

**First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca, Michigan
Service for the Lord's Day – Proper 20**

September 20, 2020

10:30am

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Live in a way that is worthy of the gospel.

Stand firm in the Spirit, side by side.

The last are first in the realm of God;

the least are welcomed in Jesus' name.

The Lord raises the poor from the dust and lifts up the needy from the ashes.

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, you created the heavens and the earth, and humankind in your image. Teach us to discern your hand in all your works and to serve you with reverence and thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors. Gracious God, we have sought after things, but we have not sought after you. We have expected generosity, but we have not shown generosity. We have not been gracious or grateful. We have failed to remember all that you have done. Forgive us and fill our hearts with gratitude. Help us to share our gifts and strengthen our legs so that we can run after you, O God. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

People of God, our sins are forgiven; we are reconciled to God. Let us therefore love one another with gratitude in our hearts and praise on our lips. Amen.

Prayer of Illumination

Let the wisdom of your Word rain down on us like manna and feed us, that we may be strengthened to do the work to which we are called, for the glory and honor of your name. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Jonah 3:10-4:11

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.*

Jonah 3:10-4:11

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Prayers For at Home this Week

Morning Household Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for this day. Help me hear others as I know that you always hear me. Open my heart and help me give myself with grateful praise to things you have set for me today. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Evening Household Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for always being with me. Rest now in me, God, so that I will wake in the morning with praise and thanksgiving on my lips. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.