

**First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca, Michigan
Service for the Lord's Day – Proper 12**

July 26, 2020

10:30am

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

If God is for us, who can be against us?
Nothing can separate us from God's love.
The Lord upholds those who are falling;
God raises those who are bowed down.
Jesus said: Ask, and it will be given to you;
for everyone who asks receives.

Opening Prayer

Eternal God, protector of all who put their trust in you, without who nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Fill us with your mercy and your grace, that, with you to rule and guide, we may so use the good things of this present life that we do not neglect those of eternal worth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Beloved in Christ, God never forgets God's promises; God's covenant endures in each new generation. We are free to speak the truth about our lives because God's faithfulness embraces us as we examine our hearts. Let us pray. God of mystery, God of life, we imagine that we are capable judges of power and wisdom and goodness. We trust our own standards; we separate and categorize; we mark the performance of others. We fail to trust in your power, hidden in all things. We fail to watch for you, working out your purposes. Gracious God, hidden and manifest, transform our withered imaginations until we yield the judgments we trust to a love we cannot control. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? Beloved in Christ, nothing we have done, nothing we will ever do, is enough to separate us from the love of God made known in Jesus Christ. In Jesus Christ, know that you are forgiven, and be at peace. Amen.

Prayer of Illumination

Spirit of life, we do not know how to pray as we ought. Meet us in words written, in words spoken; intercede for us with sighs too deep for words, until we shine with the hope that is hidden in our hearts, for we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Revelation, Chapters 12

Sermon

Prayers of Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

Invitation to the Offering/Affirmation of Faith

Words of Sending/Benediction

**Please bring your offering to the plate at the front of the sanctuary as you leave.*

Revelation 12

A great portent appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pangs, in the agony of giving birth. Then another portent appeared in heaven: a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman who was about to bear a child, so that he might devour her child as soon as it was born. And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron. But her child was snatched away and taken to God and to his throne; and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, so that there she can be nourished for one thousand two hundred sixty days.

And war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back, but they were defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming,

“Now have come the salvation and the power
and the kingdom of our God
and the authority of his Messiah,

for the accuser of our comrades has been thrown down,
who accuses them day and night before our God.

But they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony, for they did not cling to life even in the face
of death.

Rejoice then, you heavens and those who dwell in them!

But woe to the earth and the sea,

for the devil has come down to you with great wrath,
because he knows that his time is short!”

So when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle, so that she could fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to her place where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time. Then from his mouth the serpent poured water like a river after the woman, to sweep her away with the flood. But the earth came to the help of the woman; it opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth. Then the dragon was angry with the woman, and went off to make war on the rest of her children, those who keep the commandments of God and hold the testimony of Jesus.

Then the dragon took his stand on the sand of the seashore.