

**First Presbyterian Church
of Ithaca, Michigan**



**Wednesday, April 3, 2019
7:00pm**

Midweek Lenten Service
5th Wednesday in Lent

April 3, 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 31

In you, O Lord, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me. Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.

You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me, take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge. Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

You hate those who pay regard to worthless idols, but I trust in the Lord. I will exult and rejoice in your steadfast love, because you have seen my affliction; you have taken heed of my adversities, and have not delivered me into the hand of the enemy; you have set my feet in a broad place.

Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress; my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also. For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away.

I am the scorn of all my adversaries, a horror to my neighbors, an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me. I have passed out of mind like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel. For I hear the whispering of many—terror all around!—as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.

But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, “You are my God.” My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors. Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

Do not let me be put to shame, O Lord, for I call on you; let the wicked be put to shame; let them go dumbfounded to Sheol. Let the lying lips be stilled that speak insolently against the righteous with pride and contempt.

O how abundant is your goodness that you have laid up for those who fear you, and accomplished for those who take refuge in you, in the sight of everyone! In the shelter of your presence you hide them from human plots; you hold them safe under your shelter from contentious tongues.

Blessed be the Lord, for he has wondrously shown his steadfast love to me when I was beset as a city under siege. I had said in my alarm, “I am driven far from your sight.” But you heard my supplications when I cried out to you for help.

Love the Lord, all you his saints. The Lord preserves the faithful, but abundantly repays the one who acts haughtily. Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord.

Opening Prayer

God of Righteousness, you see the secret acts of our devotion and know the hidden motives of our hearts. Make our religion genuine, that our hearts and minds confirm the words we speak and the disciplines we practice. Confirm in us a spirit of humility that, without regard to earthly honor, we may live as your faithful children in the way of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Invitation to Confession

The prophet Joel cried out: Return to the Lord with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. With hearts broken open before God, let us confess our sins and repents of all unrighteousness.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have been a rebellious people. We have failed to be an obedient church, failed to love the needy as our neighbors. We use religion to cover our shame, fasting in selfishness, not sacrifice, clothing ourselves in self-righteousness, not repentance. We have become a mockery of our heritage; the world looks at us and asks, where is their God? Forgive us, O God. Humble our rebellious hearts and restore us in the light of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

The Lord receives your contrition and offers you comfort. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Thanks be to our God, we are forgiven. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Philippians 2:19-30

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

Deep in the Shadows of the Past

Closing Blessing

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

This Evening's Scripture Reading

Philippians 2:19-30

I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to see you soon so that I may be encouraged by hearing about you. I have no one like him. He is a person who genuinely cares about your well-being. All the others put their own business ahead of Jesus Christ's business. You know his character, how he labors with me for the gospel like a son works with his father. So he is the one that I hope to send as soon as I find out how things turn out here for me. I trust in the Lord that I also will visit you soon.

I think it is also necessary to send Epaphroditus to you. He is my brother, coworker, and fellow soldier; and he is your representative who serves my needs. He misses you all, and he was upset because you heard he was sick. In fact, he was so sick that he nearly died. But God had mercy on him—and not just on him but also on me, because his death would have caused me great sorrow. Therefore, I am sending him immediately so that when you see him again you can be glad and I won't worry. So welcome him in the Lord with great joy and show great respect for people like him. He risked his life and almost died for the work of Christ, and he did this to make up for the help you couldn't give me.

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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
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).