

**First Presbyterian Church
of Ithaca, Michigan**



**Sunday, February 3, 2019
10:30am**

Service for the Lord's Day
4th Sunday After Epiphany

February 3, 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 *I Could Sing of Your Love Forever*

***Over the mountains and the sea, your river runs with love for me,
And I will open up my heart and let the Healer set me free.
I'm happy to be in the truth, and I will daily lift my hands,
For I will always sing of when your love came down.***

***I could sing of your love forever, I could sing of your love forever.
I could sing of your love forever, I could sing of your love forever.
(repeat all)***

***Oh, I feel like dancing, it's foolishness I know;
But when the world has seen the light,
They will dance with joy like we're dancing now.***

***I could sing of your love forever, I could sing of your love forever.
I could sing of your love forever, I could sing of your love forever.***

When I Look Into Your Holiness

*When I look into your holiness,
when I gaze into your loveliness,
When all things that surround become
shadows in the light of you.*

*When I've found the joy of reaching your heart,
When my will becomes enthralled in your love,
When all things that surround become
shadows in the light of you.*

*I worship you, I worship you.
The reason I live is to worship you.
I worship you, I worship you.
The reason I live is to worship you.*

Welcome & Announcements

*Call to Worship (responsive)

For God so loved the world;

The sparrows, the mountain lions, the fish and the people.

For God so loved the world;

**In success and failure, in sickness and health,
in mediocrity and extraordinary.**

For God so loved the world;

**Enough to become one of us,
enough to suffer along with us,
enough to offer new life for us.**

For God so loved the world;

Let us worship God!

*Opening Prayer (unison)

Gracious God, we come to you this day, seeking your guidance and strength. You have called us to ministries for which we feel inadequate. Help us to understand that it is your love that will support and sustain our efforts. Give us the courage to place our trust in your abiding presence. We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

*Hymn #376 (blue)

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

Call to Confession

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of great expectations, you know how easy it is for us to make excuses for inactivity. We love to run and hide when a task is set before us. We look at the expectation and think that we don't have the abilities, strength, or wisdom to accomplish this task. We think, too often, that we are doing these things all by ourselves. And we feel sorry for ourselves and angry that you expect so much from us. Forgive our ignorance, our stubbornness, and our stupidity, O Lord. Help us to understand that the opportunities for service that you offer to us also come with your abiding presence, love and support. It is your love which makes the impossible possible. Turn us around and place us back on the path of joyful service. Let our work be part of the fulfillment of the mandate of Jesus Christ when he made his proclamation in the synagogue so long ago. For it is in His Name that we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

Sung Response *Think About His Love*

*Think about his love, think about his goodness,
Thing about his grace that's brought us through.
For as high as the heavens above,
So great is the measure of our Father's love.
Great is the measure of our Father's love.*

Assurance of Pardon

Even before we were born, God knew us. God has always been with us. Place your trust in God's presence and forgiving love. Rejoice! In the name of Jesus Christ, we all are forgiven! 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)

Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from Your mouth. Make us hungry for this heavenly food, that it may nourish us today in the ways of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen.

Scripture Reading

John 3:16-21

Sermon

"God So Loved the World"

Pastor Christina

First in a series, "All You Need is LOVE!"

***Hymn #604 (red)**

To God Be the Glory

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

Morning Offering

***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.

GOD'S WORD IS SEALED IN US

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayers of the People

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing...

... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your Glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.*

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ....

...as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here...

...Through your son, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:
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 the glory, forever. Amen.

***Sharing the Bread and Cup (Come Forward/Intinction)**

Prayer After Communion (unison)

In gratitude, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to You. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME

Hymn #510 (blue) *Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Today's Reading - John 3:16-21

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life. God didn't send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him isn't judged; whoever doesn't believe in him is already judged, because they don't believe in the name of God's only Son. "This is the basis for judgment: The light came into the world, and people loved darkness more than the light, for their actions are evil. All who do wicked things hate the light and don't come to the light for fear that their actions will be exposed to the light. Whoever does the truth comes to the light so that it can be seen that their actions were done in God."

Happening this Week:

- Women's Breakfast – Monday, 9:00am – Hearthstone Oven
- Tabitha Circle – Tuesday, 7:00pm – Downstairs Lounge
- Food Pantry – Wednesday, 9:30am – Food Pantry

Next Week's Volunteers – February 10, 2019:

- Jamie Sanders, Lay Leader
- Carolyn & Jim Gruesbeck, Greeters
- Chuck & Karen Emery, Ushers
- Pastor Christina, Coffee Hour
- Kathy Vanderbeek & Dale Nester, Counters

Tabitha Circle Schedule

Tabitha Circle will meet at 7:00pm on Tuesday, February 5, in the downstairs Lounge. In order to stay on schedule, please read pages 71-109 on your own. We will do a quick summary of these pages as a group. Our lesson for February 5 will cover pages 111-146 with Carolyn G. as our discussion leader. Everyone is welcome - if you have questions, see Joy Heinlein.

The music printed in this bulletin is covered under CCLI #11388530.

Some of the prayers and responsive readings came from
www.ministrymatters.com.

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:

Bob Crist; Penny Arnold, recovering from surgery; Jan Felton; Ilona Bertsch; The Rev. George Gillette; Karen, Kathy Vanderbeek's sister; Mackenzie Brown; Susie Page; Bonnie Smith; Barb Pharr; Vickie Losey; Jim Kench; Pat MacDonald; Peggy Ronk; Brenda Bollman; Rhonda Handley; Karen Rozen; Randy Jenison; Geneva Foster; Sandy Parr's sister Barb Elliot; 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:

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:

Geneva Alasadi & family; John & Nancy Allen; Penny Arnold; Marian Bouchey; Lou Dellinger; Art Faustmann; Christina Latoski & family; Karen Rozen; Shelly & Jamie Sanders; Randy Smith, David Thum; 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.

All You Need is LOVE!

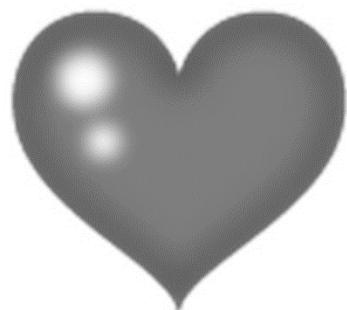
February 2019 Sermon Series

February 3:
God So Loved the World (John 3:16-21)

February 10:
God is Love! (1 John 4:7-21)

February 17:
Love is Patient and Kind (1 Cor. 13:1-13)

February 24:
Love is Giving (Luke 6:27-36)



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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, Pastor
Rick Teal, Lay Leader
Lisa Yoder, Guest Musician
Phil & Cheri Booth, Greeters
Phil & Cheri Booth, Ushers
Dale Nester & Joy Heinlein, Communion Servers
Cheri Booth & 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).