

First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca, Michigan



**Sunday, March 17, 2019
10:30am**

**Service for the Lord's Day
2nd Sunday in Lent**

March 17, 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

Welcome & Announcements

***Call to Worship (responsive)**

Wait for the Lord; be strong!

The promises of God will never be broken.

With God as our light, what is there to fear?

The promises of God will never be broken.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

The promises of God will never be broken.

***Opening Prayer (unison)**

Almighty God, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: Give us faith to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***Hymn #87 (blue)**

The Glory of These Forty Days

Call to Confession

The proof of God's amazing love is this: while we were sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in Christ, we dare to approach God with confidence. Let us admit our sins before God.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Do not cast us away from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.

Silent Confession

Sung Response

The First Song of Isaiah

Surely, it is God who saves me;

I will trust in him and not be afraid.

***For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,
and he will be my Savior.***

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.

***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**

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.***

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.

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 27

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh —
my adversaries and foes — they shall stumble and fall.**

Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:

to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,

to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will set me high on a rock.

**Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!
“Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!” Your face, LORD, do I seek.
Do not hide your face from me.

Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help.
Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

If my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will take me up.

Teach me your way, O LORD,
and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

**Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,
for false witnesses have risen against me,
and they are breathing out violence.**

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living.

**Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the LORD!**

Anthem

Beneath the Cross

arr. Forrest

Chancel Choir

Scripture Reading

John 1:1-14

Sermon

*“Don’t Give Up the Neighborhood”
Second in a Series, “Don’t Give Up”*

Pastor Christina

***Hymn (insert)**

The Gift of Your Spirit

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 the glory, forever. Amen.

Sung Response

In His Time

***In His time, in His time; he makes all things beautiful in His time.
Lord, please show me every day as you're teaching me your way,
that you do just what you say in your time.***

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.

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME

***Affirmation of Faith**

from St. Patrick's Breastplate

**I arise today through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,
through belief in the Threeness, through confession of the Oneness
of the Creator of creation.**

**Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my
left, Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ when I
arise, Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me, Christ in
the mouth of everyone who speaks of me, Christ in every eye that
sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me.**

**I arise today through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,
through belief in the Threeness, through confession of the Oneness
of the Creator of creation.**

***Hymn #294 (red)**

When Asked, Who is My Neighbor?

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Today's Reading

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The Word was with God in the beginning. Everything came into being through the Word, and without the Word nothing came into being. What came into being through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.

A man named John was sent from God. He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe in the light. He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to testify concerning the light.

The true light that shines on all people was coming into the world. The light was in the world, and the world came into being through the light, but the world didn't recognize the light. The light came to his own people, and his own people didn't welcome him. But those who did welcome him, those who believed in his name, he authorized to become God's children, born not from blood nor from human desire or passion, but born from God. The Word became flesh and made his home among us. We have seen his glory, glory like that of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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:

Shelly & Jamie Sanders, on the loss of Shelly's mom Jewel; Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302; Randy Jenison's Aunt Janet; Brenda Helman; Al Bartholomew; Tina Castillo and her mom, Gayle; Jan Felton; Ilona Bertsch; The Rev. George Gillette; Karen, Kathy Vanderbeek's sister; Mackenzie Brown; Susie Page; Bonnie Smith; Barb Pharr; Pat MacDonald; Brenda Bollman; Rhonda Handley; Karen Rozen; Randy Jenison; 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

Those Recovering from Surgery:

Penny Arnold; Cecille Bowen; Bill Brostrom; Bob Crist; Peggy Ronk

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; 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.

Happening this Week:

- Women's Breakfast – Monday, 9:00am – Hearthstone Oven
- Finance Team – Tuesday, 6:00pm – Fireplace Room
- Session – Tuesday, 7:00pm – Fireplace Room
- Food Pantry – Wednesday, 9:30am – Food Pantry
- Midweek Lent Supper – Wednesday, 6:00pm – Fireplace Room
- Midweek Lent Service – Wednesday, 7:00pm – Sanctuary
- Pantry Volunteer Meeting – Saturday, 3:00pm – Fireplace Room

Next Week's Volunteers – March 24, 2019:

- Penny Arnold, Liturgist
- Chuck & Karen Emery, Greeters
- Chuck & Karen Emery, Ushers
- Barbara Coursey, Coffee Hour



Save the Date: Festival of Church Music - March 17 at 3:00pm

Where: Alma First Church of God.

What: Concert by local church musicians: organists, pianists, choirs, ensembles, soloists.

Why: A fundraiser for Love in the Name of Christ (Love INC) in Gratiot County! Free will offerings will be received.

Goal: To gather the congregations of partner churches to celebrate the work being done by Love, INC of Gratiot County!



*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.*



40 Days of Remembering Lent 2019

Ash Wednesday - March 6

Supper - 6:00p

Service - 7:00p

Midweek Services

March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10

Supper - 6:00p

Service - 7:00p

Lent Sermon Series:

"Don't Give Up..."

3/10: Your Voice

3/17: Your Neighborhood

3/24: Being Church

3/31: People

4/7: Love

4/14: He Didn't Give Up

Maundy Thursday

April 17 - 6:30p

Supper and Service

First Presbyterian

Good Friday Services

April 18

First Presbyterian - 12:00p

Community @ UMC - 6:30p

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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
Vickie Thum, Liturgist
Bob Crist, Music Director
Brad & Vickie Thum, Greeters
Cynthia Smith & Joy Heinlein, Ushers

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).