

First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca, Michigan



**Sunday, March 31, 2019
10:30am**

**Service for the Lord's Day
4th Sunday in Lent**

March 31 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)**

Live as children of the light.

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

The Lord of life is lifted up!

Let us look to Christ and live.

In Christ there is a new creation.

The old has passed away; everything is new!

***Opening Prayer (unison)**

Gracious God, in order that the children of earth might discern good from evil, you sent your Son to be the light of the world. As Christ shines upon us, may we learn what pleases you, and live in all truth and goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***Hymn #140 (red)**

I Want Jesus to Walk With Me

Call to Confession

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. Trusting in the Spirit of God, let us confess our sins.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

O Lord, if you held our sin against us, who could live, who could stand? We seem to have more faith in death than hope in your promise of life. We seek peace through war and find security in weapons. We abandon the hungry, sick, and dying, and pursue wealth by making others poor. And even so, you love us; still there is forgiveness with you! Therefore we worship you; for you alone, O Lord, can save us from death and redeem us from our sin. 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

O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! If Jesus Christ dwells in you, the Spirit of God will be your life, and the grace of God will be your righteousness. And if the Holy Spirit dwells in you, then God, who raised Jesus from the dead, will also give life to your mortal bodies. Friends, this is the good news of the gospel: 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 32

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

**Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

**For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

**Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.**

You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

**I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**

Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.

**Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.
Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.**

Anthem

Surely the Presence of the Lord
Chancel Choir

arr. Mercer

Scripture Reading

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Sermon

"Don't Give Up People"
Fourth in a Series, "Don't Give Up"

Pastor Christina

***Hymn #388 (blue)**

O Jesus, I Have Promised

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**

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

***Hymn #358 (blue)** *Help Us Accept Each Other*

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Today's Reading

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

So then, from this point on we won't recognize people by human standards. Even though we used to know Christ by human standards, that isn't how we know him now. So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, and look, new things have arrived!

All of these new things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and who gave us the ministry of reconciliation. In other words, God was reconciling the world to himself through Christ, by not counting people's sins against them. He has trusted us with this message of reconciliation.

So we are ambassadors who represent Christ. God is negotiating with you through us. We beg you as Christ's representatives, "Be reconciled to God!" God caused the one who didn't know sin to be sin for our sake so that through him we could become the righteousness of 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:

Fred and Diana (Page) Grasley, on the unexpected death of Fred's son, Jeff; The family of Virginia Williams, who died on March 11; Ann Gabrion Hull; Al Bartholomew; Tina Castillo and her mom, Gayle; Jan Felton; The Rev. George Gillette; Mackenzie Brown; Susie Page; Bonnie Smith; Pat MacDonald; Brenda Bollman; Rhonda Handley; 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; 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; Randy Jenison; Christina Latoski & family; Barb Pharr; 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
- Tabitha Circle – 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
- Sanders Benefit – Saturday, 4:30pm – Ithaca High School

Next Week's Volunteers – April 7, 2019:

- Vickie Thum, Liturgist
- Cheri & Phil Booth, Greeters
- Cheri & Phil Booth, Ushers
- Sandy Parr & Joy Heinlein, Communion Servers
- Tom Heinlein & Kathy Vanderbeek, Counters
- Potluck, Coffee Hour

If You Volunteered to Make Cake for Saturday...

...this is your friendly reminder that you can drop off your cake any time after 10am at the high school. Thank you for your help in making the Sanders Benefit a success!

Last Week by the Numbers – March 24, 2019

Worship Attendance: 42

Offering Total: \$2,045

Thank you for your support!



*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
and our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ithacapres

Leading Worship Today:

The Rev. Christina L. Jensen, Pastor
Rick Teal, Liturgist
Bob Crist, Music Director
Joy Heinlein & Cheri Booth, Greeters
Rick Teal & Joy Heinlein, Ushers
Tom Heinlein & Rick Teal, Counters
Ken & Nola Owen, Coffee Hour

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).