

# 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, May 23, 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 (2x)

### As We Gather in This Place

Gathering

Words and music by  
Kevin Boyd

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "As we gath-er in this place We have come to seek your face. May our lives re- flect your grace As we gath-er in this place." The score includes several measures of rests and is accompanied by guitar chords: D, Dmaj7, Em, A, D, F#m, Bm, Bm/A, Em, A, G, D.

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

Rose Anne Anthony, Liturgist

Remember the promise of the Lord:

**God will pour out the Spirit on all flesh.**

The Spirit helps us in our weakness,

**Interceding with sighs too deep for words.**

The Spirit of God renews the earth.

**Bless the name of the Lord!**

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

Rose Anne Anthony, Liturgist

God our creator, earth has many languages, but your gospel proclaims your love to all nations in one heavenly tongue. Make us messengers of the good news that, through the power of your Spirit, all the world may unite in one song of praise; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

\* HYMN #41

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

# 41 O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of six systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines. The first system includes five numbered verses. The second system continues the lyrics. The third system continues the lyrics. The fourth system continues the lyrics. The fifth system continues the lyrics. The sixth system continues the lyrics.

1 O wor - ship the King, all glo - rious a - bove!  
2 O tell of God's might; O sing of God's grace,  
3 The earth with its store of won - ders un - told,  
4 Your boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?  
5 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,

O grate - ful - ly sing God's power and God's love:  
whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space,  
Al - might - y, your power has found - ed of old;  
It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;  
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;

our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,  
whose char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form;  
es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,  
it streams from the hills; it de - scends to the plain,  
your mer - cies, how ten - der, how firm to the end,

pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.  
and bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.  
and round it has cast, like a man - tle, the sea.  
and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.  
our Mak - er, De - fend - er, Re - deem - er, and Friend.

## **LITANY FOR PENTECOST**

**Rev. Chris Houtz**

Holy Spirit, Creator, in the beginning you moved over the waters. From your breath all creation drew life. Without you, life turns to dust.

**Come, Holy Spirit!**

Holy Spirit, Counselor, by your inspiration, the prophets spoke and acted in faith. You clothed them in power to be bearers of your Word.

**Come, Holy Spirit!**

Holy Spirit, Power, you came as fire to Jesus' disciples; you gave them voice before the rulers of this world.

**Come, Holy Spirit!**

Holy Spirit, Sanctifier, you created us children of God; you make us the living temple of your presence; you intercede within us with sighs too deep for words.

**Come, Holy Spirit!**

Holy Spirit, Giver of life, you guide and make holy the church you create; you give gifts—The spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and fortitude, the spirit of knowledge and piety, the spirit of the fear of the Lord, that the whole creation may be transformed.

**Come, Holy Spirit!**

True and only Light, from whom comes every good gift: Send your Spirit into our lives with the power of a mighty wind. Open the horizons of our minds by the flame of your wisdom. Loosen our tongues to show your praise, for only in your Spirit can we voice your words of peace and acclaim Jesus as Lord.

**Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

**Rose Anne Anthony, Liturgist**

Jesus says: Let anyone who is thirsty come to me. Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)**

**Rose Anne Anthony, Liturgist**

**Almighty God, you poured your Spirit upon gathered disciples creating bold tongues, open ears, and a new community of faith. We confess that we hold back the force of your Spirit among us. We do not listen for your word of grace, speak the good news of your love, or live as people made one in Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Transform our timid lives by the power of your Spirit, and fill us with a flaming desire to be your faithful people, doing your will for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

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

Through Christ, God has poured out the Holy Spirit upon us for the forgiveness of sins. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

## \* THE RESPONSE #288

GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

### Spirit of the Living God 288

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

## \*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****Spirit Song** (*sung by The Maranatha! Singers*)**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION****Rose Anne Anthony, Liturgist**

God of power and grace, fill us with the wisdom of your word and the understanding of by our Spirit so that we may be your church: a people with dreams and visions at work in all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS****Acts 2:1-21**

**2** When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. **2** And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. **3** Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. **4** All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

**5** Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. **6** And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. **7** Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" **8** And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? **9** Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, **10** Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, **11** Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." **12** All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" **13** But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

**14** But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. **15** Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. **16** No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

**17** 'In the last days it will be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions,  
and your old men shall dream dreams.

