

# **First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca, Michigan**



**Sunday, March 24, 2019  
10:30am**

# Service for the Lord's Day

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

March 24 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)**

Through the gift of the Holy Spirit,

**God's love is poured into our hearts.**

The law of the Lord revives the soul;

**The word of God makes the simple wise.**

Let all who thirst come to the waters;

**Let all who are hungry come and eat.**

**\*Opening Prayer (unison)**

**Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, that we may become instruments of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**\*Hymn #387 (blue)**

*Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

## **Call to Confession**

As children of God's light, we are called to do what is pleasing to the Lord: to participate in what is good and right and true, and to expose what is unfruitful and evil. God does not punish our sin with trials but desires our genuine contrition. And so, we bring our confession to God, so that what is hidden in us becomes visible, and the shadows of our hearts may be illumined by grace.

## **Prayer of Confession (unison)**

**Healing God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace. You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still, in our foolishness, we go astray. We hide our eyes from your presence. We do not listen to your word. We are lifeless when we ought to dance and speechless when we ought to sing. Forgive us, O Lord. Speak peace to our fearful hearts, strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees as we seek to follow in your holy way. Amen.**

## **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**

Now return to the Lord with joy and gladness. Sing a song of redemption. Let sorrow and sighing be no more. In 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 63:1-8

O God, you are my God, I seek you,  
my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you,  
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

**So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,  
beholding your power and glory.**

Because your steadfast love is better than life,  
my lips will praise you.

**So I will bless you as long as I live;**

**I will lift up my hands and call on your name.**



## **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**

**This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen.**

**\*Hymn #84 (blue)**      *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

## **Today's Reading**

### **Romans 5:1-11**

Therefore, since we have been made righteous through his faithfulness, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. We have access by faith into this grace in which we stand through him, and we boast in the hope of God's glory. But not only that! We even take pride in our problems, because we know that trouble produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope. This hope doesn't put us to shame, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

While we were still weak, at the right moment, Christ died for ungodly people. It isn't often that someone will die for a righteous person, though maybe someone might dare to die for a good person. But God shows his love for us, because while we were still sinners Christ died for us. So, now that we have been made righteous by his blood, we can be even more certain that we will be saved from God's wrath through him. If we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son while we were still enemies, now that we have been reconciled, how much more certain is it that we will be saved by his life? And not only that: we even take pride in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, the one through whom we now have a restored relationship with God.

**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:**

The Family of Virginia Williams, who died on March 11; Ann Gabrion Hull; Barb Elliott; Jim Elliott, having back surgery on April 10; 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; the people of Nebraska and Iowa; the people of Christchurch, New Zealand

**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:**

- Men's Breakfast – Tuesday, 8:30am – Hearthstone Oven
- Pantry Board – Tuesday, 7:00pm – Downstairs Lounge
- Food Pantry – Wednesday, 9:30am – Food Pantry
- Midweek Lent Supper – Wednesday, 6:00pm – Fireplace Room
- Midweek Lent Service – Wednesday, 7:00pm – Sanctuary

## **Next Week's Volunteers – March 31, 2019:**

- Rick Teal, Liturgist
- Joy Heinlein & \_\_\_\_\_, Greeters
- Rick Teal & Joy Heinlein, Ushers
- \_\_\_\_\_, Coffee Hour

## **A Quilted Communion Cloth to Celebrate our Sesquicentennial**

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of our congregation, we would like to create an "Old Rugged Cross" quilted communion table cloth. To make this a reflection of our congregation, we would like each member to check their "rag bag" or the back of their closet for a piece of discarded cloth. This could be a piece of clothing or curtain - just know that it will be cut to be included in the quilt. Color and size do not matter - every color is accepted, and every piece can be made to fit. There is a wicker hamper in the fireplace room, near the fireplace, to receive your donation. We would like to collect all donations by July 31, 2019, so that we will have time to weave and complete the quilt by our 150th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service, on February 16, 2020. We are especially looking for pieces of cloth to commemorate pillars of our church who are no longer with us. If you have something that you are willing to part with, we would greatly appreciate your donation in their memory. When you place your donation in the basket, it would be helpful if you would please write the names of the donors on the clipboard near the basket. If you have any questions, please see Sandy Parr.



*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.*



**Dinner:**

- Baked Potato Bar  
(with all of the fixings)
- Dessert
- Drinks

**Entertainment:**

- Members of the  
Midstatesmen Chorus
- Mr. Bob Crist
- Raffle drawing

Join us for a  
**Baked Potato Benefit Dinner**  
in support of  
**Jamie & Shelly Sanders**

**Saturday, April 6, 2019**  
**4:30pm - 7:30pm**  
**Ithaca High School**

Come support Jamie & Shelly Sanders.  
Both Jamie & Shelly are battling serious  
health problems, and the medical bills  
that come with their diagnoses.

**A Free-Will Offering will be collected.**

For more information, contact Aaron at 517-243-0973

**First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca**  
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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  
Penny Arnold, Liturgist  
Bob Crist, Music Director  
Chuck & Karen Emery, Greeters  
Chuck & Karen Emery, 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).