

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.firstpresioiowacity.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.

14 January 2024
2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Greeting

Psalm 118: 24

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

Prelude

Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun Arr. by J. Kyle Coleman

✦ Gathering Prayer

God, thank you for calling us together to celebrate you, to praise you, and to welcome new people into our ministry.

Bring your Holy Spirit through this church to renew our faith and help us to hear our calls to serve you. Amen.

✦ Gathering Hymn 726

Will You Come and Follow Me

✦ Call to Confession

The year is young, but through the snow and cold and fallen trees, God calls us to reflect on our lives and renew ourselves in love through our confession.

✦ 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 what we have left undone. We have heard you calling us and looked the other way. We have seen your spiritual gifts expressed in the people all around us, but denied them in ourselves. We have not found new ways to invite you onto our journeys inside this church and out in the world. Empowered by all the people who claim their calls today, inspire us to answer, "Here I Am".

✦ Time of Individual Confession

✦ Words of Assurance

Hear the Good News. The stories of the Bible show us story after story of God's servants taking up their calls from God at all stages of their lives. No matter where you are on your journey, know that Christ's resurrection frees you from the sins of your past to live into new life. **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

Holy Spirit, give these words the power to call us into your company.

The First Lesson

1 Samuel 3:1-10

Pew Bible, Old Testament, p.229

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

John 1:43-51

Pew Bible, New Testament, p. 80

Response

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

Hymn 720

Jesus calls us

Message

"When God Calls"

Pastor Nathan Willard

Reception of New Members

Today, we welcome Margaret MacInnis, Maree Sarow, Kimberly Kinnaird, Brian Kinnaird, Alex Voss, Michelle Voss, Amy Seidel, and Phillip Mitchell into church membership.

Elder: On behalf of the session, I present these new members, who have been received into the membership of this congregation by reaffirmation of faith.

Pastor: In baptism you were claimed by God, marked as Christ's own forever, and joined to his body by the Holy Spirit. You come to us then, not as strangers, but as friends in Christ and members of the household of God. We rejoice that you now desire to join with this congregation in the worship and mission of the church.

Elder: Hear these words from scripture:

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling,

one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Parent of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Questions of the Candidates

Affirmation of Faith (Apostles' Creed)

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.



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Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Pastor Nathan: Friends, we have professed our faith as one body.

Will you be a faithful member of this congregation, share in its worship and mission through your prayers and gifts, your study and service, and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Welcome of New Members

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."

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

Intermezzo, Op. 118, No. 2

Johannes Brahms

✠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, we thank you for the joint ministry of this last year. We thank you for the servants that served this church in 2023, and the faces that join us in being the church this year. We dedicate these gifts to .

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.

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.**

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 69** *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky*

✠ **Charge and Blessing**

Postlude *O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts* Arr. by J. Kyle Coleman

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP THIS MORNING

Preacher: Pastor Nathan Willard
 Ministry of Music: J. Kyle Coleman
 Liturgist: Mark Beerends
 Ushers: John Barr
 Elder: John Barr
 Fellowship: Worship & Arts Ministry

Sunday School Resumes next week!

9:00 Childcare in the Nursery
 9:00 Breakfast & Good morning
 9:30 Sunday School Classes
 9:45 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
 7:00 Jeremiah Justice Initiative

The Church Office will be closed Monday for MLK day

Many thanks for the lovely reception, the beautiful cross, Christmas ornament, and flowers, and most especially for all of your kind words and warm wishes. It has been a privilege and a joy to journey with the FPC Congregation over these last eight years. May the Light which we celebrate during these seasons of incarnation continue to dwell in you richly.
 Melissa Moll