

**First Presbyterian Church
of Ithaca, Michigan**



**Wednesday, March 20, 2019
7:00pm**

Midweek Lenten Service
2nd Wednesday in Lent

March 20, 2019

7:00pm

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

Prelude

Call to Worship

Psalm 5

Give ear to my words, O LORD;
give heed to my sighing.

**Listen to the sound of my cry,
my King and my God,
for to you I pray.**

O LORD, in the morning you hear my voice;
in the morning I plead my case to you, and watch.

**For you are not a God who delights in wickedness;
evil will not sojourn with you.**

The boastful will not stand before your eyes;
you hate all evildoers.

**You destroy those who speak lies;
the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful.**

But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love,
will enter your house,

I will bow down toward your holy temple in awe of you.

**Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness
because of my enemies; make your way straight before me.**

For there is no truth in their mouths; their hearts are destruction;
their throats are open graves; they flatter with their tongues.

**Make them bear their guilt, O God;
let them fall by their own counsels;
because of their many transgressions cast them out,
for they have rebelled against you.**

But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy.
Spread your protection over them,
so that those who love your name may exult in you.

**For you bless the righteous, O LORD;
you cover them with favor as with a shield.**

***Opening Prayer**

Creator God, you have formed us as your own, so whether we are weeping or laughing, hungry or well-fed, dreaming or shouting for joy, we are always coming home to you. For all this and more, we thank you in Jesus' name. Amen.

***Hymn #454** (red), vs. 1-2

Beams of Heaven

Invitation to Confession

Trusting the grace promised to us in Jesus Christ, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have strayed from your ways. We have seized our independence, forgetting your provision. You gave us the earth for our home, but we squander earth's resources and hoard its bounty. You gave us neighbors to love, but we pursue selfish ambitions. You gave us the commandments that lead to human flourishing, but we break your law and forsake your love. Forgive us our sins and bring us to repentance. Draw our wandering hearts back to you that we may find freedom in obedience to your love. Through Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Sisters and brothers, our disgrace has been rolled away, like the stone from Christ's tomb. God offers forgiveness of our sins and the grace of repentance. Thanks be to our gracious God, we are forgiven. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Philippians 1:12-26

Meditation

Pastor Christina

Silence for Reflection

Prayers of Intercession

We thank you, O God:
you are making all things new.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

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 of the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion

Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal realm. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Hymn #454 (red), vs. 3**

Beams of Heaven

Closing Blessing

Let us depart in silence, into the mystery of Lent.

This Evening's Scripture Reading

Philippians 1:12-26

Brothers and sisters, I want you to know that the things that have happened to me have actually advanced the gospel. The whole Praetorian Guard and everyone else knows that I'm in prison for Christ. Most of the brothers and sisters have had more confidence through the Lord to speak the word boldly and bravely because of my jail time. Some certainly preach Christ with jealous and competitive motives, but others preach with good motives. They are motivated by love, because they know that I'm put here to give a defense of the gospel; the others preach Christ because of their selfish ambition. They are insincere, hoping to cause me more pain while I'm in prison.

What do I think about this? Just this: since Christ is proclaimed in every possible way, whether from dishonest or true motives, I'm glad and I'll continue to be glad. I'm glad because I know that this will result in my release through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ. It is my expectation and hope that I won't be put to shame in anything. Rather, I hope with daring courage that Christ's greatness will be seen in my body, now as always, whether I live or die. Because for me, living serves Christ and dying is even better. If I continue to live in this world, I get results from my work. But I don't know what I prefer. I'm torn between the two because I want to leave this life and be with Christ, which is far better. However, it's more important for me to stay in this world for your sake. I'm sure of this: I will stay alive and remain with all of you to help your progress and the joy of your faith, and to increase your pride in Christ Jesus through my presence when I visit you again.

First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca
218 E. Newark St., Ithaca, Michigan 48847
989-875-4437 info@ithacapres.org

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
Bob Crist, Music Director

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).