

# THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ISELIN

*Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ*

Minister: Rev. Chris Houtz

Liturgist: Elder Betsy Christensen

We request that you silence all electronic devices **before** service begins.

*\*Please rise in body or spirit.*

Sunday, November 21, 2021

10:30 A.M.



## PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR THE PROMISE

**PRELUDE**

**Alaine Bolton, Director of Music**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Elder Betsy Christensen, Liturgist**

**CHORAL INTROIT**

**Make a Joyful Noise**

**\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)**

**Elder Betsy Christensen, Liturgist**

Grace to you and peace from the one who is and who was and who is to come.

**And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of earth.**

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.

**The whole earth is full of God's glory.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY (in Unison)**

**Elder Betsy Christensen, Liturgist**

**Eternal God, you sent Jesus Christ to rule over all things, and made us servants in your kingdom. By your Spirit empower us to love the unloved, and to minister to all in need. Then at the last bring us to your eternal realm where we may worship and adore you and be welcomed into your everlasting joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

**\* HYMN #305**

**Come Sing, O Church, In Joy!**

**LITANY FOR THE REIGN OF CHRIST**

**Rev. Chris Houtz**

Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice!

**Christ will reign forever and ever.**

The Lord is robed in majesty and girded in strength.

**Christ will reign forever and ever.**

God has established the world, and God's realm will never be shaken.

**Christ will reign forever and ever.**

God will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

**Christ will reign forever and ever.**

The kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our Lord.

**Christ will reign forever and ever.**

Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Savior, you pour out your power for the powerless and your salvation for the lost. Remember us in your new creation, so that we may live in peace with you in the presence of the Holy Spirit, to whom be all honor and glory, through you, in the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

**INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

**Elder Betsy Christensen, Liturgist**

In Christ God came to reconcile all things, making peace through the blood of the cross.

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)**

**Elder Betsy Christensen, Liturgist**

**Righteous God, you have crowned Jesus Christ as Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him and are slow to acknowledge his rule. We give allegiance to the powers of this world and fail to be governed by justice and love. In your mercy, forgive us. Raise us to acclaim him as ruler of all, that we may be loyal ambassadors, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Merciful God, hear now our own personal confessions that we lift up to you in silence.

## **PERSONAL CONFESSION**

**Rev. Chris Houtz**

In the strong name of Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**Rev. Chris Houtz**

God has reduced us from the power of evil and claimed us for the realm of Jesus Christ, in whom we have redemption. Hear the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God.**

## **\* THE RESPONSE #14            For the Beauty of the Earth (vs. 1)**

### **\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*(Please pass the peace with friends and loved ones)*

## **CHILDREN'S TIME**

**Rev. Chris Houtz**

### **ANTHEM**

**Baptism Song** (*Makenna Crites & Sean Matta*)

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Sovereign God, let your Word rule in our hearts and your Spirit govern our lives until at last we see the fulfillment of your realm of justice and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **Revelation 1:4b-8**

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,<sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood,<sup>6</sup> and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>7</sup> Look! He is coming with the clouds;  
every eye will see him,  
even those who pierced him;  
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

<sup>8</sup> "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

**John 18:33-37**

<sup>33</sup> Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" <sup>35</sup> Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" <sup>36</sup> Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." <sup>37</sup> Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

**THE MESSAGE**

**To Whom Do You Belong?**

**Rev. Chris Houtz**

**\*HYMN #482**

**Baptized in Water**

## **SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM**

### **PRESENTATION**

*Minister:*

Hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ:

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Hear also these words from holy scripture:

*Clerk of Session:*

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling,

*Congregation:*

**One Lord, one Faith, one baptism, on God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.**

*Minister:*

Obedying the word of our Lord Jesus, and confident of his promises, we baptize those whom God has called. In baptism God claims us, and seals us to show that we belong to God. God frees us from sin and death, uniting us with Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection.

By water and the Holy Spirit, we are made members of the church, the body of Christ, and joined to Christ's ministry of love, peace, and justice.

Let us remember with joy our own baptism, as we celebrate this sacrament.

*Clerk of Session:*

On behalf of the session, I present Jordana Nicole Doodnauth, child of Jeremy and Theresa Doodnauth, to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

*Minister:*

Do you desire that Jordana be baptized?

*Parents:*

**We do.**

*Minister:*

Relying on God's grace, do you promise to live the Christian faith, and to teach that faith to your child?

*Parents:*

**We do.**

*Minister to sponsors:*

Bernadette, Jared, Paul, and Naomi, will you, by your prayers and witness, help Jordana to grow into the full stature of Christ?

*Sponsors:*

**We will.**

*Minister to the congregation:*

Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Jordana by word and deed, with love and prayer?

*Congregation:*

**We do.**

*Minister:*

Will you encourage her to know and follow Christ and to be faithful members of her church?

