

First Presbyterian Church

410 Second Avenue | PO Box 441 | Sterling, IL 61081 | (815) 625-0452

Benediction

Leader: And let all God's people say...

People: Alleluia! Amen!

Response

May You Run and Not Be Weary (see overhead)



Pastor - Rev. Dr. Christina Berry

Ministers - All the People

August 14, 2022

We Gather

Welcome

First Reading and Meditation

O God, your grace is beyond measure and it was graciously extended to me the very instant I began to run this race. You prepare the way for me, and you guide my feet; but even more, in Jesus Christ you run alongside me, enabling me to cast off the things that weigh me down. Your Spirit gives my spirit the power to endure, and stay on course. In false starts and lagging zeal, you are with me. In triumph and in bursts of energy, you are with me. Your Spirit is my second wind. You keep me on course, reminding me that the one who triumphs in the end is not the one who runs swiftly, nor the one who runs best, but the one who endures to the end. I want to be among that number, and by Your grace, I will finish well. I will run this race you have set before me, encouraged and strengthened by the faith of those who have gone before and are now a part of that great cloud of witnesses that surround me. Amen.

Call to Worship

Leader: We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses.

People: They walked by faith, trusting in the promise of God.

Leader: With our eyes on Jesus, we will run the race before us.

People: We come seeking strength and endurance, to persevere

Leader: We cannot see the finish line,

People: but we will run the race to the end.

All: Let us worship God.

Opening Song I Will Enter His Gates (Gray 168)

We Prepare our Hearts

Prayer of Confession (sung) Healing Grace Part 1

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon (sung) Healing Grace Part 2

Response Glory to God (see overhead)

Sharing the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Response Peace Song (see overhead)

We Receive the Word

Children's Time

Scripture Reading Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Sermon The Race We Run

We Respond to the Word

Song Guide My Feet (Blue 354 v. 1, 2, 4)

Moment of Thanks

Offertory

God of abundance, everything we have is on loan from you. Help us be good stewards of all your precious resources. Help us to be witnesses to your love and generosity, and to run our race with endurance, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

We Are Sent Out to the World

Closing Song May the Light of God Go With You (see overhead)