

We Respond to the Word

# First Presbyterian Church

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

## Moment of Thanks

### Offertory

Holy God, thank you for the gift of teaching and learning, and for our teacher Jesus Christ, who invites us to deeper faith and knowledge, and calls us to share. It is in his name that we pray. Amen.

### RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Jamie Boze and Augie Knutsen

### Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

We Are Sent Out to the World

### Closing Song

Rock of Ages (see overhead)

### Benediction

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

People: Alleluia! Amen!

### Response

God Will Make a Way (Gray 40)



Pastor - Rev. Dr. Christina Berry

Ministers - All the People

June 26, 2022

## We Gather

### Welcome

### First Reading and Meditation

This is the true joy in life, being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one. Being a force of nature instead of a feverish, selfish little clod of ailments and grievances, complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy. I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it what I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work, the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no brief candle to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.

-- George Bernard Shaw

### Call to Worship

Leader: Many voices are speaking to us today: in social media, on the news, in our daily lives, all around us.

**People: Today, we gather to listen for God's still small voice; to hear God speak through our prayers and worship.**

Leader: Many paths are set before us today: the paths that seem to lead to success and wealth; the paths that are well worn and traveled by many; that paths that seem uncertain.

**People: We gather to be reminded that we are children of God, called to follow Jesus, and his highest path for us.**

Leader: Today we gather to be strengthened, to be encouraged, to be filled with joy as we worship God!

**People: And we will be sent out to listen, to follow, to respond to God's claim on our lives as we seek to share love, do justice, and walk humbly with God on the path Jesus makes for us.**

**All: Let us worship God!**

### Opening Songs

Here I Am, Lord (Blue 525 v. 1, 2)  
Show Me Your Ways (see overhead)

## We Prepare our Hearts

### Prayer of Confession

Holy God, you love us completely and forever, and command us to love you and love others. But we do not always do as you ask. We fail to listen for your guidance; we wander from the paths you've set; we turn away from injustice; we look to our own desires and not to yours. Forgive us! In your mercy, remind us of who we are and whose we are: beloved children who belong entirely, body and soul, to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Silence is kept*

### Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news: the one who claims us in baptism and calls us to follow loves us enough to lay down his life for us, to be raised for us, to reign in power for us. Rejoice and be glad, for God's mercy in Jesus Christ is from everlasting to everlasting.

**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### 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

2 Kings 2: 1-2, 6-14

### Sermon

A Double Share