

**First Presbyterian Church
of Ithaca, Michigan**

Blessed are the meek...



...for they shall inherit the earth.

**Sunday, May 19, 2019
10:30am**

**Service for the Lord's Day
5th Sunday of Easter**

May 19, 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

Welcome & Announcements

***Call to Worship** (responsive)

How can we know the way of God?

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.

Beloved, let us love one another.

We love because God first loved us.

This is our new commandment in Christ:

As Jesus loves us, let us love one another.

***Opening Prayer**

O God, form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found; 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 #478** (blue)

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

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

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry, and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak, and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord. Amen.

Silent Confession

Sung Response *Alleluia*

Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news! If we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. Therefore, consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. In the name of 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

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 37:1-11

Anthem

Hallelujah! By and By
Chancel Choir

McDonald

Scripture Reading

Revelation 21:1-6

Sermon

Pastor Christina

***Hymn #391 (blue)**

Take My Life

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 glory, forever. Amen.

Sung Response

Christ, Be Our Light

***Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine in the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine on your church, gathered today.***

Morning 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

Words of Appreciation

Litany of Appreciation for the Gift of Music

Spirit of the Living God, we give thanks for your Word dancing around us. From the first bird in the morning until the last cricket at night, the sounds of your presence surround us.

May our ears be opened to hear your song.

Spirit of the Living God, we give thanks for the gift of music as it moves and shapes us. We thank you for the ways in which the poetry expresses our faith, the melody of our longing, the harmony of our hope.

May our lives and our ministries nurture the gift of music.

Spirit of the Living God, we give thanks for the musicians that lead us in worship. We thank you for those who lead us, we thank you for those who tap and strum and play, we thank you for those who blend their voices.

May our lives display appreciations for the gift of music and respect for the dedication of those who share the gift with us.

Spirit of the Living God, we give thanks for the opportunity to express our love for you and for one another through the powerful mystery of rhythm.

May our expressions of word and melody honor you, now and always. Amen.

***Hymn #264 (blue)**

When in Our Music God is Glorified

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Today's Scripture Readings

Psalm 37:1-11 (NRSV)

Do not fret because of the wicked; do not be envious of wrongdoers, for they will soon fade like the grass, and wither like the green herb. Trust in the Lord, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security. Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act. He will make your vindication shine like the light, and the justice of your cause like the noonday. Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him; do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil devices. Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath. Do not fret—it leads only to evil. For the wicked shall be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land. Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there. But the meek shall inherit the land, and delight themselves in abundant prosperity.

Revelation 21:1-6 (CEB)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne say, "Look! God's dwelling is here with humankind. He will dwell with them, and they will be his peoples. God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more. There will be no mourning, crying, or pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." Then the one seated on the throne said, "Look! I'm making all things new." He also said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "All is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will freely give water from the life-giving spring.

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:

Kathy Francis; Joy's friend, suffering multiple health problems; Vickie Jackson; Bonnie Smith; Shelly Sanders; Sally Nester; Garret Miniard; Jim Elliott; Barb Elliott; Lois Palmer; Al Bartholomew; Tina Castillo and her mom, Gayle; Jan Felton; The Rev. George Gillette; Mackenzie Brown; Susie Page; Pat MacDonald; Brenda Bollman; Rhonda Handley; Geneva Foster; 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; Travelling mercies;

Thanksgivings:

Miracles and healing mercies granted; Three expected grand-babies in the church family this year; 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; Randy Jenison; Christina Latoski & family; Barb Pharr; 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:

- Women's Breakfast – Monday, 9:00am – Hearthstone Oven
- Session – Tuesday, 7:00pm – Fireplace Room
- Food Pantry – Wednesday, 9:30am – Food Pantry

Next Week's Volunteers – May 26, 2019:

- Karen Emery, Liturgist
- Rex & Doff Rimmel, Greeters
- Sandy Parr & Chuck Emery, Ushers
- Barbara Coursey, Coffee Hour
- Tom Heinlein & Carolyn Gruesbeck, Counters

By the Numbers – May 12, 2019

Attendance: 64 – Offering: \$3,872

Good Samaritan Silent Auction A Success!

Thanks to your generosity – not only in bidding, but also in donating items to be bid on – the silent auction was a huge success! We raised over \$1700 for the Good Samaritan Fund! A huge thank you to the Mission and Fellowship team for their hard work in making this event happen. We hope you had fun – we know we did!

Other Mission Things of Note...

Our messengers of good tidings from the Mission & Fellowship Committee, on behalf of the congregation, took goodies to North and South Elementary Schools for Teacher Appreciation Day. This is just one of the many ways our church cares for our community! Well done, friends!

Memorial Day Weekend - We'd Like to Remember

If you have a loved one who either died while serving our country, or who was a veteran who has died since being discharged, we would like to honor their memory. Please let Pastor Christina know the name, branch of service, and years of service/conflict served during by Tuesday, May 21. There will be a memorial page in the bulletin, and the names will be read during service on Sunday, May 26.

Sharing Worship with our Neighbors - June 2 at Alma First

We will be sharing worship with our neighbors at Alma First again this summer. They will host us for worship at 10:30am with lunch following on June 2. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the hallway for ride sharing to Alma. Please sign up, and indicate if you would like a ride, or if you are able to drive and how many you can take in your vehicle. **There will be NO service at Ithaca First that Sunday.** Let's go worship with our neighbors to the north - and help welcome their new interim pastor, Pastor Joy!

A Quilted Communion Cloth to Celebrate our Sesquicentennial

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of our congregation, we would like to create an "Old Rugged Cross" quilted banner. We would like each member to check their "rag bag" or the back of their closet for a piece of discarded cloth. This could be a piece of clothing or curtain - just know that it will be cut to be included in the quilt. There is a wicker hamper in the fireplace room, near the fireplace, to receive your donation. **We would like to collect all donations by July 31, 2019,** so that we will have time to weave and complete the quilt by our 150th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service, on February 16, 2020. We are especially looking for pieces of cloth to commemorate pillars of our church who are no longer with us. If you have something that you are willing to part with, we would greatly appreciate your donation in their memory. When you place your donation in the basket, please write the names of the donors on the clipboard near the basket. If you have any questions, please see Sandy Parr.

Calling All Memories!

We are looking to put together a video presentation for our 150th anniversary celebrations. We will be in contact soon about setting up interviews for the video presentation, but right now, we are putting out the call for mementos! If you have photos, old bulletins, or other miscellaneous memorabilia from the church's history, we'd love to see it, and possibly make copies. See Pastor Christina for more information.

How We Can Help APA

The Academy of Performing Arts in Alma is celebrating their 25th anniversary this year. If you or one of your children danced at APA in any of the last 25 years, and you have photos or programs from years past, it would be a great help if you could bring them to the church. Pastor Christina will scan them in and reprint them so they can be included in the 25th anniversary memory book. This would be a great help to the community, and a way to show Ms. Kathy how much she means to generations of dancers.



*The music printed in this bulletin is covered under CCLI #11388530.
Most 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
Vickie Thum, Liturgist
Bob Crist, Music Director
Brad & Vickie Thum, Greeters
Cynthia Smith & Barb Litwiller, Ushers
Tom Heinlein & Dale Nester, 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).