

# First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca, Michigan



150th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, February 16, 2020

4:00pm

**Service for the Lord's Day  
Sesquicentennial Thanksgiving Service**

**February 16, 2020**

**4:00pm**

*\* 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**

Quartet Con Spirito

**Ringing of the Bell**

**Words of Welcome**

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

Lord, you have been our refuge  
**from one generation to another.**

Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or the land and the sea were born,  
**from age to age you are God.**

Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning,  
**so we shall rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.**

May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us,  
**and prosper the work of our hands.**

**\*Opening Prayer (unison)**

**O God, you are infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, glorious in holiness, full of love and compassion, abundant in grace and truth. Your works everywhere praise you, and your glory is revealed in Jesus Christ our Savior. Therefore, we praise you, blessed and holy Trinity, one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

**\*Hymn #455**

*All Creatures of Our God and King*

**Call to Confession**

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; yet we are justified by the gift of God's grace through the redemption that is ours in Christ Jesus. Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

**Prayer of Confession (unison)**

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love. We have not loved our neighbors, and we have refused to hear the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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**

Hear the good news! The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**\*Gloria Patri**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen. Amen.*

**\*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**

Psalm 111

**Anthem**

*Hallelujah By and By*  
Chancel Choir

arr. McDonald

**Scripture Reading**

Philippians 3:7-16

**\*Hymn #442**

*The Church's One Foundation*

**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.***

**The Offering**

**Offertory**

**\*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**

**\*Litany of Thanksgiving**

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being,  
**hear our prayer.**

For the church universal, and for this congregation of your people,  
**we give you thanks, O God.**

For this place in which we gather for praise and prayer,  
witness and service, in the name of Jesus Christ the lord,  
**we give you thanks, O God.**

For your presence among us whenever your Word has been  
proclaimed, your sacramental gifts of bread and wine shared,  
**we give you thanks, O God.**

For those who have been made your children by adoption and grace,  
who in this place were cleansed of sin, buried with Christ in the waters  
of baptism, and raised to new and eternal life,  
**we give you thanks, O God.**

For disciples young and old who have been nurtured here in faith,  
**we give you thanks, O God.**

For deacons, elders, and pastors who have led and loved us,  
and by the offering of their gifts, equipped us for the work of ministry,  
**we give you thanks, O God.**

For faithful stewards among us who have lived for others,  
serving you by loving neighbors,  
**we give you thanks, O God.**

For all the saints who have stood among us,  
whose memory still enlivens our faith and emboldens our witness,  
**we give you thanks, O God.**

For the ministries of worship and mission, nurture and fellowship,  
and for all whose lives have been touched by them  
**we give you thanks, O God.**

For 150 years of ministry and service in Christ's name,  
**Receive our gratitude, Holy God. As you have led us through these  
150 years, open us to the future you promise. In the years that lie  
ahead, grant us your encouragement in the work of ministry, your  
consolation in our defeats, and your challenge to our complacency.  
Give us such trust in your abiding Holy Spirit, that we may find joy  
and peace in our common life, strength and courage to live in the  
world for your reign, and hope in the gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

**\*Hymn #430**

*Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!*

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

## **Today's Readings**

### **Psalm 111 (NRSV)**

Praise the Lord!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,  
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

Great are the works of the Lord,  
studied by all who delight in them.

Full of honor and majesty is his work,  
and his righteousness endures forever.

He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;  
the Lord is gracious and merciful.

He provides food for those who fear him;  
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

He has shown his people the power of his works,  
in giving them the heritage of the nations.

The works of his hands are faithful and just;  
all his precepts are trustworthy.

They are established forever and ever,  
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

He sent redemption to his people;  
he has commanded his covenant forever.

Holy and awesome is his name.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;  
all those who practice it have a good understanding.

His praise endures forever.



### **Philippians 3:7-16 (NRSV)**

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind; and if you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to you. Only let us hold fast to what we have attained.

*Organization of  
The First Presbyterian Church, Ithaca, Michigan  
February 16, 1870*

*In accordance with previous arrangements, a preliminary meeting was held in the Lecture Room of the Baptist Church in the Village of Ithaca, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> 1870 - "to make all necessary investigations, and if the way were prepared, to proceed with the organization of Presbyterian Church according to the request to that effect," which had been made to the Presbytery of Grand River Valley. On the part of the Presbytery there was present Rev. J. T. Willett, Home Missionary, and member of the Commission appointed for this purpose. The meeting was opened with prayer.*

*The following named persons presented letters of Dismissal and Recommendation from other churches:*

*Wm E Winton from the First Cong. Church, Ithaca, Mich.*

*Mrs. Marietta Winton from the First Cong. Church, Ithaca, Mich.*

*J. W. Caldwell, from the First Presbyterian Church, Kalamazoo, Mich.*

*Mrs. Mary Church from the Presbyterian Church, Tecumseh, Mich.*

*Mrs. C. E. Williams from the First Presbyterian Church, Plymouth, Mich.*

*John Henry Harrison Winton, who wished to make a public profession of his faith for the first time, was duly examined.*

*It was resolved that this church be called The First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca.*

## *Ministers Who Have Served Ithaca First Presbyterian Church*

*Rev. Dillis Dyer Hamilton - 1871-1875*

*Rev. Joseph T. Willett - 1875-1879*

*Rev. John E. Long - 1880-1896*

*Rev. Robert T. Lynd - 1896-1897*

*Rev. A. L. Toner - 1898-1901*

*Rev. Roger M. Williams - 1901-1908*

*Rev. John Q. Durfey - 1908-1915*

*Rev. Roy G. Hershey - 1915-1917*

*Rev. William Roberts - 1917-1922*

*Rev. Roy J Miller - 1923-1927*

*Rev. H. G. Gaige - 1927-1937*

*Rev. Edward V. Belles - 1937-1945*

*Rev. Calvin Ukena - 1947-1950*

*Rev. Robert VanderHart - 1950-1953*

*Rev. John L. Hurre - 1953-1957*

*Rev. George Gillette - 1959-1966*

*Rev. Edgar O. Higgins - 1966-1968*

*Rev. J. Tracy Luke - 1969-1970*

*Rev. Frederic W. McNeil - 1970-1975*

*Rev. Douglas DeVos - 1975-1981*

*Rev. Lois R. Gremban - 1981-1989*

*Rev. Mark Keely - 1989-1990*

*Rev. Ron Davids - 1990-1991*

*Rev. Larry Michael Bertsch - 1991-1993*

*Rev. Michael R. Loenshal - 1994-2007*

*Rev. Mary Anne Evans-Justin - 2007-2010*

*Elder Peggy Ronk, CRE - 2010-2012*

*Rev. Joseph A. Novak - 2012-2016*

*Rev. Dr. David Weber - 2016-2017*

*Rev. Christina L. Jensen - 2017-present*

**First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca**  
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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)

**Staff:**

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

*The music printed in this bulletin is covered under CCLI #11388530.  
Some of the prayers and responsive readings came from the Book of  
Common Worship from the Office of the General Assembly.*



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