

**First Presbyterian Church  
of Ithaca, Michigan**



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

**Midweek Lenten Service**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:info@ithacapres.org)

To learn more about our congregation, visit our website:  
[www.ithacapres.org](http://www.ithacapres.org)  
and our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/ithacapres](http://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).