

*First Presbyterian Church
February 2, 2025*

*PW Celebration
4th Sunday after Epiphany*

*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

Here I Am, Lord

No. 525 Vs. 2

OPENING PRAYER & MOMENT FOR MEDITATION (Psalm 131)

O Lord, my heart is not lifted up, my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me. But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; my soul is like the weaned child that is with me. O Israel, hope in the Lord from this time on and forevermore.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsively)

Pastor: In the morning of creation, when chaos reigned and the earth was formless and void, the Spirit of God moved over the face of the waters and whispered, “Come, you are welcome in this place.”

All: In the dry and desperate desert where the people fled, seeking freedom, the daughters of Miriam danced, water burst forth out of the rock of Horeb and Holy Wisdom beckoned: “Come, you are welcome in this place.”

Pastor: By the waters of Babylon, where exiles wept bitter tears and could not find their voices, the Spirit of justice spoke: “Come, you who long for home, you are welcome in this place.”

All: Out of the River Jordan, where the prophet called, brother Jesus arose, dripping, from the waters of baptism, calling: “Come and follow me—you are welcome in this place.”

Pastor: Near the crystal river that flows through the new Jerusalem, by the tree of life, whose leaves are for the healing of the nations, the Spirit and the bride say, “Come, all you who are thirsty, drink from the springs of the water of life and know you are welcome in this place.”

All: Amen!

***HYMN**

Born in the Night, Mary’s Child

No. 30

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**

Weaver God, we come to you, or—more the truth— you find us, disconnected and out of sorts. We are disheartened by our failures, discouraged by our weakness, and little that we do seems worthy of your grace. Restore our fortunes. Restore our future. Weave for us the tapes try on which our lives are stretched. Give us patience with the endless back and forth of shuttle, hand and effort. We look too closely, seeing only strands and knots and snarled threads of too-much-trying or none-at-all. Grant us eyes to see the whole of which we are a part. In the end, we ask for gentleness with ourselves, acceptance of our less than perfect ways. We pray that what we do and what you weave form patterns clear to all, of mercy in the warp of it and love throughout..*Silent prayer followed by ‘Amen’.*

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Responsively)**

Pastor: Good people, most royal greening verdancy, Rooted in the sun you shine with radiant light. In this circle of earthly existence you shine so finely, It surpasses understanding. God hugs you. You are encircled by the arms of the mystery of God. Siblings in Christ, children of creation, believe the good news:

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.

***HYMN**

Glory Be to the Father (Gloria Patri)

No. 579

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:22-38

MEDITATION

RECOGNIZING THE DISSOLUTION OF OUR PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN ORG.

HYMN

Though I May Speak

No. 335

OFFERING OF TIME, TALENTS & TREASURES

***HYMN**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (Doxology)

No. 592

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION (Unison—Concluding with the Lord’s Prayer (p. 16))**

Lord God, we give thanks for the years, commitment and memories of our Presbyterian Women organization. As we say goodbye to what was, we look forward to what is. Help us to maintain in our own works the purpose of the Presbyterian Women in our denomination: *Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, to support the mission of the church worldwide, to work for justice and peace, and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God’s kingdom.* We pray this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

***HYMN**

Farewell, Good Friends

No. 537

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE**

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

Portions of today’s service are from “Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday...2025” from presbyterianwoment.org

*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).

Donations may be placed in the offering plate near the narthex door.



Depart This House That We Might Witness Together!

Remember in prayer: residents and staff of Resthove, Homestead and Highlight Health (formerly Pleasant View); Bev & Larry Bealer, Dan Brandon, Brandy Claeys (a Friend of Stacie’s), Dale Johnson, Youdelka Philippe (MSH), Jody Tucker, 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.

Drive-Up Meal The next meal will be on February 27. We will be serving chili and cornbread. Meal begins at **4:30PM**. Help is needed on Wednesday at 1:30pm and Thursday starting at 3:45pm. We will be offering in person dining.

Call to Congregational Meeting

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday, February 9th during our 10:15 worship service.

Birthdays

02/04: Doris Robertson
02/06: Larry Bealer
02/06: Aiden Dolieslager
02/08: Arlyn Hayen

Upcoming Events:

02/02:

9:15am Sunday School
10:15am Worship Service
11:15am Coffee Hour

02/04:

9:30am Bible Study @ Highlight Health
4:30pm Ice Cream Social @ Highlight Health

02/08:

9am Early Childhood Resource Fair @ Odell Library

02/09:

9:15am Sunday School/Undecorating
10:15am Worship Service & Annual Meeting
11:15am Coffee Hour / Cookie Frost-Off
5:30pm Super Bowl First-Half Party

STAFF

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

SESSION ELDERS:

Rick Barr Ron Shank Stacie Baker, Clerk
Lexie Laughlin Scott Vandermyde
Tim Reynolds Carol Wolf

Wise Women Also Came
by Jan Richardson



Wise women also came
the fire burned in their wombs
long before they saw the flaming star in the sky.
They walked in shadows,
trusting the path would open under the light of the moon.

Wise women also came,
seeking no directions,
no permission from any king
They came by their own authority their own desire,
their own longing
They came in quiet,
spreading no rumors,
sparkling no fears to lead to innocents' slaughter,
to their sister Rachel's inconsolable lamentations.

Wise women also came,
and they brought useful gifts:
water for labor's washing,
fire for warm illumination,
a blanket for swaddling.

Wise women also came,
at least three of them,
holding Mary in the labor,
crying out with her in the birth pangs,
breathing ancient blessings into her ear.

Wise women also came,
and they went,
as wise women always do,
home a different way.

⊕ **The First Presbyterian Church of Morrison IL** ⊕
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