

# First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca, Michigan



**Sunday, January 27, 2019**  
**10:30am**

Service for the Lord's Day  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday After Epiphany

January 27, 2019

10:30am

*\* indicates that the congregation may stand as they are able.*

***Bold text** indicates where the congregation joins in unison.*

**WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

**Prelude & Ringing of the Bell**

**Gathering Music**      *What the Lord Has Done in Me*

***Let the weak say "I am strong." Let the poor say "I am rich."  
Let the blind say "I can see. It's what the Lord has done in me."***

***Refrain:***

***Hosanna, hosanna to the Lamb that was slain.***

***Hosanna, hosanna, Jesus died and rose again.***

***Hosanna, hosanna to the Lamb that was slain.***

***Hosanna, hosanna, Jesus died and rose again.***

***Into the river I will wade. There my sins are washed away.  
From the heaven's mercy stream of the Savior's love for me.***

***(refrain)***

***I will rise from waters deep into the saving arms of God.***

***I will sing salvation songs. Jesus Christ has set me free.***

***(refrain)***

*I'll Fly Away*

***Some glad morning when this life is o'er, I'll fly away;  
To a home on God's celestial shore, I'll fly away.***

***Refrain:***

***I'll fly away, O glory, I'll fly away  
When I die, hallelujah, by and by,  
I'll fly away.***

***When the shadows of the life have gone, I'll fly away;  
Like a bird from prison bars has flown, I'll fly away.  
(refrain)***

***Just a few more weary days and then, I'll fly away;  
To a land where joys shall never end, I'll fly away.  
(refrain)***

**Welcome & Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship (responsive)**

The Spirit of God is upon us.

**We are called to be God's people.**

The Spirit of God is upon us.

**We are called to be the body of Christ.**

Come let us worship God,

**who binds us together in love and service.**

**\*Opening Prayer (unison)**

**Bountiful God, you have blessed us with so many gifts. In this time of worship, may we be open to receiving these gifts. Help us claim our gifts and use them to bring liberation and justice to a hurting world. May the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts, be acceptable to you. May the transforming Spirit of joy and unity bind us together as your body, that we may be your hands and feet and voice in this, your world. Amen.**

**\*Hymn #288 (blue)**

*I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

**Call to Confession**

The proof of God's amazing love is this: while we were sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in Christ, we dare to approach God with confidence. Let us admit our sins before God.

**Prayer of Confession (unison)**

**Ever present One, you call us to be your presence, your body in this world, but too often we get caught up in being a hand or a foot, and lose sight of the overarching mission you set before us. We fracture into pieces. We go our separate ways, forgetting we need each other to be whole. You have given us your law to be our guide, but we turn our backs on what we see as rules and restrictions, fearful that we will not live up to your expectations. Help us see with new eyes, and hear with the ears of our heart, the liberating spirit of the law that strengthens and revives and enables us to be and do all you call us to be and do. O God of liberation and justice, help us be faithful witnesses to your law of love and unity. Amen.**

**Silent Confession**

## Sung Response

*By His Grace*

***By His grace I am redeemed, by His blood I am made clean;  
And I now can know Him face to face.***

***By His power I have been raised, hidden now in Christ by faith;  
I will praise the glory of His grace.***

## Assurance of Pardon

The Spirit of God is upon us. God has called us to bring good news and liberation to the poor, to the marginalized, and to all who are in need anywhere. God's joy is our strength. Through God we can do all things. God's Spirit surrounds us with forgiveness and love.

## \*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*Exchange words of peace and reconciliation with one another.*

## \*Sung Response

*Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!*

***Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!***

***Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!***

## WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

## Children's Message

### Prayer of Illumination (unison)

**Overwhelm us with Your Spirit, O God, that the words we hear will speak to our hearts as Your Word, made known to us in Christ the Lord. Amen.**

**Scripture Reading**

Luke 4:1-13

**Anthem**

*Fairest Lord Jesus*  
Chancel Choir

arr. McDonald

**Scripture Reading**

Luke 4:14-30

**Sermon**

“A Rough Start”

Pastor Christina

**\*Hymn #115 (red)**

*Jesus, Tempted in the Desert*

## **WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD**

**Prayers of the People**

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Sung Response**

*Cares Chorus*

***I cast all my cares upon you;  
I lay all of my burdens down at your feet,  
and anytime I don’t know what to do,  
I will cast all my cares upon you.***

**Morning Offering**

**\*Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**\*Prayer of Dedication (unison)**

**God of grace, it is our delight and our devotion to give these gifts to you. All we are and all we have are yours alone. Accept this joyful offering as a token of our abiding love: use it to bring peace, justice and comfort to all the world, Amen.**

**WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME**

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the  
Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third  
day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and  
sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence  
he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy  
Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the  
forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life  
everlasting. Amen.**

**\*Hymn #332 (blue)**

*Live Into Hope*

**\*Benediction**

## \*Postlude



### Today's Readings

#### Luke 4:1-13

Jesus returned from the Jordan River full of the Holy Spirit, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. There he was tempted for forty days by the devil. He ate nothing during those days and afterward Jesus was starving. The devil said to him, "Since you are God's Son, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus replied, "It's written, People won't live only by bread." Next the devil led him to a high place and showed him in a single instant all the kingdoms of the world. The devil said, "I will give you this whole domain and the glory of all these kingdoms. It's been entrusted to me and I can give it to anyone I want. Therefore, if you will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered, "It's written, You will worship the Lord your God and serve only him." The devil brought him into Jerusalem and stood him at the highest point of the temple. He said to him, "Since you are God's Son, throw yourself down from here; for it's written: He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you and they will take you up in their hands so that you won't hit your foot on a stone." Jesus answered, "It's been said, Don't test the Lord your God." After finishing every temptation, the devil departed from him until the next opportunity.

