

First Presbyterian Church of Alton

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

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

10 AM Sunday, August 17, 2025

GATHERING

PRELUDE:

Welcome and Announcements

CALL TO WORSHIP

In a world where lies surround us,

Your word is like fire, God nearby!

In a world full of false prophets and empty promises,

Your word is like fire, God nearby!

In a world where words don't have meaning,

Your word is like fire, God nearby!

We are here, ready for our faith to be kindled by your word,

Let us worship God!

✦ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts. Give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that all people may know the glorious liberty of the children of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Hymn: *"I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art"*.....No. 457

CALL TO CONFESSION

When we pass through deep waters or go through times of fiery trial, the Lord our God is with us. With confidence in God, our creator and redeemer, let us confess our sin. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. 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

Jeremiah 23: 23-29
(Pg 726)

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 82
(insert)

SECOND READING

Hebrews 11: 29– 12: 2
(Pg 226)

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 12: 49-56
(Pg 75)

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

Message.....Pastor Ian Edward Caveny

SONG OF REFLECTION....." *People Need the Lord*"solo.....Steve Green

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

✦ **Hymn:** *"O For a Faith that Will Not Shrink"*(insert)

✦ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** **The Apostles' Creed (Traditional)**
(Pg 14)

SENDING

OFFERING
Offertory Anthem

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

✦ **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Blessed are you, O God, Maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love; through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

✦ **Hymn:** *"Oh Jesus I have Promised"*.....No. 388

✦ **CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE:
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**PARTICIPATING IN OUR SERVICE TODAY:**  
Message.....Pastor Ian Edward Caveny  
Liturgist.....Mike Wilson  
Music Coordinator.....Mark Brooks  
Guest Violinist.....Eva Kozma  
Guest Soloist.....Anna Szilagyi  
Audio/Streaming Technician.....Claudia Droste  
Ushers this Sunday will be..... Jane Cerbie & Deborah Miller

**NOTE:** Where you see the " ✦ " symbol, please stand if you are able.  
*Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from  
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## Announcements:

Ashley Weant, the social worker for Journeys School here at First Presbyterian, has put together a Wish list of items that she would love to have for the upcoming school year on Amazon. If you would like to help out, please visit her list at the link below. This link is also provided as a clickable link in the email version of the bulletin that is sent weekly.

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3U0M5CDL4KNRP?ref\\_=wl\\_sharehttiloa](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3U0M5CDL4KNRP?ref_=wl_sharehttiloa)

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. Handbell Schedule: Rehearsals — Tues August 19 & 25 @ 6pm. First Service participation August 31

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

August 24: Nominating committee meeting after worship

August 31: Deacons meeting

September 7: Session meeting in the library

August Birthdays: Jeremy Strohmeier (19), Fred Delano (28), Debbie Miller (31)

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:** Ed Morrissey, Chuck Norman, 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