

**First Presbyterian Church  
of Ithaca, Michigan**



**Wednesday, April 10, 2019  
7:00pm**

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

April 10, 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 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.**

The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel. **The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.

**As a father has compassion for his children,  
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.**

**For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust.** As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.

**But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.**

The Lord has established his throne in the heavens,  
and his kingdom rules over all.

**Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, obedient to his spoken word. Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his ministers that do his will. Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul.**

### **Opening Prayer**

**Surprising God, in the resurrection of Jesus Christ you make all things new. Long ago you called your church to love beyond all social and cultural differences and gave them the gift of your Holy Spirit to open their hearts to enact such love. Give us that same spirit of openness, that we too might discern new directions in our day for your dream to reconcile and heal all creation. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**\*Hymn #223 (blue), vs. 1-3**

*O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer*

### **Invitation to Confession**

Trusting in the love of God to make all things new, let us confess our sin to God and our neighbor.

## **Prayer of Confession**

**God of mercy, your command to love one another across all differences opens us to new horizons, yet we often respond with fear and judgment that hinders your goal for humanity. Forgive our sins, we pray, and give us a true repentance that leads to life for all creation. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## **Silent Confession**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

God's promises are trustworthy and true; our sins are forgiven. Be at peace to serve the Lord, and may we always be known by our love. Amen.

## **Scripture Reading**

Philippians 4

## **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 #223 (blue), vs. 4-6**

*O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer*

## **Closing Blessing**

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

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

### **Philippians 4**

Therefore, my brothers and sisters whom I love and miss, who are my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord. Loved ones, I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to come to an agreement in the Lord. Yes, and I'm also asking you, loyal friend, to help these women who have struggled together with me in the ministry of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my coworkers whose names are in the scroll of life. Be glad in the Lord always! Again I say, be glad! Let your gentleness show in your treatment of all people. The Lord is near. Don't be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks. Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus. From now on, brothers and sisters, if anything is excellent and if anything is admirable, focus your thoughts on these things: all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of praise. Practice these things: whatever you learned, received, heard, or saw in us. The God of peace will be with you. I was very glad in the Lord because now at last you have shown concern for me again. (Of course you were always concerned but had no way to show it.) I'm not saying this because I need anything, for I have learned how to be content in any circumstance. I know the experience of being in need and of having more than enough; I have learned the secret to being content in any and every circumstance, whether full or hungry or whether having plenty or being poor. I can endure all these things through the power of the one who gives me strength. Still, you have done well to share my distress. You Philippians know from the time of my first mission work in Macedonia how no church shared in supporting my ministry except you. You sent contributions repeatedly to take care of my needs even while I was in Thessalonica. I'm not hoping for a gift, but I am hoping for a profit that accumulates in your account. I now have plenty and it is more than enough. I am full to overflowing because I received the gifts that you sent from Epaphroditus. Those gifts give off a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice that pleases God. My God will meet your every need out of his riches in the glory that is found in Christ Jesus. Let glory be given to God our Father forever and always. Amen. Greet all God's people in Christ Jesus. The brothers and sisters with me send you their greeting. All God's people here, especially those in Caesar's household, send you their greeting. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirits.

**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).