

**First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca, Michigan**  
**Service for the Lord's Day – Proper 25 – Reformation Sunday**

**October 25, 2020**

**10:30am**

**Ringing of the Bell**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

The Lord is our eternal dwelling place; from age to age, the Lord is our God.  
God has done great things for us; therefore we rejoice in the Lord.  
Be glad and rejoice in the Lord our God, who pours down grace in abundance.

**Opening Prayer**

Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts, Almighty God, to rule and direct us according to your will, to comfort us in all our temptations and afflictions, to defend us from all error, and lead us into all truth; that we, being steadfast in the faith, may increase in love and in all good works, and in the end obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ your Son, 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 speak the truth about ourselves to our neighbors and to God, acknowledging what we have done and what we have left undone. Let us confess our sin.

Your holiness, O God, commands that we confess: we have neither loved our neighbors as ourselves your beloved creation. We have judged unjustly, regarded others ungenerously, profited at the losses of those near and distant, borne grudges, desired vengeance, and kept silence in the face of wrongdoing. We long to live in accord with your desire that your way of compassion, kindness, and honesty will govern our hearts and minds, turning us toward lives of peace. Forgive us and lead us. Amen.

**Silent Confession**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

Beloved in Christ, the Holy One who promises forgiveness to those who seek the good hears our confession. As the crucified and risen child of God, our Redeemer fully knows our sorrow and our desire for reconciled relationships. We are forgiven. In that promise in the power to love our neighbors and ourselves as beloved of God who created all that exists. Amen.

## **Prayer of Illumination**

Come, Holy Spirit, in the Word of God, as the breath of life, amidst your people gathered here, into our hearts and minds. Stir us to know the happiness of life in your blessings. Amen.

## **Scripture Reading**

James 1:12-27

## **Sermon**

*“Ecclesia Reformata, Semper Reformanda”  
second 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.*

## **James 1:12-27**

Blessed is anyone who endures temptation. Such a one has stood the test and will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. No one, when tempted, should say, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one. But one is tempted by one's own desire, being lured and enticed by it; then, when that desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and that sin, when it is fully grown, gives birth to death. Do not be deceived, my beloved.

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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

### **Morning Household Prayer:**

This morning, as I rise, O God, I hear the sounds of your world awakening, and I give you thanks for another day. Bless your people this morning, at noon, in the afternoon, and in the evening with mercy and loving-kindness. Show us every hour the way to love each other. Help me to see in any conflicts how to grow in faith through the struggle for peace with my family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and strangers; in Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Evening Household Prayer:**

As I lie down to sleep tonight, O God, I give you thanks for this day so full of surprises and joys. My muscles and bones are weary, and I long for renewal and quiet. Because you are the One in whom I have complete rest, I lean into your arms at this hour. Guard and keep your servant so that through the night, I may grow strong. Wake me in the morning with resolve to love my neighbors and to love myself; in Jesus' name. Amen.