

*McKinley Memorial Presbyterian Church*  
*10:30 AM October 10, 2021*  
*Rain Garden Dedication*

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT  
OF COUNTRY / FIRST  
PEOPLES**

*(An act towards  
reconciliation)*

For thousands of years, Indigenous people have walked on this land, in their own country. Their relationship with the land is at the center of their lives.

We recognize and acknowledge that we are on the lands of the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Piankashaw, Wea, Miami, Mascoutin, Odawa, Sauk, Mesquaki, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, Ojibwe, and Chickasaw Nations, past, present, emerging.

We are grateful for their stewardship of this land throughout the ages. These lands continue to carry the stories of these Nations and their struggles for survival and identity.

GATHERING TONES

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

The Peace and Global Witness Offering

*Throughout the month of October, McKinley will be collecting for the Peace and Global Witness Offering. The Peace and Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and across the world.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus said to the woman at the well,  
Everyone who drinks of this water  
will become thirsty again.

But those who drink of the water  
that I will give them will never thirst again.

The water that I will give will become in them  
a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.

Open the heavens, O God, and pour out your Spirit upon us!

## ANTHEM

## Spirit Open My Heart

WILD MOUNTAIN THYME

Refrain: Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living. As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving. Spirit, open my heart.

1 God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender. All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender. (Refrain)

2 Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story. In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory. (Refrain)

3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of sister, brother. In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another. (Refrain)

## READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 55:1-3, 10-13

“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters;

**and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!**

Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.

**Why spend money on what is not bread,**

**and your labor on what does not satisfy?**

Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,

**and you will delight in the richest of fare.**

Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live.

I will make an everlasting covenant with you,

my faithful love promised to David....

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven,

and do not return to it without watering the earth

and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and

bread for the eater,

**so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me**

**empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for**

**which I sent it.**

You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace;

**the mountains and hills will burst into song before you,**

**and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.**

Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper,

and instead of briars the myrtle will grow.

**This will be for the Lord's renown,**

**for an everlasting sign, that will endure forever.”**

## CONTEMPORARY READING

The Peace of Wild Things *Wendell Berry*

When despair for the world grows in me  
and I wake in the night at the least sound  
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.  
I come into the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives with forethought  
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.  
And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

REFLECTION

Rev. Heidi M. Weatherford

BLESSING OF THE RAIN GARDEN

– *Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky (1821–1881)*

Lord, may we love all your creation,  
all the earth and every grain of sand in it.  
May we love every leaf, every ray of your light.  
May we love the animals;  
you have given them the rudiments of thought and joy untroubled.  
Let us not trouble it; let us not harass them,  
let us not deprive them of their happiness,  
let us not work against your intent.  
For we acknowledge unto you that all is like an ocean,  
all is flowing and blending, and that to withhold any measure of love  
from anything in your universe is to withhold that same measure from  
you. **Amen.**

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty,  
you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring,  
you are the fire of rebirth.

**Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams.  
Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow.  
Your waters are below us, around us, above us:  
our life is born in you.  
You are the fountain of resurrection.**

Praise to you for your saving waters:  
Noah and the animals survive the flood,  
Hagar discovers your well.  
The Israelites escape through the sea,  
and they drink from your gushing rock.  
Naaman washes his leprosy away,  
and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

At this garden, holy God, we thank you for the water of baptism.  
**Use this rain garden of water and lush life to remind us how our  
interconnectedness saves us. Breathe your Spirit into all who are  
gathered here and into all creation.  
Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears.  
Wash away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us.  
Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, now and forever. Amen**

## ANTHEM

## Morning Has Broken

*BUNESSAN*

1 Morning has broken like the first morning; blackbird has spoken like the first bird. Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

2 Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven, like the first dewfall on the first grass. Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

3 Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning, born of the one light Eden saw play! Praise with elation; praise every morning, God's re-creation of the new day!

## BENEDICTION

### Assisting in Today's Service

Liturgists

Pastor

Paula Hancock, Kathie Spegal

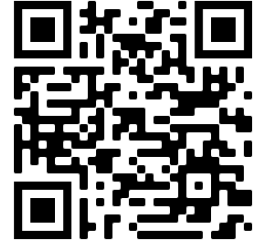
Rev. Heidi Weatherford

Associate Pastor  
Director of Christian Education  
Director of Music  
Worship Tech

Musicians

Rev. Keith Harris  
Sara McHenry  
Dr. Yohei Endo  
Lara Hebert, Michael Proulx, and  
Asami Endo  
Members and friends of  
the McKinley Choir

**How to give.** Online contributions and pledges are accepted at  
[tithe.ly/give?c=2133263](https://tithe.ly/give?c=2133263)



Or by mailing your donations to “McKinley Presbyterian Church”  
809 S. Fifth street  
Champaign, IL 61820

**How to Contact the Church Staff** All church staff can be contacted through the  
McKinley Website: [www.mckinleycu.org](http://www.mckinleycu.org).

**Coming this Week:**

Sunday, October 10	2:00PM	<b>Session</b>
	5:00PM	<b>McKinley Sunday Worship broadcast</b> via Facebook,
Monday, October 11	11:30AM	<b>Staff Meeting</b>
Tuesday, October 12	12:00-1:00	<b>Food Pantry pick up at Eastern Illinois FoodBank</b>
	1:00-3:00PM	<b>Food Pantry set up</b>
	3:30-6:00M	<b>Food Pantry distribution</b>
	5:45-7:15PM	<b>Food Pantry clean up</b>
Wednesday, October 13	5:15PM	<b>Live Prayer and Prose,</b>
	7:00PM	<b>Choir Rehearsal</b>
Saturday, October 16	10:30AM	<b>RRR Team</b>
Sunday, October 17	10:30AM,	<b>Worship outside</b>



## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A RAIN GARDEN?

Rain gardens have many benefits. First, it is an attractive and unique addition to any yard. Both you and your neighbors will enjoy its beauty for years to come.

In addition, rain gardens provide environmental benefits by improving water quality and promoting water conservation. Water that runs off hard surfaces like your roof and from your yard during rain events flows down the street collecting contaminants such as automobile fluids, yard fertilizers, and pet waste.

This adds pollution to the environment because storm drain water is not treated before it enters your local rivers. By collecting runoff before it reaches the street, rain gardens reduce the amount of polluted water flowing into storm drains. Research has shown that the intensive installation of rain gardens in neighborhoods can greatly reduce stormwater runoff and street flooding.

The water retained in the garden soaks down into the soil, providing water for the garden plants as well as for the underlying groundwater. This minimizes the need for watering and helps conserve municipal water supplies.

Finally, the native plants used in rain gardens provide habitat for birds, butterflies and other beneficial insects. Native plants also require less maintenance, particularly less watering, over time because they are adapted to the local soil and climate conditions and have deep root systems. And if you plant perennials, you will not have to replant every year.

<https://prairierivers.org/raingardens/>



**McKinley Presbyterian Church is a community of faith  
Offering genuine welcome,  
Working for reconciliation, and  
Daring to speak words of abundant hope to a world in pain.**

McKinley Memorial Presbyterian Church  
809 South Fifth Street, Champaign, IL 61820 217.344.0297 [www.mckinleycu.org](http://www.mckinleycu.org)