

First Presbyterian Church of Alton

Fourth & Alby Streets, Alton, Illinois (618) 465-3592 firstpres1831@gmail.com

Epiphany Sunday

10 AM Sunday, January 4, 2026

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Welcome and Announcements

CALL TO WORSHIP

Arise, shine, for your light has come!

The glory of God has risen upon us.

Tell the good news throughout the earth;

The saving grace of Jesus Christ is for all.

Come and adore the Savior of the nations.

We offer the gifts of our lives to the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Everlasting God, the radiance of faithful souls, who brought the nations to your light and kings to the brightness of your rising: Fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the nations; through him who is the true light and the bright morning star, Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

★ **Hymn: "All Hail to God's Anointed" No. 205**

CALL TO CONFESSION

God judges the nations with righteousness, and answers the poor with justice. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

CONFession OF SIN

God of glory, you send Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light.

We turn away from the poor, we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace.

In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and pour out the gifts of your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The Mercy of the Lord is like rain like showers that water the earth. In the name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

THE PEACE

Peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you.**

★ **Gloria Patri**.....No. 579

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy one, giver of all light, lift up our hearts and minds to Christ, the morning star that never fades. By the light of your Holy Spirit reveal to us your saving Word and lead us to offer our lives to you in service and in love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 60: 1-6

(Pg 690)

The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

PSALM

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Ephesians 3:1-12

(Pg 193)

The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 2: 1-12

(Pg 2)

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Message.....Pastor Ian Edward Caveny

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Satisfy us with your love in the morning

And we will live this day in joy and praise

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Prayers of Intercession

CHORAL ANTHEM: "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring".....J.S. Bach

★ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Nicene Creed (Ecumenical version) pg 15

EUCARIST

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Hymnal, pg. 13

The Lord's Prayer (*DEBTS, DEBTORS*)

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

★ **Hymn of Reflection:** *"We Three Kings of Orient Are"* No. 66

SENDING

OFFERING

★ **DOXOLOGY** No. 592 (*Lyrics only*)

★ **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

O God, we recognize that we have been blessed with great abundance. In offering these gifts, may we be strengthened to proclaim your faithfulness and your salvation this day and always. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

★ **Hymn:** *"As with Gladness Men of Old"* No. 63

★ **CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

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## PARTICIPATING IN OUR SERVICE TODAY:

Message ..... Pastor Ian Edward Caveny  
Liturgist ..... Vickie Oberlink  
Music Director ..... Mark Brooks  
Guest Flute ..... Cindy Matsuyasu  
Audio/Streaming Technician ..... Claudia Droste  
Ushers this Sunday will be ..... Carolyn Bumbacher & Carolyn Macafee

**NOTE: Where you see the "★" symbol, please stand if you are able.**

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## **Announcements:**

There will be a practice for the Handbell Choir this Wednesday January 7th at 6pm

We will have our annual Congregational Meeting after worship on January 18th

Our next Ecumenical Children's Ministry event with St Paul's Episcopal will be on January 24th. St Paul's investigators will be from 3-5 pm, and Kid's Night Out will be from 5-8 pm, both at St Paul's. Ask Pastor Ian or Susie Delano if you have any questions!

First Presbyterian Church is proud to continue our Music on the Riverbend Concert Series. For more information about future concerts in the series, please reach out to Mark Brooks or contact the church office. Brochures are also available in the narthex.

Pastor Ian hosts Bible Study on Sundays at 9a in the Library and Wednesdays at 10a in the Flota Conference Room. All are welcomed to join!

January Birthdays: Ian Caveny (06), Wita Halsey (10), Richard Raymond (29)

January 4: Session Meeting today after worship

January 25: Deacons Meeting

Every 3rd Sunday cash in the offering plate goes to the Simpson fund that supports the Good Neighbor bags at Saturday Café.

**Outreach:** Saturday Café and Tuesday's Soup's On; Lunch served at 11:30, Fellowship Hall. Volunteers are welcome.

**Prayer List:** Tom Wilder, Aaron Delano, friends and family of John Thompson, Jeannine McNear, Laura Keating, friends and family of Jim Wigger, Tom Fields, friends and family of Ann Wangelin, friends and family of Christina Perez, Pearl Kantar, Jennifer Allman, Tony Grillo, Barb Harner, Forrest Bayer, Denny & Trebe Bradfish, World Peace. All are invited to share prayer requests during the Prayers of the People, to drop a Prayer Card in the plate during the Offering, or to request prayers by calling the church.

Members (and spouses) at home or living elsewhere: Donna McCoy, Linda and Gary Smith, Judy and Lyndal Colburn, Gladys Butler, Kathleen Stice