

† **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**
The Apostles' Creed (Traditional) | Hymnal, pg. 14

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
We approach God in prayer not as strangers,
But as beloved children, baptized in Christ Jesus,
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS, DEBTORS)

SENDING

OFFERING

† **DOXOLOGY (592)**

† **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

† **CLOSING HYMN**
"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" | No. 298

† **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Where you see the †, please stand if you are able.

PARTICIPATING IN OUR SERVICE TODAY:

Sermon | Pastor Ian Edward Caveny
Liturgist | Jane Cerbie
Music Director | Mark Brooks

Audio/Streaming Technician | Claudia Droste
Ushers | Marcia Gaskill & Debbie Miller

Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-738514. All rights reserved.



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Alton

Sunday Worship Bulletin
August 16, 2026



CHURCH OFFICE

4th & Alby Streets
618-465-3592
Office Hours Mon-Fri
9:00-1:00 p.m.

SUNDAY EVENTS

10:00 Worship
Sanctuary

WEEKLY EVENTS

Tuesday Soup's On
11:30 am | *Fellowship Hall*

Wednesday Bible Study
10:00 am | *Library*

Wednesday Choir Rehearsal
7:00 pm | *Music Room*

Saturday Café
11:30 am | *Fellowship Hall*

FIRSTPRESALTON.ORG

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Wisdom has prepared a feast for us;
Let us eat and drink of God's gifts.

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.**

† OPENING HYMN

"I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art" | No. 457

CALL TO CONFESSION

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all and teaching us to renounce what is evil in this world. Like a great light in a land of deep darkness, the mercy of the Lord shines on us. Christ Jesus came to save us, not because of our works, but according to the mercy of God through the water of rebirth and the renewal of the Holy Spirit. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sins.

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.

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. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Amen.**

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

The Peace | Peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

† GLORIA PATRI (579)

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, by the gift of your Holy Spirit show us the Word made flesh, good news of great joy for all, so that we may sing with the angels: glory in the highest and peace on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 45:1-15 | Pg. 42 (Pew Bible)
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 133

Hymnal No. 241

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 | Pg. 160 (Pew Bible)
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 15: 21-28 | Pg. 17 (Pew Bible)
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Ian Edward Caveny

† HYMN OF REFLECTION

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee" | No. 383