

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ISELIN

Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ

Minister: Rev. Chris Houtz

Liturgist: Andrea Harrison

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

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

Sunday, March 14, 2021

10:30 A.M.

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR THE PROMISE

PRELUDE

Alaine Bolton, Director of Music

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder Andrea Harrison, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT #433 (refrain only)

433 Sign Us with Ashes

Capo 3: (G) (D) (Em) (Bm) (Am7)
Refrain B^b F Gm Dm Cm7
All

Sign us with ash - es, mer - ci - ful God, chil - dren of
dust, as to dust we re - turn. Sign us with ash - es,
mer - ci - ful God. Mark us and make us your own.

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

Elder Andrea Harrison, Liturgist

Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;
God's steadfast love endures forever!

***PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)**

Elder Andrea Harrison, Liturgist

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.

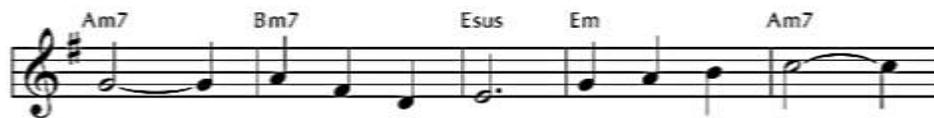
*** HYMN #314**

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness 314

Christ, Be Our Light



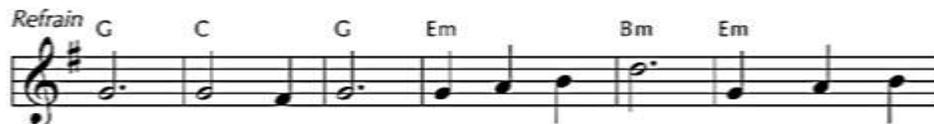
1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
4 Long-ing for shel-ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Elder Andrea Harrison, Liturgist

This is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, for people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. Let us uncover our sin before the liberating light of Christ.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Elder Andrea Harrison, Liturgist

Merciful God, we confess the folly of our sin and the hypocrisy of our complaints. We grumble about the evils in the world, even as we commit injustices and profit through deceit. We fret about the scarcity of resources while hoarding earth's goods and cheating the poor. We protest the problems of our world, but we do not actively work to address them. Merciful God, expose our sins before the light of your grace. Heal our sin and free us from our foolish ways that we might know the joy of eternal life in 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

Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

* THE RESPONSE #614

Great Are You, Lord

614

Great Is the Lord

Great are you, Lord: you are ho-ly and just; by your pow-er we trust in your
love. Great are you, Lord: you are faith-ful and true; by your
mer - cy you prove you are love. Great are you, Lord, and
wor - thy of glo - ry! Great are you, Lord, and wor - thy of praise.
Great are you, Lord. We lift up our voice; we lift up our voice:
great are you, Lord! Great are you, Lord!

The musical score is written in 8/8 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of six staves of music. The first five staves are vocal lines with lyrics underneath. The sixth staff is a piano accompaniment line. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: C, Dm, G, C, F, G, F, C, C, Dm, G, C, F, G, F, C, Bb, F, C, Bb, G, C, Bb, D, G, E, Am, Dm, G, Am, Am/G, Dm, G, C.

***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, either by calling, texting, or honking if you are outside!)

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Chris Houtz

ANTHEM

Come and Kneel at the Cross (*Price & Besig*)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty God, by the power of the Holy Spirit, open your Word and illumine our darkened world, that we may see clearly and live faithfully by the light of your truth in Jesus Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Ephesians 2:1-10

2 You were dead through the trespasses and sins ² in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³ All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵ even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹ not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

John 3:14-21

¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For all who do evil

hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

THE MESSAGE

Grace, Faith, and Eternal Life

Rev. Chris Houtz

*HYMN #610

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing 610

1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my
2 The name of Je - sus charms our fears, and
3 Christ speaks, and lis - tening to his voice new
4 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as -
5 To God all glo - ry, praise, and love be

dear Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my
bids our sor - rows cease, sings mu - sic in the
life the dead re - ceive; the mourn - ful wak - en
sist me to pro - claim, to spread through all the
now and ev - er given by saints be - low and

God and King, the tri - umphs of God's grace!
sin - ner's ears, brings life, and health, and peace.
to re - joice; the poor in heart be - lieve.
earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.
saints a - bove, the church in earth and heaven.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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.

