

First Presbyterian Church

Morrison, Illinois

March 14, 2021

4th Sunday in Lent

10:15AM

Enter This Church That We Might Worship Together!



THE GATHERING WELCOME

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

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

INTROIT

Wimoweh Mbube¹

OPENING PRAYER & MOMENT FOR MEDITATION

“I sought the Lord, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears. Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed. This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord, and was saved from every trouble.” —Psalm 34:4-6

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 107:1-3,17-22)

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

People: Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities endured affliction; they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death. Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress; he sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction. Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith and receive the fullness of Christ’s blessing, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.....
.....Silent prayer followed by ‘Amen’.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Unison)

In God’s time and in God’s way, the Truth is revealed to us. The Holy Spirit is with us in our disbelief and in our belief. We are forgiven and we are granted new life. Amen.

RESPONSE TO GRACE Amazing Grace / Nearer My God to Thee*²

TIME WITH THE GROWING CHURCH (Concluding with the Lord’s Prayer, p. 16)
INCLUDING SPECIAL MUSIC Love Your Neighbor³

GOSPEL READING

John 3:14-21

SERMON

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

OFFERING OF TIME, TALENTS & TREASURES

MEDITATION ON THE WORLD’S NEEDS Homeless⁴

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION (Unison)

Lord, help us make this day that you have granted us become a new beginning in which, with great thanksgiving, we live every moment for you. Help us be humbled as we turn our ways to following you. Help us begin a new life in which we live for love and help us truly become the children of the light. We pray this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

BENEDICTION

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

MUSIC TO BEGIN AGAIN Oh Happy Day⁵

All music was performed by Ladysmith Black Mambazo.

*with Emmylou Harris.

We do not own rights to this music. Thank you to all affiliated with Ladysmith Black Mambazo and Emmylou Harris for their grace in their judgement of our use of their music to spread the love, light and peace of Jesus Christ.

¹from Africa in Harmony: 50th Anniversary Edition, 2014.

²from Praise and Worship, 2015.

³from Songs of Peace & Love for Kids & Parents Around the World, 2017.

⁴from Lady Smith Black Mambazo and Friends, 2013.

⁵from Heavenly, 1997.

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 Home; medical workers, essential employees, school teachers & staff; Bob Atherton, Mavis Best, Dan Brandon, Rich Glazier, Orville Goodenough, Glenda Hegwood, Joyce Mathew, Shirley Mills, Kurt Mills, Ruth Mitick, Youdelka Philippe (MSH), Nancy Rector, Cooke Shawver, Jean Temple, Julie Stinson, Dick Vandermyde.

Livestream Worship Services

are available from the church's Facebook group page: www.facebook.com/groups/firstpresmorrison. They will be uploaded after the service on YouTube. View and subscribe to our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcZJobAb6lcNXGA0cbuuVdg>

Bible Study is offered online via Zoom at 9:30 a.m. on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Tuesdays of each month.

Sunday Service Balcony

Guests We host members as "balcony guests" on most Sundays. Masks are required. Contact Mike to schedule a Sunday to visit if interested.

Lenten Resources

from the Presbyterian Mission Agency: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/tread-lightly-for-lent/>

Birthdays this week:

3/15 Jim Palmer
3/17 Steve Wolf
3/19 Parker Pohren
3/20 Collin Wolf

Serving Today: Pastor: Rev. Dr. Mike Selburg
Organist: Scott Vandermyde
Videographer, Reader, Wrangler of Wild Children,
Tech & Media Department CEO: Katie Selburg
Ministers: You

Daily devotional: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/today/lent2021/>

Happy 166th! The First Presbyterian Church of Morrison IL turns 166 years old on March 28. As March 28th is Palm Sunday this year, we will celebrate a rededication of the church on March 21st, on the first day of spring!

Easter Lilies & Bulbs

Although we aren't yet worshipping in person, we'd like to adorn the sanctuary for Easter as in past years. If you'd like to order a lily or other spring bulb plant, please complete the order form found in the March newsletter and return it to the church by March 22 or call the office and leave a message with your order. We will make arrangements to get the plant(s) to you after the Easter livestream service.



Drive-Up Meal The next meal will be on April 8, from 5-6:00 p.m. or until food runs out. Pulled pork sandwiches and sides will be served. Contact Mike if you'd like to help. Please spread the word!

Events coming up:

3/14 10:15AM Facebook Live Worship Service
3/14 11:15AM Sunday School Zoom
3/15 10:00AM Deacons Phone meeting
3/15 6:30PM Session Meeting by Zoom
3/16 9:30AM Bible Study on Zoom
3/21 10:15AM Facebook Live Worship Service

*From Mount Hor
they set out by the way to the Red Sea,
to go around the land of Edom;
but the people became impatient on the way.
The people spoke against God and against Moses,
"Why have you brought us up out of Egypt
to die in the wilderness?
For there is no food and no water,
and we detest this miserable food."
Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people,
and they bit the people,
so that many Israelites died.
The people came to Moses and said,
"We have sinned by speaking against the Lord
and against you;
pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us."
So Moses prayed for the people.
And the Lord said to Moses,
"Make a poisonous serpent,
and set it on a pole;
and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live."
So Moses made a serpent of bronze,
and put it upon a pole;
and whenever a serpent bit someone,
that person would look at the serpent of bronze
and live.*

—Numbers 21:4-9

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