

**First Presbyterian Church  
of Ithaca, Michigan**



**Wednesday, March 27, 2019  
7:00pm**

Midweek Lenten Service  
4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in Lent

March 27, 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 91

You who live in the shelter of the Most High,  
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,  
will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress;  
my God, in whom I trust."

**For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler  
and from the deadly pestilence;  
he will cover you with his pinions,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.**

You will not fear the terror of the night,  
or the arrow that flies by day,  
or the pestilence that stalks in darkness,  
or the destruction that wastes at noonday.

**A thousand may fall at your side,  
ten thousand at your right hand,  
but it will not come near you.**

**You will only look with your eyes  
and see the punishment of the wicked.**

Because you have made the Lord your refuge,  
the Most High your dwelling place,  
no evil shall befall you,  
no scourge come near your tent.

**For he will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways.  
On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.  
You will tread on the lion and the adder,  
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.  
Those who love me, I will deliver;  
I will protect those who know my name.  
When they call to me, I will answer them;  
I will be with them in trouble,  
I will rescue them and honor them.  
With long life I will satisfy them,  
and show them my salvation.**

### **Opening Prayer**

**God Most High, thank you for your signs of power and grace, shown to us even in the wilderness. Give us courage to stand firm in your word in every time of trial and testing, that we may enter the land of your freedom and receive the salvation you so generously give; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*Hymn #383 (blue), vs. 1-2**

*My Faith Loos Up to Thee*

### **Invitation to Confession**

God is faithful, leading us into freedom, but we are conditioned to the slavery of sin. Comfortable with the way things are, we lose sight of the way God intends them to be. We bring our confession before the One who is more powerful than Pharaoh in Egypt, mightier than the devil in the wilderness.

## **Prayer of Confession**

**God, our refuge and fortress, forgive us when we fail to trust in you. We fall to temptation we are swayed by false words; we speak false words of our own. We choose our ease and comfort over your demanding claims upon us and upon the world. In turning from you, we settle for less than the abundant generosity you intend. Forgive us, we pray. Do not let us be put to shame, O God. Hear us as we call to you and show us your salvation. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.**

## **Silent Confession**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

The Lord is generous to all who call on God's name. Friends, believe the good news: God does not turn away from us, but desires to bring us into the glorious freedom offered in Jesus Christ. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Thanks be to God!

## **Scripture Reading**

Philippians 1:27-2:18

## **Meditation**

Pastor Christina

## **Silence for Reflection**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

## **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 #383** (blue), vs. 3-4

*My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

## **Closing Blessing**

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

## **This Evening's Scripture Reading**

### **Philippians 1:27-2:18**

Most important, live together in a manner worthy of Christ's gospel. Do this, whether I come and see you or I'm absent and hear about you. Do this so that you stand firm, united in one spirit and mind as you struggle together to remain faithful to the gospel. That way, you won't be afraid of anything your enemies do. Your faithfulness and courage are a sign of their coming destruction and your salvation, which is from God. God has generously granted you the privilege, not only of believing in Christ but also of suffering for Christ's sake. You are having the same struggle that you saw me face and now hear that I'm still facing. Therefore, if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort in love, any sharing in the Spirit, any sympathy, complete my joy by thinking the same way, having the same love, being united, and agreeing with each other. Don't do anything for selfish purposes, but with humility think of others as better than yourselves. Instead of each person watching out for their own good, watch out for what is better for others. Adopt the attitude that was in Christ Jesus: Though he was in the form of God, he did not consider being equal with God something to exploit. But he emptied himself by taking the form of a slave and by becoming like human beings. When he found himself in the form of a human, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God highly honored him and gave him a name above all names, so that at the name of Jesus everyone in heaven, on earth, and under the earth might bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my loved ones, just as you always obey me, not just when I am present but now even more while I am away, carry out your own salvation with fear and trembling. God is the one who enables you both to want and to actually live out his good purposes. Do everything without grumbling and arguing so that you may be blameless and pure, innocent children of God surrounded by people who are crooked and corrupt. Among these people you shine like stars in the world because you hold on to the word of life. This will allow me to say on the day of Christ that I haven't run for nothing or worked for nothing. But even if I am poured out like a drink offering upon the altar of service for your faith, I am glad. I'm glad with all of you. You should be glad about this in the same way. Be glad with me!

**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).