

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ISELIN

Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ

Minister: Rev. Chris Houtz

Liturgist:

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

****Please rise in body or spirit.***

Sunday, April 11, 2021

10:30 A.M.

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR THE PROMISE

PRELUDE

Alaine Bolton, Director of Music

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT He Is Lord 9 (same as last week) 2x
He is Lord, He is Lord, He is risen from the dead and He is Lord;
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. (2x)

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

Liturgist

Peace be with you.

How good and pleasant it is when we live together in unity.

Receive the Holy Spirit.

It is like precious oil on the head, the blessing of the Lord.

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

Liturgist

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*** HYMN #238 Thine is the Glory**

Thine Is the Glory

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con- quering Son; end - less is
 2 Lo! Je - sus meets us, ris - en from the tomb; lov - ing - ly
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life! Life is naught

the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won. An - gels in bright rai - ment
 he greets us, scat - ters fear and gloom. Let the church with glad - ness
 with - out thee; aid us in our strife. Make us more than con - querors

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

Refrain

where thy bod - y lay.
 death hath lost its sting. Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con - quering
 to thy home a - bove.



INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Liturgist

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Liturgist

You have shown yourself to us, O God, by Word and Spirit, with signs and wonders, in flesh and blood, yet we still struggle to live and believe the good news of Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us; forgive us. Enter into our lives and cast out our fear so that we may come to trust in you and have life in Jesus' life.

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

We have an advocate with God—Jesus Christ, the righteous one—who offered his life in love to save the world from sin. This is the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

*** THE RESPONSE #581 Glory Be to the Father**

Glory Be to the Father

581

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the
Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -
gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,
world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a repeat sign (8) in the piano part.

*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

We Have Seen the Risen Lord *(Stan Pethel)*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of all who doubt and believe, by the gift of your Spirit enable us to hear with our ears, to see with our eyes, and to touch with our hands your Word of life—Jesus Christ—our Lord and our God. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 4:32-35

³² Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³ With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴ There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵ They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

1 John 1:1-2:2

1 We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ² this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— ³ we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ We are writing these things so that our^[a] joy may be complete.

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷ but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

2 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ² and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

THE MESSAGE

The Experience of Faith

Rev. Chris Houtz

***HYMN #817 We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight**

817 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
4 And when our life of faith is done, in

gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
may our faith a - bound to call on you when
realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you

none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
we re - jice and cry, "My Lord and God!"
you are near and seek where you are found.
as you are, with full and end - less sight.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

*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 #717 (vs. 1)

717 For the Life That You Have Given

For the life that you have giv - en, for the love in
Christ made known, with these fruits of time and la - bor, with these
gifts that are your own: here we of - fer, Lord, our prais - es;
heart and mind and strength we bring; give us grace to
love and serve you, liv - ing what we pray and sing.

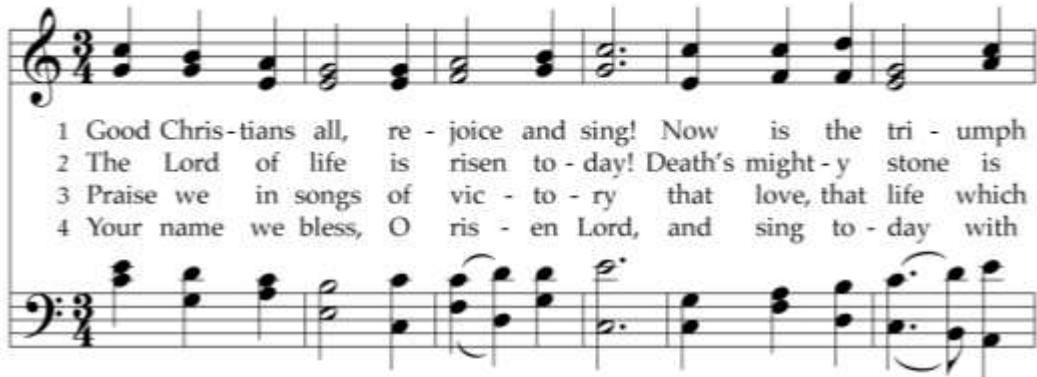
The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of six systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are placed between the vocal and piano lines. The score concludes with a double bar line.

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

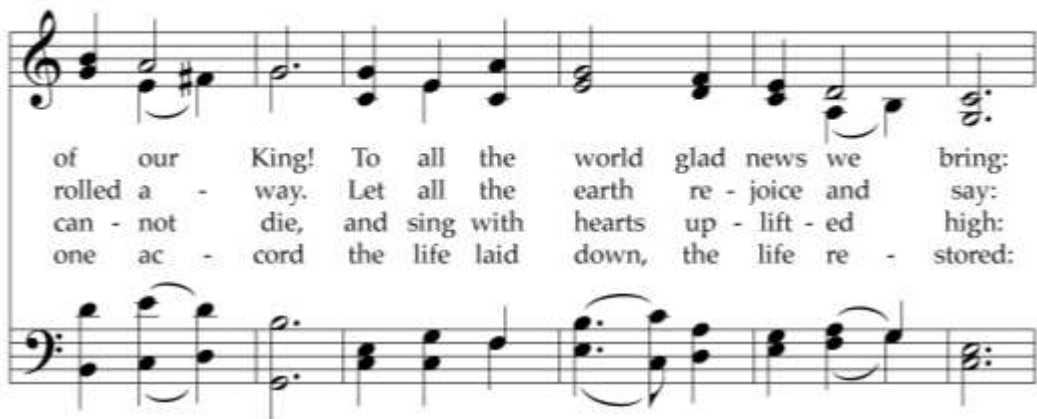
Holy God, we give you thanks and praise for light and life and love, and—above all—the presence of the living Lord among us. By your Spirit who breathes within us, strengthen our faith, use our gifts, and work in our lives to bear witness to the resurrection of Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

***HYMN #239**

Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing! 239



1 Good Chris-tians all, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph
2 The Lord of life is risen to - day! Death's might - y stone is
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which
4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with



of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:
rolled a - way. Let all the earth re - joice and say:
can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
one ac - cord the life laid down, the life re - stored:



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

THE BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION Lord I lift Your Name on High (2x)

Lord I lift Your name on high
Lord I love to sing Your praises
I'm so glad You're in my life
I'm so glad You came to save us

You came from heaven to earth to show the way
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky
Lord I lift Your name on high

THE POSTLUDE

Friendly Reminders

Sanctuary Open for Quiet Prayer and Contemplation
Monday through Thursdays 9 am to 1 pm
(Please call at 732.283.1188 before you come)

Prayer Shawl Ministry
Tuesdays at 2 pm

Thursday Congregational Call
Every Tuesday at 11 am

Sunday Bible Study
9:00 am

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