

# ***First Presbyterian Church of Alton***

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

Fifth Sunday of Easter

10 AM Sunday, May 18, 2025

## **GATHERING**

### **PRELUDE:**

**Welcome and Announcements**

*Presentation of the 2025 Scholarships*

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God on high!

**Praise God, sun and moon. Praise God, all you shining stars!**

Praise God from the earth, you sea monsters and ocean depths!

**Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, praise the Lord!**

Kings and all people of the earth, princes and all rulers of the earth, praise the Lord!

**Old and young together; all people praise the Lord!**

**Let us Worship God!**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Ever-present God, we give thanks that you have made your dwelling place among your people. We trust your promises of a just future, and we wish to play our part. Christ has taught us to love one another. Help us to keep this commandment in our minds and hearts, that we might come to realize the new heaven and new earth awaiting us. **Amen**

✦ **Hymn:** *"Let the Whole Creation Cry"* ..... No. 256

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Christ Jesus came to save us, not because of our works, but according to the mercy of God through the water of rebirth the renewal of the Holy Spirit. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

### **CONFESSION OF SIN**

**God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.**

***SILENT PRAYER***

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Christ our Savior gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from our sin and claim us as his own people. **Amen**

## THE PEACE

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

✦ **Gloria Patri**.....No. 579

## THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, by the power of your Spirit, reveal your will to us today through your word, read and proclaimed. Help us to understand your creative, redemptive, and consoling work, and lead us into the world, filled with your Spirit, to proclaim, baptize, and teach in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### FIRST READING

Acts 11: 1-18  
(Pg 130)

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### A READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalms 148  
(Pg 582)

### SECOND READING

Revelation 21: 1-6  
(Pg 259)

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to John*  
**Glory to you, O Lord**

### GOSPEL LESSON

John 13: 31-35  
(Pg 108)

*The Gospel of the Lord*  
**Praise to you, O Christ**

**Message**.....Pastor Ian Edward Caveny

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

✦ **Hymn:** *"Though I May Speak"* .....No. 335

✦ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**The Apostles' Creed (Traditional)**

(Pg 14)

## **SENDING**

### **OFFERING**

**Offertory Anthem:** *"Who Was and Is and Is to Come"* .....T. Powell  
(insert)

✦ **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:** *"Soon and Very Soon"* .....(insert)

✦ **CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE:**

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### **PARTICIPATING IN OUR SERVICE TODAY:**

Message.....Pastor Ian Edward Caveny  
Liturgist.....Scott Mandrell  
Music Coordinator.....Mark Brooks  
Audio/Streaming Technician.....Claudia Droste  
Ushers this Sunday will be.....Lynn Stewart & Marcia Gaskill

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

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## **Announcements:**

We are returning to taking attendance using the sign-in sheet in the narthex. If you are a visitor here, we would like to encourage you to fill out one of the visitor cards in the back of the pews and drop it in the offering plate when they come by.

The weekly Bible Study meets at 10 AM on Wednesdays in the Flota Conference room.

May 25 : Deacons meeting after worship in the Library.

June 1 : Session meeting after worship in the Library.

June 8 : We will be hosting a small reception for Pastor Ian after the worship service to welcome him to First Presbyterian. More details to follow.

May Birthdays: Susan Monical (05), Jim Sinclair (08), Alison File (14), Marcia Gaskill (29)

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:** Greg Gates, the family of Erma Maloney (Foster), Virginia Schildroth, Celia Sinclair, Bruce Eglehoff, John Thompson, Kathleen Stice, Irene McLaughlin, Margaret Wills, World peace.

Members (and spouses) at home or living elsewhere: Donna McCoy, Linda and Gary Smith, Judy and Lyndall Colburn, Gladys Butler, Ann and Larry Wangelin, Jim Wigger.

**Information: Over 55 Group:** We still have 11 tickets to see Glenn Miller's orchestra at the Sheldon on Monday May 19th at 7pm. The cost is \$140 which includes the ticket to the show, the bus and dinner. Please contact Jackie Wiseman if you are interested.

Over 55 group was started in 1993 by Clyde Wiseman to provide monthly outings for the four Presbyterian churches in the Alton area which were all diminishing in membership. There is a copy of the Over 55 Newsletter in the rear of the church for you to take if you wish