## **Luke 4:14-30**

Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news about him spread throughout the whole countryside. He taught in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been raised. On the Sabbath he went to the synagogue as he normally did and stood up to read. The synagogue assistant gave him the scroll from the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to liberate the oppressed, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*

He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the synagogue assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the synagogue was fixed on him. He began to explain to them, "Today, this scripture has been fulfilled just as you heard it." Everyone was raving about Jesus, so impressed were they by the gracious words flowing from his lips. They said, "This is Joseph's son, isn't it?" Then Jesus said to them, "Undoubtedly, you will quote this saying to me: 'Doctor, heal yourself. Do here in your hometown what we've heard you did in Capernaum.'" He said, "I assure you that no prophet is welcome in the prophet's hometown. And I can assure you that there were many widows in Israel during Elijah's time, when it didn't rain for three and a half years and there was a great food shortage in the land. Yet Elijah was sent to none of them but only to a widow in the city of Zarephath in the region of Sidon. There were also many persons with skin diseases in Israel during the time of the prophet Elisha, but none of them were cleansed. Instead, Naaman the Syrian was cleansed." When they heard this, everyone in the synagogue was filled with anger. They rose up and ran him out of town. They led him to the crest of the hill on which their town had been built so that they could throw him off the cliff. But he passed through the crowd and went on his way.

**Prayer List:**

*Loving God, we lift the following in prayer to You. Hold these people and situations in Your hands, and in them, may Your will be done. Amen.*

**Concerns:**

The family of The Rev. Lois Gremban; Bob Crist; Penny Arnold, recovering from surgery; Evelyn Gilbert; Sandy Jensen; Jan Felton; Ilona Bertsch; The Rev. George Gillette; Karen, Kathy Vanderbeek's sister; Mackenzie Brown; Susie Page; Bonnie Smith; Barb Pharr; Vickie Losey; Jim Kench; Pat MacDonald; Peggy Ronk; Brenda Bollman; Rhonda Handley; Karen Rozen; Randy Jenison; Geneva Foster; Sandy Parr's sister Barb Elliot; Soulemayne Galadi, serving in the Congo; Those who make decisions that affect others; Those living with mental illness; Our military and veterans; Our police, fire, and other emergency responders; Our country

**Thanksgivings:**

Kyle & Andrea Nester; Our church family; The church office volunteers; New jobs and the opportunities that come with them; For birthdays and anniversaries; For those who help others in crisis; For the angels in our church family

**Continuing Prayers:**

Geneva Alasadi & family; John & Nancy Allen; Penny Arnold; Marian Bouchey; Lou Dellinger; Art Faustmann; Christina Latoski & family; Karen Rozen; Shelly & Jamie Sanders; Randy Smith, David Thum; Shelley Zamarron & family

*If you would like someone added to the prayer list and announced during the Prayers of the People, please contact the church office or speak to Pastor Christina.*

## **Happening this Week:**

- Food Pantry – Wednesday, 9:30am – Food Pantry

## **Next Week's Volunteers – February 3, 2019:**

- Rick Teal, Liturgist
- Phil & Cheri Booth, Greeters
- Phil & Cheri Booth, Ushers
- Dale Nester & Joy Heinlein, Communion Servers
- Potluck, Coffee Hour
- Rick Teal & Tom Heinlein, Counters



## **Tabitha Circle Schedule**

Tabitha Circle will meet at 7:00pm on Tuesday, February 5, in the downstairs Lounge. In order to stay on schedule, please read pages 71-109 on your own. We will do a quick summary of these pages as a group. Our lesson for February 5 will cover pages 111-146 with Carolyn G. as our discussion leader. Everyone is welcome - if you have questions, see Joy Heinlein.



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Some of the prayers and responsive readings came from

[www.ministrymatters.com](http://www.ministrymatters.com).

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To learn more about our congregation, visit our website:  
[www.ithacapres.org](http://www.ithacapres.org)  
and our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/ithacapres](http://www.facebook.com/ithacapres)

**Leading Worship Today:**

The Rev. Christina L. Jensen, Pastor  
Cynthia Smith, Lay Leader  
Bob Crist, Music Director  
Jim & Carolyn Gruesbeck, Greeters  
Joy Heinlein & Cynthia Smith, Ushers  
Cheri Booth & Tom Heinlein, Counters

**Staff:**

The Rev. Christina L. Jensen, Pastor  
Bob Crist, Music Director  
Chris Shemes, Treasurer  
Shelley Zamarron, Custodian



The First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca, Michigan, is a congregation of the Presbytery of Lake Huron of the Presbyterian Church (USA).