

First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca, Michigan
Service for the Lord's Day – Proper 22 – World Communion Sunday

October 4, 2020

10:30am

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

The Lord has delivered us from slavery; there is no other god but the Lord.
In Jesus Christ we know the glory of God;
he sustains all things by his mighty hand.
Keep watch for a word from the Lord. The righteous will live by their faith.

Opening Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Let us boldly confess our sin before the One who already knows our errors and is gracious to forgive our hidden faults. Let us pray.
God of compassion and mercy, we are your wounded and wounding children. We bring our wounded selves, our divided society, and our broken world, seeking your healing and transforming grace; it is easy for us to point the finger at others, yet we know that we all need your forgiveness; so we lift into your presence today, not only the victims of conflicts, but also those we have called enemies. Break down the walls of hatred, distrust and bitterness and open a way for us to reach one another in truth and love. Enable us to build a society where all can belong; to share our gifts in mutual respect and to seek for the new future which you offer us through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself. Jesus Christ is God with humankind. He is the eternal Son of the Father who became human and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation. He is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete his mission. Therefore, the church calls all people to be reconciled to God and to one another.

Prayer of Illumination

God who speaks, your law is perfect, reviving the soul; your commandment is clear, enlightening the eyes. May your Spirit illumine this Word that our eyes may be opened, and our souls revived. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Matthew 22:34-40

Sermon

Invitation to the Offering/Affirmation of Faith

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

Words of Invitation and Sending

**Please bring your offering to the plate at the front of the sanctuary, and take up your communion elements as you prepare to leave the sanctuary.*

We will commune together in the parking lot.

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Then God spoke all these words: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die." Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."

Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Prayers For at Home this Week

Morning Household Prayer:

Faithful God, you remain when others forsake. When I am tempted to abandon myself today, help me to stay present to this moment, that I may know and do your will. Through the Creator who enfolds me, Christ who defends me, and the Spirit who never abandons me. Amen.

Evening Household Prayer:

Mothering God, bring me back from today's distractions to the stillness of your presence, that I may rest in your enfolding arms. Amen.