

November 19 Sermon Notes

9 and 11:30 a.m. Worship Services

Preacher: Rev. Henry Coates

Scripture: Psalm 136:1-26 (Old Testament, pp. 587-588)

Title: Gratitude: God's Love Endures Forever

Series: **Soul Sculpting: Disciplines that shape the follower of Jesus**

Next Week

9 and 11:30 a.m. Worship Services

Preacher: Rev. Raymond Hylton

Scripture: Psalm 24:1-10 (*Old Testament, pp. 507-508*)

Title: The Discipline of Worship

Big Idea: Worship is both an individual and a corporate act. That is to say, worship is both something we do when we gather and something we do as we go through the course of our lives. In the New Testament, worship speaks to how we act - or live our lives- in the presence of God. In its most basic sense, worship is the proper response of believers to God. Thus, true worship is restricted to those who have come into a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Listen to Sunday Sermons on the FPCE website or via the "First Presbyterian Church of Evanston" iTunes podcast. Sermons are usually uploaded by Tuesday evenings.

First Presbyterian Evanston

1427 Chicago Avenue
Evanston, IL 60201
847-864-1472

www.firstpresevanston.org

Highlights

Today, November 19, in addition to our regular offering, we will collect our annual Thanksgiving Offering. By contributing you'll be helping to respond to all the natural and manmade disasters in our world, as this year's gifts will go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). PDA works through relief and development both nationally and internationally. As we give thanks for all the Lord has blessed us with, may we respond generously in our sharing with those in need. Envelopes for this special collection are included in the bulletins.

Today is Fellowship Sunday with an extended fellowship time in Roy Hall between services. There will not be any Adult Education Classes between services.

An Advent Workshop for Families will be held TODAY from 3-5 pm at FPCE. Please note that we are hosting the workshop early this year so families can begin Advent with a devotional tool ready to go! We will be creating Advent wreaths to use at home to help prepare for Christmas. During the workshop, families will first gather together in the Dining Room for snacks and conversation. A family worship time will follow in the parlor, and the workshop will conclude with crafting of Advent wreaths in the gym. Please bring a snack to share, and sign up during fellowship time, at the front desk, or online.

Our next Wednesday Prayer Gathering will be held November 29 at 7 pm in the Parlor. Our guest will be Tim Jones, executive director of Good News Partners. Please join us as we learn about and lift up this valuable local mission partner.

Altar Guild volunteers are needed for the preparation of the elements of the Lord's Supper for each of our Sunday communion services. If you are interested in serving this way, please contact Elda McGinty at emcginty@firstpresevanston.org for more information on this important behind-the-scenes role in the life of our church community.

Worth Noting

The altar flowers have been placed to honor the earthly life of ElenaJane Rebekah Pooler (April 25, 2004 to November 20, 2015), by her mother, Sarah Lynn Pooler. "Safe, loved and free." Forever.

The FPCE building will be closed Thursday, November 23, and Friday, November 24, in recognition of the Thanksgiving holiday.

First Presbyterian Church will host an overnight shelter again this winter. The dates are December 3-10 and January 14-28. You may sign up online at <http://www.firstpresevanston.org/events/event-registration/> or in the coming weeks during coffee hour. Please contact Charlene Parris via email at c.parris@comcast.net, for more information.

Thanks to all who have taken angels and are participating in this year's Angel Tree ministry. As a reminder, all Angel Tree gifts should be returned to the church no later than Sunday, December 3. Gifts can be dropped off at the front desk of the church office. For questions or more information, please contact John Powell at 847-869-5322.

December 3 at 12:30 pm (after the second service) is our "Christmas Around the World Potluck". Please sign up on SignUpGenius at <https://tinyurl.com/yae6zro4> (you can find the link under Event Registration on the FPCE website, too) if you wish to help with setting up the tables, frying Filipino egg rolls, bringing a dish to share and/or cleaning up. There will also be a table at fellowship hour between services and in the Narthex after the 11:30am service. For questions, email ginachang888@gmail.com.



Missions

cweinberg@firstpresevanston.org

Pray for Our Mission Partners

Pray for our mission partners, International Fellowship of Evangelical Students-Middle East and North Africa (IFES-MENA), from pages 52 and 53 of *52 Weeks of Prayer for Missions*. Pray for protection and wisdom for Christian students and staff of the region. Ask God to give them grace and wisdom to live lives of obedience in the midst of conflict; for boldness to share their faith in Christ with other students and for new students and their fragile faith, that it would be strengthened and affirmed. Pray, too, for peace throughout the Middle East and North Africa region.

As a sequel to their previous “Repurposed Art” project, The Institute for Therapy Through the Arts and FPCE Volunteers are embarking on another art adventure created by the Saturday guests at First Pres. The project, which is supported by the Institute for Therapy in the Arts, involves weaving with disposable plastic bags. Many colorful plastic bags will be needed for the final creation. Donations of the bags should be made in the box outside the church library. Those feeling led to support the team with your prayer or your presence are most welcome! Call Linda at 847-420-1289 for information about taking part.

