

First Presbyterian Church of Alton

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Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Commissioning Sunday

10 AM Sunday, September 7, 2025

PRELUDE: *"Have Thine Own Way"*arr David Arivatt

COMMISSIONING PRAYER

Welcome and Announcements

CALL TO WORSHIP

There is good and there is wicked in the world.

Lord, help us find the good.

The wicked are perishing. Like chaff, they will not stand before the Lord.

Lord, drive wickedness away with the wind.

The good is like a tree planted by streams of sweet water

Lord, let goodness yield its fruit in every season.

Our delight is in the law of the Lord.

Let us meditate upon God's promises from morning into night.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God our Judge, we meditate upon your promises from morning into night. Our delight is in your law. Let goodness yield its fruit in every season, that, like a tree planted by streams of sweet water, we might find the good and live how you intended: free, flourishing, and in peace. **Amen**

✦ **Hymn:** *"Lift High the Cross"*No. 371

CALL TO CONFESSION

We seek the will of God, but still find ourselves conformed to this world, instead of being transformed into God's image. Let us seek forgiveness for the ways we have turned away from justice and mercy: 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. Lord have mercy upon us, heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Anthem "*O Sing Unto the Lord*"

Heather Sorenson

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

Deuteronomy 30: 15-20
(Pg 186)

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

PSALM

Psalm 1
(insert)

SECOND READING

Philemon 1-22
(Pg 215)

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 14: 25-33
(Pg 78)

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

Message.....Pastor Ian Edward Caveny

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed (Traditional) pg 14

Hymn of Reflection: "*In Christ Alone My Hope is Found*" (insert)

EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

....Therefore with all creation we sing your praise:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest. Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

....Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again...

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

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

SENDING

OFFERING

Offertory Music "*Seek to Serve*"

L. Pfautsch

✦ **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:** "*Called as Partners in Christ's Service*"No. 343

✦ **CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE:

PARTICIPATING IN OUR SERVICE TODAY:

Message.....Pastor Ian Edward Caveny

Liturgist.....Nancy Matis

Music Director.....Mark Brooks

Pianist.....Cheryl Walker

Audio/Streaming Technician.....Claudia Droste

Ushers this Sunday will be.....Sue Sinclair & Jane Cerbie

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

Announcements:

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, September 21, after worship, for the purpose of electing officers for 2026.

Starting in September we will be launching Adult Sunday School at 9am before meeting in the Library. For the month of September our Adult Sunday School will be a four-week New Members Class for individuals who are seeking to either undergo Confirmation, Transfer their Membership, become an Active Member of this congregation, or even just seeking a better understanding of what our church believes and how it is organized. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex for folks to express interest in the Membership Class, but preregistration is not required.

The visitation for Molly Hall is planned for Monday, September 8th at 10:15a with the funeral service and reception to follow here at the church. If you are interested in helping prepare food or spaces for that service, please reach out to Nancy Matis.

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 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. First Service participation Sept 14th

September Birthdays: Kay McCoy (02), Jacqueline Wiseman (11), James Johnson (19), David Oates (22)

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

September 7: Session meeting in the library today after worship

September 28: Deacons 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: Barb Harner, 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