

**First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca, Michigan
Service for the Lord's Day – Proper 27**

November 8, 2020

10:30am

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Choose this day whom you will serve.

We will serve and obey the Lord our God.

The Lord watches over strangers; God upholds those who are in need.

Stand firm and hold fast to your faith.

God will strengthen us in word and deed.

Opening Prayer

O God, your blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of evil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life. Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus and his righteousness. Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin that we might find forgiveness and new life in Christ.

Holy and gracious God, you are all light and wonder and glory. You are our strength and our delight; you give us all we need to live. Yet we are distracted by all that glitters, continually grasping for more. Rather than trust your provision, we chase after our own happiness. Forgive us, Lord, and turn us back to you. Overwhelm us with your goodness and cover us with grace, for we know that you are the source of life, the fount of all that is good. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news: Nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Believe the gospel! We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Prayer of Illumination

Lord, to whom should we go? You have the words of eternal life. By the power of your Holy Spirit, speak to us of your promises that we might hear your truth and enjoy you forever; in Jesus' name. Amen

Scripture Reading

Romans 12

Sermon

"The Picture on the Box"

first in a series, "Piece of the Puzzle: Stewardship 2020"

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.*

Romans 12

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Prayers For at Home this Week

Morning Household Prayer:

Creator of all, I awake to the day you have made with praise on my lips, for your Spirit gives me breath. May I live this day for the sake of Jesus, the light of the world, the apple of my eye, my beginning and end. Amen.

Evening Household Prayer:

Creator of all, you make the night for peace in rest. In the moon and stars we see the reflection of your eternal light, so whether we live or whether we die, we know that we belong to you. Keep watch over those who work through the night; give peace to those who cannot sleep. Let me surrender all anxiety and fear to your loving embrace, that I may awake to serve you with joy. Amen.