

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ISELIN

Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ

Minister: Rev. Chris Houtz

Liturgist: Elder Andrea Harrison

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

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

Sunday, April 25, 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

He is Lord (sung 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)**

Elder Andrea Harrison, Liturgist

The Lord is our shepherd, we shall not want.

He makes us lie down in green pastures and restores our soul.

Even though we walk through the darkest valley, we fear no evil.

You are with us, your rod and staff comfort us.

You prepare a table for us and anoint our heads with oil.

Goodness and mercy shall follow us, and we shall dwell in the house of the Lord.

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

Elder Andrea Harrison, Liturgist

Almighty God, you sent Jesus, our good shepherd, to gather us together. May we not

wander from his flock, but follow wherever he leads us, listening for his voice and

staying near him, until we are safely in your fold, to live with you forever; through

Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one

God, now and forever. Amen.

*** HYMN #394**

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation 394



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and
 2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
 3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from
 4 Laud and hon - or to the Fa - ther, laud and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
 hosts, and stay; come, with all your lov - ing - kind - ness;
 you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er
 to the Son, laud and hon - or to the Spir - it,



bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
 hear your peo - ple as we pray, and your full - est
 with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
 ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and



help for - ev - er, and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.
 in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
 one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Elder Andrea Harrison, Liturgist

If we are honest with ourselves, our hearts condemn us. But God, who knows everything, is greater than our hearts; and God's deep desire for us is mercy, love, and peace. Therefore let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Elder Andrea Harrison, Liturgist

Lord, have mercy on us. We talk about love, but our actions betray us. We talk about love, but we neglect the poor. We talk about love, but we fail to love one another. Lord, have mercy on us. Forgive us, and abide in us by the power of your Spirit so that our lives may show our love for Jesus Christ, in whose body we live and in whose name we pray.

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 seek God's grace with boldness because we trust in Jesus Christ, the One who loves us and laid down his life for us. 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 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

Good Shepherd (*Mercy Hill Worship*)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord God, good shepherd, by the leading of your Spirit, help us to listen for your voice and follow in your paths all the days of our lives; in Jesus' name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 4:5-12

⁵ The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶ with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷ When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹ if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰ let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹ This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' ¹² There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

John 10:11-18

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

THE MESSAGE

One Shepherd, One Flock

Rev. Chris Houtz

802 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

(Psalm 23)

1 The King of love my shep-herd is, whose good - ness
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow my ran - somed
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear

fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
soul he lead - eth, and where the ver - dant
love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
Lord, be - side me; thy rod and staff my

I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
com - fort still, thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and O what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

***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 (v. 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 PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison)**

Gracious God, we give you thanks that you have shown us the meaning of love through Jesus Christ, who gave his life for us.

***HYMN #541**

God Be With You Till We Meet Again

God Be with You Till We Meet Again 541

Unison *Harmony*

1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; lov - ing coun - sels
 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; un - seen wings pro -
 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils
 4 God be with you till we meet a - gain; keep love's ban - ner

guide, up - hold you, with a shep - herd's care en - fold you:
 tect - ing hide you, dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you:
 thick con - found you, put un - fail - ing arms a - round you:
 float - ing o'er you; smite death's threat - ening wave be - fore you:

Unison

God be with you till we meet a - gain.

THE BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High (2x—don't forget your egg shakers!)

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

Church Office will open Monday-Friday from 9 am to 1 pm
Starting Monday, May 3, 2021

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