

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ISELIN

Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ

Minister: Rev. Chris Houtz

Liturgist: Rose Anne Anthony

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

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

Sunday, April 18, 2021

10:30 A.M.

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR THE PROMISE

PRELUDE

Alaine Bolton, Director of Music

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rose Anne Anthony, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

He is Lord (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.

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

Rose Anne Anthony, Liturgist

The bread of life opens our eyes.

His word of life opens our ears.

The risen one shows us God's own brokenness.

And by those wounds we are healed.

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

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

Rose Anne Anthony, Liturgist

Almighty God, through your only Son you overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life. Grant that we who celebrate our Lord's resurrection, may, through the renewing power of your Spirit, arise from the death of sin to the life of righteousness; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*** HYMN #251**

Christ Has Risen, Alleluia

251 Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

1 Christ has a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia. Re - jice and
 2 For three long days the grave did its worst un - til its
 3 The an - gel said to them, "Do not fear. You look for
 4 "Go spread the news: he's not in the grave. He has a -
 5 Christ has a - ris - en to set us free. Al - le - lu -

praise him, al - le - lu - ia. For our re - deem - er
 strength by God was dis - persed. He who gives life did
 Je - sus who is not here. See for your - selves the
 ris - en this world to save. Je - sus' re - deem - ing
 ia, to him prais - es be. Je - sus is liv - ing!

burst from the tomb, e - ven from death, dis - pel - ling its gloom.
 death un - der - go, and in its con - quest his might did show.
 tomb is all bare. On - ly the grave clothes are ly - ing there."
 la - bors are done. E - ven the bat - tle with sin is won."
 Let us all sing; he reigns tri - um - phant, heav - en - ly King.

Refrain

Let us sing praise to him with end-less joy. Death's fear-ful
 sting he has come to de-stroy. Our sin for-giv-ing,
 al-le-lu-ia! Je-sus is liv-ing, al-le-lu-ia!

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Rose Anne Anthony, Liturgist

The One who calls us to repent, hears us. In trust that our Creator knows us through and through, let us open our hearts to the healing of God's forgiveness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Rose Anne Anthony, Liturgist

Good and gracious God, we are creatures of dust, ignorant of your revelation, misunderstanding your life, death, and resurrection among us, needing forgiveness. We repent of our failure to give as you have given to us. We beg your mercy for our fallen world. We seek your Word, that we may live with the faith of Jesus. Be our solace in their life and always. We ask this as your own children, holy and incomplete. Forgive us and lead us.

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

In the name of God, the Holy Trinity, your plea for absolution has been heard. God's promises are sure: our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Glory Be to the Father

581

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the

The first line of musical notation for the song. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 4/4 time and B-flat major. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the".

Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -

The second line of musical notation. The lyrics are: "Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -".

gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,

The third line of musical notation. The lyrics are: "gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,".

world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

The fourth line of musical notation. The lyrics are: "world with - out end. A - men, a - men.".

***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!)

ANTHEM

Take My Life and Let it Be (*arr. Howlett*)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, by your Spirit reveal your radical, surprising love; come to us through your holy word, and let us hear what you are saying. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 3:12-19

¹² When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴ But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵ and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶ And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷ “And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸ In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹ Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.

Luke 24:36b-48

³⁶ Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.

THE MESSAGE

We Are Witnesses

Rev. Chris Houtz

***HYMN #839**

Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine

839 Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

1 Bless - ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! O what a
2 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light, vi - sions of
3 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest; I in my

fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion,
rap - ture now burst on my sight; an - gels de - scend - ing,
Sav - ior am hap - py and blest, watch - ing and wait - ing,

pur - chase of God, born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.
bring from a - bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.
look - ing a - bove, filled with his good - ness, lost in his love.

Refrain

This is my sto - ry; this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior

all the day long; this is my sto - ry; this is my
 song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

***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**

For the Life That You Have Given

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 bass line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison)

Lord God, we offer to you only a portion of what you have given us. All that we have is from your creative hand. All that we can give away we do through Jesus' love. All our renewal comes from the Holy Spirit's wisdom. Deal graciously with these gifts so that others may have joy; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Go to the World!

295

1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.
2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - ery place.
3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;
4 Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,

Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,
Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.
the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.
for I am with you till the age shall end,

bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.
Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.
As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.
when all the hosts of glo - ry cry "A - men!"

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

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 Thursday at 11 am

Sunday Bible Study
9:00 am

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