

**First Presbyterian Church
of Ithaca, Michigan**



**Sunday, March 1, 2020
10:30am**

**Service for the Lord's Day
First Sunday in Lent**

March 1, 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

Welcome & Announcements

***Call to Worship (responsive)**

Tested by the devil in the wilderness, Jesus said:

You shall worship the Lord your God alone.

God's promise is for all generations;

God's covenant is with every living thing.

The word of God is near to us.

Call on the Lord and you will be saved.

***Opening Prayer (unison)**

Almighty God, your Son fasted for forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are but did not sin. Give us grace to direct our lives in obedience to your Spirit, that as you know our weakness, so we may know your power to save; through Jesus Christ our redeemer, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***Hymn #87**

The Glory of These Forty Days

Call to Confession

This is the proof of God's great love: that while we were sinners, Christ died for us. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Silent Confession

Sung Response

Lord, Have Mercy

Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon

God's love has been poured into your hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit. 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**

Sanctuary

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.

With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Prayer of Illumination (unison)

Gracious God, our way in the wilderness, guide us, by your Word, through these forty days, and minister to us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may be reformed, restored, and renewed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 4:1-11

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 32

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

**While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.**

**For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

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.

GOD'S WORD IS SEALED IN US

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayers of the People

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy... ...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your Glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.***

You are holy, O God of majesty... ... that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen. Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit... ...Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

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.

***Sharing the Bread and Cup**

Prayer After Communion (unison)

Thank you, gracious God, for giving us bread for the journey of these forty days. As we travel on through the wilderness, help us to share your grace with others, and draw us ever closer to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME

***Hymn #515**

Now to Your Table Spread

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Today's Readings

Matthew 4:1-11 (NRSV)

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

1 Corinthians 15:50-57 (NRSV)

What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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:

Coleen Trexler; Ralph Brillhart; 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; Cheryl; 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 have difficult decisions to make; 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.

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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

Penny Arnold, Liturgist

Bob Crist, Music Director

Joy Heinlein & Vickie Thum, Greeters

Joy Heinlein & Cynthia Smith, Ushers

Vickie Thum & 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).