

First Presbyterian Church of Alton

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

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

10 AM Sunday, February 8, 2026

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Welcome and Announcements

CALL TO WORSHIP

We are salt for the earth.

We are a light for the world.

Just as no one hides a lamp away,

We will offer the world what only we can give.

In shining our lights, we will remember:

We are not the only ones with vital wisdom

Grateful for mutual enlightenment,

We will not drown out another's beam with ours.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O god from whom all blessings flow, help us to embrace the unique gifts your Spirit has instilled in each of us. Give us the wisdom to discern where your world could use our talents most, and grant us humility to recognize where we rely on the strength and insight of others, so that, in mutual giving and receiving, all needs may be met, according to the way of Jesus through his life and death. **Amen.**

✦ **Hymn:** *"Come, Great God of All the Ages"*No. 132

CALL TO CONFESSION

In the name of Christ, I urge you: be reconciled to God. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Righteous God, you have crowned Jesus Christ as Lord of All. We confess that we have not bowed down before him, and are slow to acknowledge his rule. We give allegiance to the powers of this world, and fail to be governed by justice and love. In your mercy, forgive us. Raise us to acclaim him as ruler of all, that we may be loyal ambassadors, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God has rescued us from the power of evil and claimed us for the realm of Jesus Christ, in whom we have redemption. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

THE PEACE

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

✦ **Gloria Patri**.....No. 579

Anthem "*Shout the Glad Tidings*"

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 58: 1-9a
(Pg 688)

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PSALM

Psalms 112 (insert)

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

1 Corinthians 2:1-12
(Pg 166)

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 5:13-20
(Pg 4)

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

Message.....Pastor Peter Hough

Hymn: "*Here I am Lord*"No. 525

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We approach God in prayer not as strangers,
But as beloved children, baptized in Christ Jesus,
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
Prayers of Thanksgiving
Prayers of Intercession

The Lord’s Prayer *(DEBTS, DEBTORS)*

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: “We are Marching”**No. 2235 in Sing the Faith Hymnal

✦ **CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

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|                                            |                           |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>PARTICIPATING IN OUR SERVICE TODAY:</b> |                           |
| Message.....                               | Pastor Peter Hough        |
| Liturgist.....                             | Jim Sinclair              |
| Soloist.....                               | Susie Delano              |
| Music Director.....                        | Mark Brooks               |
| Audio/Streaming Technician.....            | Claudia Droste            |
| Ushers this Sunday will be.....            | Lynn Stewart & Jane Lewis |

**NOTE:** Where you see the “ ✦ ” symbol, please stand if you are able.

*Permission to stream the music in the service obtained from  
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## Announcements:

On Feb. 15th, we will be hosting Cub Scout Pack #8121 for Scout Sunday. There will be a moment in the service for celebrating our partnership with the Cub Scout pack and an Ice Cream Social to follow. If you would be interested in volunteering to help set up and scoop some ice cream and otherwise prepare the fellowship hall for the Ice Cream Social, please let Pastor Ian know!

Today we welcome Pastor Peter Hough of the Alton Mission to the pulpit. After the service, he will be giving a brief presentation about the ministry of the Alton Mission and its future. All are invited to stick around after fellowship to learn more and discover ways to partner with the Alton Mission's work!

Applications for new and renewal college scholarships are now being accepted. The deadline to get those in will be February 19th. Applications are available on the table by the chapel.

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 library. All are welcomed to join!

February Birthdays: Katherine Schildroth Tomerlin (06), Mike Wilson (18), Debbie Gates (22)

February 22: Deacons Meeting

March 1: Session 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:** Linda Goheen, the Allen family, 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, Jeannine McNear