

First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca, Michigan



Sunday, October 20, 2019
10:30am

Service for the Lord's Day
19th Sunday After Pentecost

October 20, 2019

10:30am

** indicates that the congregation may stand as they are able.
Bold text indicates where the congregation joins in unison.*

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude & Ringing of the Bell

Gathering Music

There is a Redeemer

pg. 8

The Lord is My Light

pg. 11

Welcome & Announcements

***Call to Worship** (responsive)

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.

***Hymn #466**

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Call to Confession

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; yet we are justified by the gift of God's grace through the redemption that is ours in Christ Jesus. Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.

Silent Confession

Sung Response

Rain Down

Rain down; rain down; rain down your love on your people.

Rain down; rain down; rain down your love, God of life.

Assurance of Pardon

If we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. Therefore, consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Gloria Patri**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.*

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Exchange words of peace and reconciliation with one another.

***Sung Response**

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Prayer of Illumination (unison)

**Overwhelm us with Your Spirit, O God, that the words we hear will
speak to our hearts as Your Word, made known to us in Christ the
Lord. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Romans 8:18-30

Sermon

Hope for the Unseen

Pastor Christina

Part 3 of a 4-Part Series, "Who Can Be Against Us?"

***Hymn #286**

Give to the Winds Thy Fears

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and glory, forever. Amen.

Sung Response

Bless the Lord, My Soul

sing twice

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

Morning Offering

Offertory

There is a River

Chancel Choir

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication (unison)

God of grace, it is our delight and our devotion to give these gifts to you. All we are and all we have are yours alone. Accept this joyful offering as a token of our abiding love: use it to bring peace, justice and comfort to all the world, Amen.

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME

***Affirmation of Faith**

**Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation;
in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible.
All things have been created through him and for him.
He himself is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.
He is head of the body, the church;
he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead,
so that he might come to have first place in everything.
For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen**

***Hymn #394**

There is a Balm in Gilead

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Today's Scripture Readings

Romans 8:18-30

I believe that the present suffering is nothing compared to the coming glory that is going to be revealed to us. The whole creation waits breathless with anticipation for the revelation of God's sons and daughters. Creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice—it was the choice of the one who subjected it—but in the hope that the creation itself will be set free from slavery to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of God's children. We know that the whole creation is groaning together and suffering labor pains up until now. And it's not only the creation. We ourselves who have the Spirit as the first crop of the harvest also groan inside as we wait to be adopted and for our bodies to be set free. We were saved in hope. If we see what we hope for, that isn't hope. Who hopes for what they already see? But if we hope for what we don't see, we wait for it with patience.

In the same way, the Spirit comes to help our weakness. We don't know what we should pray, but the Spirit himself pleads our case with unexpressed groans. The one who searches hearts knows how the Spirit thinks, because he pleads for the saints, consistent with God's will. We know that God works all things together for good for the ones who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose. We know this because God knew them in advance, and he decided in advance that they would be conformed to the image of his Son. That way his Son would be the first of many brothers and sisters. Those who God decided in advance would be conformed to his Son, he also called. Those whom he called, he also made righteous. Those whom he made righteous, he also glorified.

Prayer List:

Loving God, we lift the following in prayer to You. Hold these people and situations in Your hands, and in them, may Your will be done. Amen.

Concerns:

Jackie Hartsaw; Phyllis Schmidt and family, on the loss of her son; Karen Moore; Beth Brostrom; Stacy Bosley Mockridge; Hannah Harlow; Sharon Froom; Shelly's friend Beth; Reshawn Whetstone; Bonnie Smith; Garret Miniard; Lois Palmer; Al Bartholomew; The Rev. George Gillette; Brenda Bollman; Rhonda Handley; Geneva Foster; Soulemayne Galadi, serving in the Congo; Those who make decisions that affect others; Those living with mental illness; Our military and veterans; Our police, fire, and other emergency responders; Our country

Thanksgivings:

Miracles and healing mercies granted; An expected grand-baby in the church family this year; Our church family; The church office volunteers; New jobs and the opportunities that come with them; For birthdays and anniversaries; For those who help others in crisis; For the angels in our church family

Continuing Prayers:

John & Nancy Allen; Penny Arnold; Marian Bouchey; Randy Jenison; Christina Latoski & family; Barb Pharr; Rick & Mary Rimmel; Karen Rozen; Shelly & Jamie Sanders; Randy Smith; Shelley Zamarron & family

If you would like someone added to the prayer list and announced during the Prayers of the People, please contact the church office or speak to Pastor Christina.

Happening this Week:

- Women's Breakfast – Monday, 9:30am – Hearthstone Oven
- Men's Breakfast – Tuesday, 8:30am – Hearthstone Oven
- Pantry Board – Tuesday, 7:00pm – Fireplace Room
- Food Pantry – Wednesday, 9:30am – Food Pantry
- If You Want to Walk – Wednesday, 7:00pm – Fireplace Room
- Potato Bar – Saturday, 5:00pm – Ithaca High School

Service Volunteers – October 27, 2019:

- Penny Arnold, Liturgist
- Jim & Carolyn Gruesbeck, Greeters
- Karen Emery & Cynthia Smith, Ushers
- Rick Teal & Kathy Vanderbeek, Counters
- Pastor Christina, Coffee Hour

Last Week By the Numbers –October 13, 2019

Attendance: 44

Offering: \$3,170*

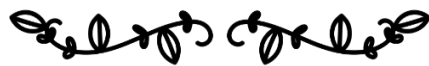
**Of that, \$145 was raised for the Peace and Global Witness Offering.*

2019 Potato Bar – October 26, 2019 @ Ithaca High School

Join us on October 26 from 5-7:30pm for our annual Potato Bar Fundraiser on Saturday, October 26. This free-will offering fundraiser is a benefit for the Ithaca Community Food Pantry. Questions? See Vickie Thum.

Mission Opportunity - Care and Comfort for Our Deployed Soldiers

The American Legion in our area has been supporting overseas troops for many years by sending care packages throughout the year. Last Christmas season 210 boxes were shipped totaling 1,995 pounds, including 1,596 cards, art from children and notes. The Mission & Fellowship Team sees this as another opportunity for our church members to share with and care for others. Throughout October we will collect items for our deployed soldiers and turn the collected items over to the American Legion to be sent overseas in time for Christmas. A list of needed items can be found near the church bulletin board and the collection container is located in the hallway outside the church office. Children's artwork, greeting cards, and written thank you notes are always welcome, and will find their way to our soldiers. If you are unable to shop for items but would still like to be a part of this project, we encourage you to write a note and/or make a monetary contribution to help with postage. (It costs about \$1.35 per pound to send packages to the soldiers.) If you have any questions, please see Ken Owen.



*The music printed in this bulletin is covered under CCLI #11388530.
Some of the prayers and responsive readings came from the Book of
Common Worship from the Office of the General Assembly.*

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To learn more about our congregation, visit our website:
www.ithacapres.org
and our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ithacapres

Leading Worship Today:

The Rev. Christina L. Jensen, Preacher
Vickie Thum, Liturgist
Bob Crist, Music Director
Brad & Vickie Thum, Greeter
Brad & Vickie Thum, Ushers
Rick Teal & Tom Heinlein, Counters

Staff:

The Rev. Christina L. Jensen, Pastor
Bob Crist, Music Director
Chris Shemes, Treasurer
Shelley Zamarron, Custodian



The First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca, Michigan, is a congregation of the Presbytery of Lake Huron of the Presbyterian Church (USA).