

**First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca, Michigan  
Service for the Lord's Day – Proper 24**

**October 18, 2020**

**10:30am**

**Ringing of the Bell**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

Give thanks to God for the faith we share;  
be steadfast in hope through Jesus Christ.  
Those who love the Lord, God will deliver;  
when they call, God will answer them.  
Pray always, and do not lose heart.  
God will grant justice to the faithful.

**Opening Prayer**

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations. Preserve the works of your mercy, that your church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

**Prayer of Confession**

God does not regard us with partiality, but with the grace of Christ Jesus deals with each of us according to our need. With gratitude for this amazing grace, let us confess our sin.

What a debt we owe you, O God. You have give us all things in Christ and yet we withhold from you the honor and glory that are yours. Instead, we pay tribute to empire, plot to entrap the innocent, mock your truth with empty praise, and put your patience to the test. Forgive us, O God, and by your grace restore in us the image of your face; through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

**Silent Confession**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice! Let the sea roar with laughter, the fields shout in celebration, and the forests sing with joy: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

## **Prayer of Illumination**

Holy One, true and living God, through the message of the gospel and the power of your Spirit make us imitators of the Lord: Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

## **Scripture Reading**

Job 33:9-12; 36:6-15  
Hebrews 12:1-3, 28-29

## **Sermon**

“The Worst Year Ever”  
*first in a series, “The Worst Year Ever”*

## **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.*

### **Job 33:9-12; 36:6-15**

You say, 'I am clean, without transgression; I am pure, and there is no iniquity in me. Look, he finds occasions against me, he counts me as his enemy; he puts my feet in the stocks, and watches all my paths.' "But in this you are not right. I will answer you: God is greater than any mortal.

He does not keep the wicked alive, but gives the afflicted their right. He does not withdraw his eyes from the righteous, but with kings on the throne he sets them forever, and they are exalted. And if they are bound in fetters and caught in the cords of affliction, then he declares to them their work and their transgressions, that they are behaving arrogantly. He opens their ears to instruction, and commands that they return from iniquity. If they listen, and serve him, they complete their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasantness. But if they do not listen, they shall perish by the sword, and die without knowledge. "The godless in heart cherish anger; they do not cry for help when he binds them. They die in their youth, and their life ends in shame. He delivers the afflicted by their affliction, and opens their ear by adversity.

### **Hebrews 12:1-3, 28-29**

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

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

### **Morning Household Prayer:**

Lord God, giver of light and darkness, from the rising of the sun to its setting you have called me by name; there is no God besides you. Go before me and guide me this day; bless and keep me forever. Amen.

### **Evening Household Prayer:**

Lord God, giver of darkness and light, from the setting of the sun to its rising you have called me by name; there is no God besides you. Stay with me and guard me this night; bless and keep me forever. Amen.