<http://www.firstpresevanston.org/serve/in-the-world/>

Save the Date

Book Club will meet on Tuesday, November 28 from 1:30-3 pm in the Parlor. We will be reading *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn. All are welcome to take part!

Children and Families

kmuller@firstpresevanston.org

We invite you to bring a snack to share if you are able to join us today for the Advent Workshop! Any type of finger food is much appreciated.

As part of our Christmas Pageant at First Pres, we are inviting all children in our Sunday School and Children’s Worship classes to memorize Christmas carols and sing them along with our choir. We’d like to have the children who regularly attend worship with us on Sunday morning to have a special role in the Pageant! During the 4 pm worship service on Christmas Eve, there will be different times when our younger and older Sunday morning children are invited forward. All your child needs to do is memorize the carol(s), listen for the opportunity to come forward in the service, and then join us as we sing. For specific instructions on what words to memorize, please request a letter from your child’s Sunday morning teacher or pick one up on the table outside the church library.

Join us on Sunday, December 10, as we decorate gingerbread houses at church! Bring your neighbors and friends for a fun project that people of all ages can work on together. We’ll have a decorating open house from 2-4 pm in Roy Hall. There will be a small cost for each house kit, with scholarships available. For more information, contact Courtney Ivaska (courtney.b.ivaska@gmail.com).

Have any leftover Halloween candy that you’d like to donate? Children’s Ministry is seeking donations of nut-free, unopened candy that can be used to decorate gingerbread houses this December. Please bring any candy to the box on the Children’s Ministry table outside the church library.

New sign-ups have gone out for volunteer helpers in our childcare & Children’s Worship on Sunday mornings. We ask every family who uses these rooms on a regular basis to help out once per quarter. If you don’t have a child but are looking to serve, we’d love to get to know you & help you get involved! For more information contact Kristin Mueller.

<http://www.firstpresevanston.org/learn/children/>

Employment at FPCE

First Presbyterian Church of Evanston is looking to fill two full-time positions: Director of Youth Ministries and Director of Worship & Music (both full-time). For the full job descriptions and how to apply, please go to <http://www.firstpresevanston.org/about-us/employment>.

Youth and Families

lribeiro@firstpresevanston.org

The next youth band and youth dance rehearsals will be held Thursday, November 30, in the Sanctuary. Band will meet at 4 pm, followed by Dance at 5 pm.

Calling mentors and leaders: The youth ministry needs you! The youth ministry is seeking spiritually mature adults to invest in and guide our students. If you are interested in serving as a NUBS or PYGs leader, or confirmation mentor please reach out to Liz Ribeiro.

NUBS meets each Friday, from 7-9 pm, in the NUBS lounge. Students from grades 6-8 are invited.

PYGS meets from 4-6 pm each Sunday afternoon. Dinner is served and a \$5 donation is requested to cover costs. All high school students are welcome.

Parent Small Group – A parent small group will be held on Sunday evenings from 4-6 pm during the high school PYGS youth group time. Focus of the scripture teaching will mirror the youth devotionals to help keep in step as a family. Please email leaders Alison Velasco alsvelasco@gmail.com and Susan Hood susan_hood@comcast.net to join. All parents are welcomed. If you are interested in joining or leading a small group on Friday nights during the NUBS youth group please email Liz at lribeiro@firstpresevanston.org. Training for leaders will be provided by the small group ministry team.

More details about Youth events can be found in our weekly email. Text YOUTHGROUP to 42828 to subscribe!

<http://www.firstpresevanston.org/learn/students/>

Young Adults and Families

hcoates@firstpresevanston.org

Are you a young adult in your 20/30s looking for a place to eat thanksgiving dinner? Reach out to Pastor Henry.

Family Open Gym

Thursdays, 4-7 pm, Roy Hall

Open for parents and their children to come run around, shoot some baskets, play some games. No need to RSVP; just show up and have a great time!

<http://www.firstpresevanston.org/learn/adults/young-adults/>

Prayer in the Parlor

The Parlor on the second floor is open each Wednesday for prayer and meditation from 9 am to 9 pm. All are welcome to come and spend time in prayer and praise in the space set aside for a holy time with God.

2018 Stewardship Campaign Update

Our total pledges to date (11/13/2017) for the 2018 Stewardship Campaign are as follows:

Goal (2018 Budget): \$1,050,000
Funds pledged: \$906,962

Pledges: 182
Faith Commitments: 23
Total Giving Unit Commitments to date: 205
Last Year’s Total Giving Unit Commitments: 292

Thank you for your support.

Pledge Cards are still available in the FPCE Lobby or online at <http://www.firstpresevanston.org/giving/giving-campaign/>.