*Congregation:*

**We will.**

*Minister to the children in the congregation:*

Today, we celebrate that Jordana is becoming part of our church family. We are all God's children. These questions are for the children of the church.

Will you help Jordana remember that God loves her and we love her?

*Children:*

**We will.**

*Minister:*

Will you share the stories of Jesus with Jordana?

*Children:*

**We will.**

## **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

*Minister:*

Through the Sacrament of Baptism we enter the covenant God established in Jesus Christ. Within this covenant God gives us new life, strengthens us to resist evil, and nurtures us in love. Through this covenant, we choose whom we will serve, by turning from evil and turning to Jesus Christ.

*Minister to Parents:*

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

*Parents:*

**We do.**

*Minister:*

Who is your Lord and Savior?

*Parents:*

**Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.**

*Minister:*

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?

*Parents:*

**We will, with God's help.**

*Minister to congregation:*

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

Do you believe in God the Father?

*Congregation:*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

*Minister:*

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

*Congregation:*

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose**

**again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

*Minister:*

Do you believe in God the Spirit?

*Congregation:*

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, Eternal God, for you nourish and sustain all living things by the gift of water. In the beginning of time, your Spirit moved over the watery chaos, calling forth order and life. In the time of Noah, you destroyed evil by the waters of the flood, giving righteousness a new beginning. You led Israel out of slavery, through the waters of the sea, into the freedom of the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus was baptized by John and anointed with your Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection, Christ set us free from sin and death, and opened the way to eternal life. We thank you, O God, for the water of baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. From it we are raised to share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Send your Spirit to move over this water that it may be a fountain of deliverance and rebirth. Wash away the sin of all who are cleansed by it. Raise them to new life, and graft them to the body of Christ. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon Jordana, that she may have power to do your will, and continue forever in the risen life of Christ. To you be all praise, honor, and glory; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns forever. Amen.

## **THE BAPTISM**

*Minister:*

Jeremy and Theresa, how do you name your child?

Jordana Nicole, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

## LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANOINTING

*Minister:*

O Lord, uphold Jordana by your Holy Spirit. Give her the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen.

Jordana, child of the covenant, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism, and marked as Christ's own forever. Amen.

God who began a good work in you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## WELCOME

*Clerk of Session:*

Jordana, you have been received into the one holy catholic and apostolic church through Baptism.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, you have become a member of the household of God, to share with us in the ministry of Christ and the priesthood of all believers.

With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into the body of Christ.

*Congregation:*

**Alleluia! Amen!**

*Clerk of Session:*

Live as a child of the light and let your light shine before others.

*Congregation:*

**Amen.**

*Minister:*

The peace of Christ be with you.

*Congregation:*

**And also with you.**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE 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.**

#### **THE OFFERING**

With grateful hearts, let us bring our tithes and offerings to the God from whom they came.

#### **\*THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE #609**

**Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow**

#### **\*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison)**

**Holy God, the psalmist declares that in your realm, all the poor are satisfied with bread. Plant that promise firmly in our hearts, that we might be agents of your covenant love. Use these gifts, shape our desire, until hunger is no more. We pray by the power of his name. Amen.**

#### **\*HYMN #774**

**There is Now a New Creation**

#### **BENEDICTION**

#### **CHORAL BENEDICTION**

**Clap Your Hands (2x)**

#### **THE POSTLUDE**

## *Friendly Reminders!*

**Office Closed 11/25 & 11/26** in observance of Thanksgiving.

**The Board of Deacons' Ministry of Compassion** is asking for donations of whole chickens or turkeys to include in our holiday food baskets. Also needed is canned sweet potatoes, boxed stuffing mixes, cranberry sauce, canned vegetables, pasta and canned broth. Please leave all donations in the church kitchen labeled for food pantry.

Thank you everyone for your generous donations.  
Your Ministry of Compassion

**Update from Rev. Chris:** There will be no Wednesday Bible Study on 11/24. The Advent Study will begin on 12/2.

**If you have any news you'd like everyone to know,** connect with Elder Betsy Christensen by this coming Monday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> so that she can include it in the Dec/Jan newsletter.

**Advent Fellowships will be held in Fellowship Hall Wednesdays,** 12/1, 12/8, 12/15, and 12/22 beginning at 6:30 pm. There will be fellowship, dessert, and advent lesson led by Rev. Chris.

## *Regular Activities*

Church Office open Monday-Friday, 9am to 1 pm

Prayer Shawl Ministry - Tuesdays at 12 noon

Rev. Chris' Congregational Call - Every Thursday at 11 am

Men's Breakfast - 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month at 8 am.  
CLEF Ladies' Breakfast - 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month at 9 am

Sunday Bible Study - 9:00 am

Session meeting every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month

Choir practice: 1<sup>st</sup> and last Sunday of the Month at 9:30 am

Divine Worship: In sanctuary and on Facebook Livestream  
Sundays at 10:30 am

Per Capita Apportionment for 2021 is \$40.45

