctuary. You can also give online but going to our website at www.firstprespalestine.com and finding the button on the upper right-hand corner of the Home page that says "Give Now".

Communion (also called The Lord's Supper) is offered once a month and on special liturgical days. Everyone is welcome to receive communion, no matter your age or if you've been baptized. The Lord welcomes all to receive this gift of God's hospitality. Please take the bread and the cup of juice at the same time it is passed to you. Eat the bread as you receive it. Save the cup until all have been served and drink it together. This reminds us that we are individual persons receiving God's love and a community of faith led by God's love.

Information About Our Church Building – We have a balcony, a Sanctuary Floor and a Basement Floor. Three bathrooms are located in the basement – one at the foot of the West side stairs, and two at the back of the basement (on the south side of the basement near the

kitchen.) All are for anyone to use. The basement houses our fellowship dining and event space as well as adult Sunday School meeting space. There is also a nursery on the north side of the basement.

MISSION GIVING – November	MISSION GIVING – December
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	**Christmas Joy**

Please Note: Each month the Session designates a specific mission on which to focus our giving. Funds from the annual church budget are allocated and sent during that month, but you are able to give specifically to that mission (or any other mission!) by writing in the memo line of your check or making note on our online giving site what you would like to add to the church's level of giving. If there is no specific notation of a mission, your giving will go to the general fund. Thanks always for your generosity.

Meeting Dates

- **November 17th Session Meeting at 4p.m. at Lynn's house**
- **November 18th – Lunch with Nan**
- **January 11th, 2027, 6:00 p.m. Investment Committee Meeting**

Important Dates & Events

- **Choir Practice Wednesday's at 6:45 p.m.**

Volunteers Needed

- **Food pantry needs volunteers! Monday 1-3 and Wednesday 5-6. They could use any able-bodied workers!**

Located at the Back of the Sanctuary

- **2025 Annual Report with Members and Friends Directory Included**
- **PCUSA Giving Catalog**
- **The Upper Room – November/December**
- **Prayer Chain Forms --** Please fill one out if you would like to be added to our prayer chains by text or by email. Note that due to the way our email program is set up for the prayer chain, you will also get our weekly email about the bulletin for Sunday and any group church email that is sent. Please leave the filled-out form in an Offering Plate. Thank you.

New Addresses:

Chester & Karen Greene (Home Address) 45A Marker Street, Highland, IL, 62249
Jerry and Linda Russell (Indiana Address)156 Dogwood Drive, Warren, IN, 46792
Diane Nickum (New Home Address) 63594 East Harmony Drive, Saddlebrooke, AZ, 85739
Meredith Gentry 600 E Adair Street, Valdosta, GA 31601

PRAYER REQUESTS

Newly Added or Updated

Kim Phillips – Nan's sister-in-law. She is hospitalized with Hospice care.

Our Continuing Care Concerns

Cindy York – prayers for a speedy recovery after having knee surgery

Harry Redman – is home now and having in home care from CMH continued prayers for his recovery.

Riley Cox – Recovering from surgery

Phyllis Adams – had knee replacement surgery continued prayers for healing

Jim Higgins – leg issues

Phyllis LeFever – prayers to accept the needed procedures

Kathy Klauss

MaryAnn Fulling – prayers for healing after having a pacemaker surgery

Jamie Alexander – 4 month old son of Josh and Jessica Alexander needs a liver transplant

Rita Garrard – Breast Cancer

Chester Greene – prayers to continue to improve with his eating.

Hob Murphy – continued prayers

Kendra Jones – cancer diagnosis and also please pray for **Encourage Puerto Rico** – a children's ministry that she helped start

Paul Postlewaite

Jocelyne Ramsey & Family

Andrew Knoblet – is back in a behavioral hospital please pray for him and his family and an effective treatment that will allow him to safely get back home.

Meredith Gentry – continued prayers she has stage 2B lung cancer.

Pam Hill – (**Sandy Ellis' Sister**) had a complete shoulder replacement surgery and needs prayers for recovery

Knox Pritchard – diving accident

Prayers for Blake Padgett – 16-year-old that was involved with a hit and run in Terre Haute.

Nancy Bex

Debbie Skidmore – starts cancer treatments

Anne Wiseman – had surgery

Krue Williams – Leukemia

Dick McCarty

Kathy Lutes

Frank Draper- continued prayers currently in Jasonville, IN Rehab

Judy Kincaid – Back injury

Paul and Nancy Gray – car accident with still a long road ahead of them for healing

Jim Bush – continued medical needs

Luke Hayes – Brain disorders

Aiden Robbins – (Senior Airman) is stationed in the Middle East and is the grandson of Greg and Pam Robbins

Also continued prayers for the other two Knoblett Children with their ongoing Behavior Challenges.

All of God's People

Victims of Weather Disasters

Church Members and Friends in Assisted Living or Care Homes

BridgePointe Health Campus
Cheryl Mefford
Bus Reynolds
1900 College Ave, Vincennes, IN 47591

Arbor Rose of Robinson
Sharon Biggs
500 S Reed Street, Robinson, IL 62454

StoneBridge of Olney
Joan Summers
1304 N East Street, Olney, IL 62450

Get the latest information on worship services, church activities, prayer requests, etc. by signing up to be on our email list. Go to our website, www.firstprespalestine.com and scroll to the bottom to fill out the subscription form or email the church office at 1stpresby.palestine@gmail.com.

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