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 #652 A Grateful Heart (vs. 1)

A Grateful Heart (Psalm 111)

652

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are as follows:

1 A grate - ful heart is what I bring, a song of
2 Your name is known in all the lands. You feed the
3 With sav - ing love you set us free, and still you
praise, my of - fer - ing. A - mong the saints I
poor with gen - tle hands. Your word is true, your
dwell in mys - ter - y with wis - dom none can
lift my voice: in you, O God, I will re - joice.
works are just; in you, O God, the faith - ful trust.
com - pre - hend. Your praise, O God, will nev - er end.

*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison)

Merciful God, we thank you for your wonderful works among humankind. Accept this offering with the dedication of our lives and help us be for the world an emblem of your steadfast love, in Jesus Christ. Amen.

*HYMN #634

634 To God Be the Glory

1 To God be the glo - ry; great things he has done!
2 Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,

So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
and great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son;

who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin,
but pur - er and high - er and great - er will be

and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

ADORATION

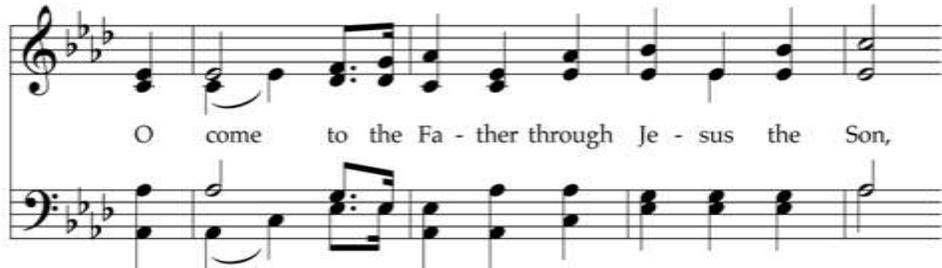
Refrain



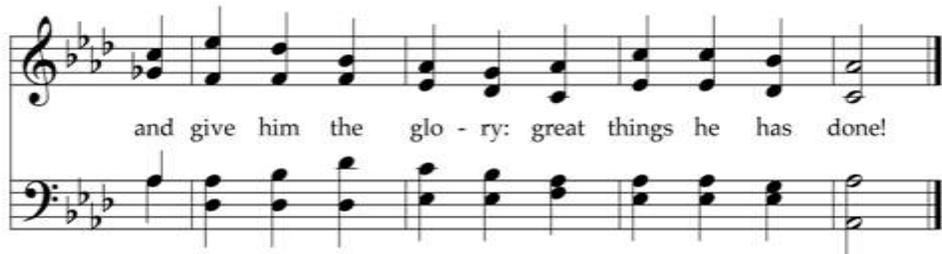
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!



Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!



O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,



and give him the glory: great things he has done!

THE BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

(vs. 1)

Lamb of God

1 Peter 1:18-19
Communion/Agnus Dei

Words and Music by
Twila Paris

Fmaj7/G C Fmaj7/G C

1. Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide,
2. Your gift of love, they cru - ci - fied,
3. I was so lost, I should have died,

G/B Am Fmaj7 Gsus G C/E

But you have sent him from your side, To walk up -
They laughed and scorned him as he died. The hum - ble
But you have brought me to your side, To be led

F C/G Am Fmaj7 C/E Fmaj7 G7 C

on this guilt - y sod, And to be called the Lamb of God.
King they named a fraud And sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.
by your staff and rod, And to be called a lamb of God.

Refrain
C/E F G/F C/E C

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the

Am(add2) Fmaj7 Gsus G C/E F G

ho - ly Lamb of God! O wash me in his pre - cious

Am Fmaj7 C/E Fmaj7 G7 C^{1,2} F/C C

blood, My Je - sus Christ the Lamb of God.

THE POSTLUDE