

First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca, Michigan



Sunday, February 23, 2020
10:30am

**Service for the Lord's Day
Transfiguration Sunday**

February 23, 2020

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*

pg. 26

Welcome & Announcements

***Call to Worship (responsive)**

On a high mountain, Jesus was transfigured,

and God said: This is my Beloved Son.

As God spoke, calling light out of darkness,

God's glory shines in the face of Jesus Christ.

At the mountain of the Lord bow down,

for the Lord our God is holy.

***Opening Prayer (unison)**

O God, in the transfiguration of your Son, you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah; and in the voice from the cloud, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us, with Christ, heirs of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fulness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

***Hymn #73**

Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory

Call to Confession

Jesus said: Nothing is hidden that will not be disclosed, nor is anything secret that will not come to light. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of compassion, in Jesus Christ you reveal the light of your glory, but we turn away, distracted by our own plans. We confess that we speak when we should listen, and act when we should wait. Forgive our aimless enthusiasms. Grant us wisdom to live in your light and to follow in the way of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. 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 one who calls light out of darkness now shines in our hearts to reveal the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

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

Exodus 24:12-18

Anthem

I'm So Glad

Chancel Choir

Scripture Reading

Matthew 17:1-9

Sermon

"And Then That Happened"

Pastor Christina

***Hymn #339**

Be Thou My Vision

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

Morning Offering

*Please remember to place your written prayer request cards
into the offering plate as it is passed.*

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.

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.*

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 #308**

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Today's Readings

Exodus 24:12-18 (NRSV)

The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them." Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Matthew 17:1-9 (NRSV)

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

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 Marie Taylor, who passed on 2/11; Children in the middle of situations not of their making; The Smith/Melow/Bowen Families, on the loss of their cousin Terry; Denise Smith; Joe & Tracy; The family of Cindy Watson; Dale Nester; Mike Zimmerman; Bree Melow; Kristen Winn; Those fighting the “creepy crud;” Heath Meyers; Garret Miniard; The Rev. George Gillette; Soulemayne Galadi, serving in the Congo; Travelling mercies; Those who do not know God’s love; 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:

Our church’s 150th birthday celebration; Miracles and healing mercies granted; 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:

John & Nancy Allen; Penny Arnold; Marian Bouchey; Christina Latoski & family; Mick Lott; Karen Moore; Sally Nester; Barb Pharr; Rick & Mary Rimmel; Karen Rozen; Shelly & Jamie Sanders; Bonnie Smith & Ken Yordy; Randy Smith; 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:

- Men's Breakfast – Tuesday, 8:30am – Hearthstone Oven
- Pantry Board – Tuesday, 7:00pm – Downstairs Fireplace Room
- Food Pantry – Wednesday, 9:30am – Food Pantry
- Ash Wednesday Supper – Wednesday, 6:00pm – Fireplace Room
- Ash Wednesday Service – Wednesday, 6:30pm – Sanctuary

Next Week's Volunteers – March 1, 2020:

- Penny Arnold, Liturgist
- Joy Heinlein & _____, Greeters
- Joy Heinlein & Cynthia Smith, Ushers
- Gary Melow & Joy Heinlein, Communion Servers
- Vickie Thum & Tom Heinlein, Counters

Cookbook Potluck – March 15

Our next Anniversary Celebration event will be a Cookbook Potluck, to be held Sunday, March 15, after service. The Caring Team is working on putting together this event, and will have recipes available soon from the various church cookbooks. A fun time, indeed!

A Project For The Crafters

The Prayer Shawl Group at Greenfield Presbyterian Church (Pastor Christina's home congregation) has partnered with Beaumont and St Joseph Hospitals since its inception in 2015. Over the years, many prayer shawls and blankets have been delivered to patients in need of comfort. These hospitals have a shortage of blankets and are asking for help. The group at Greenfield is trying to provide these facilities with blankets that are 40x60 either knitted, crocheted, fleece, or quilted. We at Ithaca First are invited to partner with Greenfield in this mission of mercy and love. For more information, see Pastor Christina.

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.

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

Leading Worship Today:

The Rev. Christina L. Jensen, Pastor
Sandy Parr, Liturgist
Bob Crist, Music Director
Chuck & Karen Emery, Greeters
Chuck & Karen Emery, Ushers
Vickie Thum & Carolyn Gruesbeck, 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).