

First Presbyterian Church

April 28, 2024

5th Sunday of Easter

Morrison, Illinois

10:15AM

Enter This Church That We Might Worship Together!



PRELUDE

THE GATHERING WELCOME

Pastor: Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ

People: Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ

INTROIT *All Creatures of Our God and King* No. 455 Vs. 1

OPENING PRAYER & MOMENT FOR MEDITATION (John 15:1-8)
“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

CALL TO WORSHIP (Unison) (Psalm 22:25-31)

Pastor: From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

All: The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live forever!

Pastor: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

All: For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

Pastor: To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

All: Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

***HYMN** *All Things Bright and Beautiful* No. 267

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

You have given us this life, Lord. You have called us to abide in you through Jesus Christ. Yet there is so much of this world we would prefer to abide within instead. Forgive us for adhering ourselves to that which is void of your love. Forgive us for these actions that divert us from you and your love. We pray this in Jesus’ name. Silent prayer followed by ‘Amen’.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS** (Responsively)
God continues to call to us no matter where we are in our lives. We always have the option to give our lives back to God and to abide in the ways of love. In this, God will also abide in us. Thus, new life is truly found in living for Christ in all that we do. Praise be Jesus’ name forever and ever! Amen.

***HYMN** *Glory Be to the Father (Gloria Patri)* No. 579

TIME WITH THE GROWING CHURCH (Concluding with the Lord’s Prayer (p. 16))

EPISTLE READING 1 John 4:7-21

SERMON

HYMN *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* No. 288

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Concluding with “Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.”)

***HYMN** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (Doxology)* No. 592

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION** (Unison)
We thank you Lord for your abiding love and for the forgiveness and new life you offer to us. We pray that our lives be rededicated to you so that we may pass on your love to all we encounter and all of creation. We pray for peace, healing and good health for ourselves and all humanity. Bring us out of our struggles and grant us the new life that awaits. We pray this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

***HYMN** *Fill My Cup* No. 350

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE**

PASSING OF THE PEACE (*greeting: “Peace be with you,” response: “and also with you”*)

*You are invited to stand for this portion.
**Please remain seated until the conclusion of the postlude.
The Bible verses are read from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV).



Depart This House That We Might Witness Together!

Remember in prayer: Individuals and families fighting COVID-19 infection; residents and staff of Resthove, Homestead and Pleasant View; medical workers, essential employees, school teachers & staff; Bev & Larry Bealer, Dan Brandon, Dale Johnson, Janet Johnson, Ella Laughlin, Richard McCoy, Ken Mills, Sheila Osborn, Youdelka Philippe (MSH), Margie Selburg, Bob Simms, Jean Temple, Rachael Tucker, Ray Tucker

Love one another!

Livestream Worship Services

Each Sunday at 10:15am from the church's Facebook group page: www.facebook.com/groups/firstpresmorrison. And after the service on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@firstpresmorrison>

Bible Study We will meet Tuesdays at 9:30am at Pleasant View. Rick Barr will lead the weeks that Pastor Mike is unavailable.

Drive-Up Meal The next meal will be on May 30. We will be serving sloppy joe sandwiches. Meal begins at **5PM**. Help is needed on Wednesday at 1:30pm and Thursday starting at 4:15pm.

Birthdays

04/22: Alyssa Sibley
04/29: Miguel Velasco
05/01: Maddie Huizenga

STAFF

Pastor. Rev. Dr. Mike Selburg
Office Manager. Stacie Baker
Organist. Scott Vandermyde
Custodian. Courtney Bruckner

SESSION ELDERS:

Rick Barr	Ron Shank	Deb Zigler
Lexie Laughlin	Scott Vandermyde	Stacie Baker, Clerk
Angela Reamer	Carol Wolf	

Upcoming Community Events:



04/30:
9:30am Bible Study
05/01:
1:30pm BINGO @ Homestead
05/04:
5pm Ken-Taco-Wars—Morrison Block Party

*Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip,
“Get up and go toward the south to the road
that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.”
(This is a wilderness road.)
So he got up and went.
Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace,
queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury.
He had come to Jerusalem to worship
and was returning home;
seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.
Then the Spirit said to Philip,
“Go over to this chariot and join it.”
So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah.
He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”
He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?”
And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.
Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:
“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.
In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.”
The eunuch asked Philip,
“About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this,
about himself or about someone else?”
Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture,
he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.
As they were going along the road, they came to some water;
and the eunuch said,
“Look, here is water!
What is to prevent me from being baptized?”
He commanded the chariot to stop,
and both of them, Philip and the eunuch,
went down into the water,
and Philip baptized him.
When they came up out of the water,
the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away;
the eunuch saw him no more,
and went on his way rejoicing.
But Philip found himself at Azotus,
and as he was passing through the region,
he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.*

—Acts 8:26-40

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The First Presbyterian Church of Morrison IL
100 E. Lincolnway, Morrison IL 61270
815-772-3510 • firstpresmorrison@gmail.com
www.firstpresmorrison.org
YouTube Channel: First Presbyterian Church of Morrison Illinois



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