

**First Presbyterian Church  
of Ithaca, Michigan**



**Sunday, March 8, 2020  
10:30am**

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

**March 8, 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)**

Our faith depends upon the grace of God.

**Praise the Lord, who give life to the dead.**

Jesus calls us to be his disciples.

**We take up the cross to follow him.**

Our ancestor Abraham trusted in the Lord,

**and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.**

**\*Opening Prayer (unison)**

**Almighty God, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us faith to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; 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 #84**

*In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

## **Call to Confession**

We cannot earn God's grace or favor. It comes to us, not as something owed, but as a gift freely given. Confident in God's love for us, even when we are ungodly, we confess our sins in faith.

## **Prayer of Confession (unison)**

**Gracious God, we come before you in need of forgiveness and grace. You call us to trust in you completely, but we do not. We are timid and fearful as we follow your lead. We justify our actions and words, though we know they are not what you require. We struggle to understand the new life Christ offers, preferring old habits to risky change. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to be born again into the life of Christ, trusting that you have included us by grace in the family of faith. In Christ's name we pray. 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**

Friends God is for us and not against us. For that very reason, God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Believe in the good news, in 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**

Genesis 1:26-31

## Responsive Psalm

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?  
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

**He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.**

**He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**

The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.  
The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

**The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.**

**The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in  
from this time on and forevermore.**

## Anthem

*Behold the Lamb of God*  
Chancel Choir

arr. Christopher

## Scripture Reading

John 3:11-21

## Sermon

“A Broken Reflection”

Pastor Christina

## \*Hymn #376

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

## 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**

**The 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**

*O Lord, Hear My Prayer*

*O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.*

*When I call, answer me.*

*O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.*

*Come and listen to me.*

## WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME

### \*Litany for Lent (responsive)

For forty days and nights the rain fell,  
and the waters covered the face of the earth.

**Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.**

For forty years the people wandered,  
seeking the land of God's promise

**Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.**

Moses spent forty days on the mountain,  
learning the commandment of God.

**Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.**

Elijah traveled forty days in the wilderness  
to hear the voice of God in the silence.

**Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.**

Jonah cried out to the people of Nineveh:  
Repent, or in forty days you will perish.

**Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.**

Jesus fasted and prayed for forty days  
and was tested by the devil.

**Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.**

**Eternal God, as we are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ, so give us the grace of repentance that we may pass through the grave with him and be born again to eternal life. For his is the One who was crucified, dead, and buried, and rose again for us, Jesus our Savior. Amen.**

### \*Hymn #280

*Amazing Grace*

### \*Benediction

### \*Postlude

## **Today's Readings**

### **Genesis 1:26-31**

Then God said, "Let us make humanity in our image to resemble us so that they may take charge of the fish of the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and all the crawling things on earth." God created humanity in God's own image, in the divine image God created them, male and female God created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and master it. Take charge of the fish of the sea, the birds in the sky, and everything crawling on the ground." Then God said, "I now give to you all the plants on the earth that yield seeds and all the trees whose fruit produces its seeds within it. These will be your food. To all wildlife, to all the birds in the sky, and to everything crawling on the ground—to everything that breathes—I give all the green grasses for food." And that's what happened. God saw everything he had made: it was supremely good. There was evening and there was morning: the sixth day.

### **John 3:11-21 (NRSV)**

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

**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:**

Mike Mates; Coleen Trexler; Ralph Brillhart; Children in the middle of situations not of their making; Joe & Tracy; 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.*

## **Happening this Week:**

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

## **Next Week's Volunteers – March 15, 2020:**

- Vickie Thum, Liturgist
- Brad & Vickie Thum, Greeters
- Brad & Vickie Thum, Ushers
- Dale Nester & 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 recipes are available TODAY 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.*

**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)

**Leading Worship Today:**

The Rev. Christina L. Jensen, Pastor  
Jamie Sanders, Liturgist  
Bob Crist, Music Director  
Tom & Sally Nester, Greeters  
Phil & Cheri Booth, Ushers  
Dale Nester & 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).