

**First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca, Michigan  
Service for the Lord's Day – Proper 19**

**September 13, 2020**

**10:30am**

**Ringing of the Bell**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

Whether we live or die, we belong to God.  
Christ is Lord of the dead and the living.  
I called to God: Lord, save my life!  
God has delivered my soul from death.  
Rejoice with me! The lost are found.  
There is joy in the presence of God.

**Opening Prayer**

Almighty God, you call your church to witness that in Christ we are reconciled to you. Help us so to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may turn to you; 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**

Let us confess our sins to God who forgives and saves. Let us pray.  
Gracious and loving God, you lived for us – we have not lived for you. You have forgiven us – we have not forgiven others. You have loved us – we have not loved ourselves nor have we loved one another. Take pity on us and forgive us, God. Help us to forgive. Help us to live for you. Help us to love through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Silent Confession**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

People of God, our sins are forgiven. God is merciful and gracious, and is Lord of us all. Reconciled to the God who loves us, let us live and love through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Prayer of Illumination**

Holy God, your Word is strong and leads our feet to your holy dwelling place. Strengthen and guide us with your Word through the power of your Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## **Scripture Reading**

Romans 14:1-12

## **Sermon**

## **Prayers of Intercession and The Lord's Prayer**

## **Invitation to the Offering/Affirmation of Faith**

## **Words of Invitation and Sending**

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

## **Romans 14:1-12**

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

## **Prayers For at Home this Week**

### **Morning Household Prayer:**

Gracious and loving God, thank you for this day. Strengthen my resolve to love and show mercy throughout the day. Lead my feet to your holy dwelling place, and guide the work I have to do for today. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

### **Evening Household Prayer:**

Merciful God, thank you for keeping me in the safety of your arms and for new mercies and the glory you showed through the day. Keep my family and I through the night. I thank and praise you! In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.