

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

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

Second Sunday after Pentecost

10 AM Sunday, June 22, 2025

## **GATHERING**

### **PRELUDE:**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

When we long for your presence,

**you are there with us, O source of comfort.**

When we face dangers and perils,

**you are there for us, O source of strength.**

So we come with songs and praises,

**that all the ends of the earth and all the families of the nations may know of your love. Let us Praise God!**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

God, our lives are full of so much that keeps us distracted, full of background noises and disruptions, full of strong winds and fires, full of alienation and loss. You come to us even in the midst of it, and in the silence, in the stillness, you ask us to eat and rest, to recover our strength and gain some clarity. Give us the strength to stand up, to go into the wilderness, and to do the work of blessing others, of giving others rest. **Amen**

✦ **Hymn:** *"In Christ There is No East or West"*.....No. 439

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Jesus says: "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me. Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water." Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin:

### **CONFESSION OF SIN**

**Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace; and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the Risen 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

### HEBREW BIBLE LESSON

Isaiah 65: 1-9  
(Pg 695)

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

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 22: 19-31  
(insert)

### EPISTLE LESSON

Galatians 3: 23-29  
(Pg 189)

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

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

### GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 8: 26-39  
(Pg 68)

*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 of Response** *"Just as I Am"* .....No. 370

✦ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**The Apostles' Creed (Traditional)**

(Pg 14)

## **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:** *"Sent Forth by God's Blessing"* .....(insert)

✦ **CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE:**

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

Message.....Pastor Ian Edward Caveny

Liturgist.....Susie Delano

Music Coordinator.....Mark Brooks

Audio/Streaming Technician.....David Oates

Ushers this Sunday will be.....Vickie Oberlink & 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.

We are restarting our Children's Church ministry on June 29th, and are looking for people who are interested in volunteering to help lead that program on a rotating basis. Please reach out to Susie or Pastor Ian to find out more!

Rev Elizabeth Kanerva, Associate Presbytery Leader, will be offering a training for Elder-Led Communion at First Presbyterian on Sunday June 29th at 1pm. If you have been ordained as a ruling elder and are interested in attending that training, please let either Ruth or Pastor Ian know so we can have a list of who will attend.

We are pleased to announce the return of handbells to our worship experience at FPC! Everyone—experienced ringer, not-so-experienced ringer, thought-you-might-like-to-try bells enquirer—is invited to participate. If you are interested in ringing, please contact our Music Coordinator Mark Brooks after worship. Reading music is beneficial, but being able to count to 12 is essential! Handbell choirs provide such a unique, joyful expression of praise to God in worship—we hope that you will consider joining us!

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

July 6: Session meeting in the library

June Birthdays: Lyndal Colburn (08), Lynn Stewart (15), Vickie Oberlink (16), Tom Fields (18), Hugh Mandrell (22), Jane Cerbie (24), Gregory Fletcher (25), Robert Thornberry (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:** Mike McCormick, Ben McClendon, Bev Hodge, the family of Erma Maloney (Foster), Jennifer Allman, John Thompson, Kathleen Stice, World peace.

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

**Information: Over 55 Group:** We still need 6 people for My Fair Lady on Sunday July 6th at Union Avenue Opera. Cost will be \$130 which includes dinner, the show and the bus ride. If you are interested, please contact Jackie Wiseman.

We have also purchased 20 tickets for Dominic's on the hill for Wednesday, July 16th. Cost is \$140 which includes the dinner and the bus ride.

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