

First Presbyterian Church

Morrison, Illinois

May 14, 2023

6th Sunday of Easter

10:15AM

Enter This Church That We Might Worship Together!



PRELUDE *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service* arr. R. Grahm

THE GATHERING WELCOME

Pastor: Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

INTROIT *Here I Am, Lord* No. 525 Vs. 2

OPENING PRAYER & MOMENT FOR MEDITATION (Acts 1:3-11)
“After his suffering (Jesus) presented himself alive to (the disciples) by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsively) (Psalms 66:8-12, 16-20)
Pastor: Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard, who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip.
All: **For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried. You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs; you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.**

Pastor: Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me.
All: **I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue. If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.**
Pastor: But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer.
All: **Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.**

***HYMN** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* No. 376

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)
Forgive us, God, for the ways in which we stray from you. We so easily believe that we should live life the way our society and culture dictates, as though that is the correct way to live. Yet when these ways stray from love, then we have also strayed from you. Bring us back to you and let every action in our life be an action of love. We pray this in Jesus’ name.
..... *Silent prayer followed by ‘Amen’.*

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS** (Unison)
The love that we have been taught to live within is from the love that our Creator has for each of us. This love has given us life and it offers us forgiveness. With great thanks, we return to you, God, so that our lives are made free. Praise be Jesus’ name! Amen.

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

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

GOSPEL READING John 14:15-21

MEDITATION

HYMN *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* No. 356

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 our life. Today we give special thanks for our mothers and for being able to understand the love you have for us through them. Help us take this love and all the lessons we have been given so that we may fully utilize our life and serve you with our greatest potential. We pray that as we continue to learn, we keep Christ as our center and our focus. We pray this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

***HYMN** *Farewell, Good Friends* No. 537

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE** *Fuga* J.S. Bach

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, Windsor Manor and Pleasant View; medical workers, essential employees, school teachers & staff; Dan Brandon, Orville Goodenough, Janet Johnson, Joyce Mathew, Shirley Mills, Youdelka Philippe (MSH), Cooke Shawver, Jean Temple, Michael Vegter, Jr.

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.facebook.com/firstpresmorrison>

Bible Study

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

Drive-Up Meal

The next meal will be on May 25. The meal is pulled pork sandwiches and begins at 5:00PM. Help is needed on Wednesday at 1:30pm and Thursday starting at 3:30pm.

Birthdays

05/14: Lynn Knox

Anniversaries

05/17: Mike & Kelly Vegter

STAFF

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

SESSION ELDERS:






Lynn Knox
Lexie Laughlin
Angela Reamer

Tim Reynolds
Ron Shank
Scott Vandermyde

Carol Wolf
Deb Zigler
Stacie Baker, Clerk

*The young mother set her foot on the path of life. "Is this the long way?" she asked.
And the guide said "Yes, and the way is hard. And you will be old before you reach the end of it. But the end will be better than the beginning."
But the young mother was happy,
and she would not believe that anything could be better than these years.
So she played with her children, she fed them and bathed them,
and taught them how to tie their shoes and ride a bike and reminded them to feed the dog,
and do their homework and brush their teeth.
The sun shone on them, and the young Mother cried, "Nothing will ever be lovelier than this."
Then the nights came, and the storms, and the path was sometimes dark,
and the children shook with fear and cold,
and the mother drew them close and covered them with her arms,
and the children said, "Mother, we are not afraid, for you are near, and no harm can come."
And the morning came, and there was a hill ahead,
and the children climbed and grew weary, and the mother was weary.
But at all times she said to the children, "A little patience and we are there."
So the children climbed, and as they climbed they learned to weather the storms.
And with this, she gave them strength to face the world. Year after year, she showed them compassion, understanding, hope, but most of all....unconditional love.
And when they reached the top they said, "Mother, we would not have done it without you."
The days went on, and the weeks and the months and the years, and the mother grew old and she became little and bent. But her children were tall and strong, and walked with courage. And the mother, when she lay down at night, looked up at the stars and said,
"This is a better day than the last, for my children have learned so much and are now passing these traits on to their children."
And when the way became rough for her, they lifted her, and gave her their strength,
just as she had given them hers.
One day they came to a hill, and beyond the hill,
they could see a shining road and golden gates flung wide.
And mother said: "I have reached the end of my journey.
And now I know the end is better than the beginning,
for my children can walk with dignity and pride, with their heads held high,
and so can their children after them."
And the children said, "You will always walk with us,
Mother, even when you have gone through the gates."
And they stood and watched her as she went on alone,
and the gates closed after her.
And they said: "We cannot see her, but she is with us still.
A Mother like ours is more than a memory. She is a living presence."*

—Anonymous

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