

First Presbyterian Church of Alton

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

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

10 AM Sunday, July 27, 2025

GATHERING

PRELUDE:

Welcome and Announcements

CALL TO WORSHIP

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; God's glory will dwell in our land.

Let us hear what God will speak!

Righteousness and peace will kiss each other; faithfulness will spring up from the ground.

Let us hear what God will speak!

God will speak peace to God's people, to those who turn to God in their hearts.

Let us hear what God will speak! Let us Worship God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Merciful God, who are we but dust and ashes to pray on behalf of our hurting world and our wounded souls? And yet you answer on the day we call. Today we search and knock. We pray for deliverance for all those suffering under the wrath of war and violence, all those experiencing illness and famine, and all those who oppress and are oppressed. Teach us to pray, that we may know of your steadfast love and be assured of your faithfulness, for we know you will fulfill your purpose for the whole creation.

Amen

✦ **Hymn:** *"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"*.....No. 298

CALL TO CONFESSION

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all and teaching us to renounce what is evil in this world. 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 the 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

HEBREW BIBLE LESSON

Genesis 18: 20-32
(Pg 14)

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalms 138
(insert)

EPISTLE LESSON

Colossians 2: 6-15
(Pg 200)

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 11: 1-13
(Pg 72)

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:** *"What a Friend We have in Jesus"*No. 403

✦ **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:** *"Lead On, O King Eternal"*No. 447

✦ **CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE:

~~~~~

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

Message.....Pastor Ian Edward Caveny

Liturgist.....Susie Delano

Guest Organist.....Adam Rodgers

Audio/Streaming Technician.....David Oates

Ushers this Sunday will be.....Nancy Wilson & Michael Wilson

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

*Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from*

*ONE LICENSE, License #A-738514. All rights reserved*

## Announcements:

The visitation for Erma (Foster) Maloney will be held at Elias, Kalla, & Schaaf from 1-3 pm on August 9th, with a funeral service at 3pm and graveside service to follow

The Presbytery is inviting churches to make nominations for church members whose commitment to ministry serves as an inspiration to be honored at the Celebration of Serving event in September. If you know of someone you would like to nominate in this way, please send an email (or note) to Pastor Ian and he will forward it to the Presbytery.

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 have restarted our Children's Church ministry 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!

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.

Our annual Session and Deacon Board Joint meeting will be held today, Sunday, July 27th after worship

August 3: Session meeting in the library

July Birthdays: Erin Frew (7/2), Nancy Wilson (7/16), Carrie Schildroth (7/20), Tracy Montgomery (7/21)

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:** Jane Spencer, Laura Keating, the Schildroth family, Sarah Fields, Chloe Fields, Greg Gates, Grace Jones, Walter Fraise, Mike McCormick, Ben McClendon, Bev Hodge, 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.