**18** Even upon my slaves, both men and women,  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;  
and they shall prophesy.

**19** And I will show portents in the heaven above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

**20** The sun shall be turned to darkness

and the moon to blood,  
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.  
<sup>21</sup> Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

### **Ezekiel 37:1-14**

**37** The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup> He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup> I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

<sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup> I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." <sup>10</sup> I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup> Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup> I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

**THE MESSAGE**

**The Bones Will Rattle**

**Rev. Chris Houtz**

**\*HYMN #279**

**Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove**

## Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove 279

1 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, heaven - ly Dove,  
 2 In vain we tune our for - mal songs;  
 3 Dear Lord, and shall we ev - er live  
 4 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, heaven - ly Dove,

with all thy quick - ening powers; kin - dle a flame of  
 in vain we strive to rise; ho - san - nas lan - guish  
 at this poor dy - ing rate? Our love so faint, so  
 with all thy quick - ening powers; come, shed a - broad a

sa - cred love in these cold hearts of ours.  
 on our tongues, and our de - vo - tion dies.  
 cold to thee, and thine to us so great!  
 Sav - ior's love, and that shall kin - dle ours.

**\*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 #655

THANKSGIVING

### 655 What Shall I Render to the Lord (Psalm 116)

1 What shall I ren - der to the Lord; what  
2 Sal - va - tion's cup my soul shall take while  
3 Not light - ly dost thou, Lord, per - mit thy  
4 With - in God's house, the house of prayer, my

shall my of - fering be, for all the gra - cious  
to the Lord I pray, and with God's peo - ple  
cho - sen saints to die; from death thou hast de -  
soul shall bless the Lord, and prais - es to God's

ben - e - fits God hath be - stowed on me?  
I will meet, my thank - ful vows to pay.  
liv - ered me; thy ser - vant, Lord, am I.  
ho - ly name let all the saints ac - cord.

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

God of mercy, we give you thanks for all that your bounty creates. The gifts we bring today acknowledge our debt to you and our intent to relieve others of their burdens. Bless what we offer and bless those who will be shown deeds of power through them; in Jesus' name. Amen.

**\*HYMN #688**

DEDICATION AND STEWARDSHIP

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart 688

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;  
2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,  
3 Hast thou not bid us love thee, God and King;  
4 Teach me to feel that thou art al - ways nigh.  
5 Teach me to love thee as thine an - gels love,

wean it from earth; through all its puls - es move;  
no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,  
all, all thine own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?  
Teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear,  
one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;

stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as thou art,  
no an - gel vis - i - tant, no o - pening skies;  
I see thy cross; there teach my heart to cling.  
to check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh.  
the bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed Dove,

and make me love thee as I ought to love.  
but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.  
O let me seek thee, and O let me find!  
Teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.  
my heart an al - tar, and thy love the flame.

**BENEDICTION**

## CHORAL BENEDICTION (2x)

### As You Travel from This Place

Departing/Benediction

Words and Music by  
Jim Strothdee

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of five staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "As you trav - el from this place our love is with you, When you jour - ney near at hand or far a - broad. All the life we've shared to - geth - er will con - tin - ue, As you grow in the know - ledge, learn of the wis - dom, and live in the spir - it of our God." The chords are indicated above the notes: (A), D, A, Bm, Em, Bm, A, F#m, F#m7, Bm7, Em7, A, G, A, Em7, A, D, (A).

## THE POSTLUDE

### Friendly Reminders

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

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

Wednesdays – Bible Study in Fellow Hall at 11 am

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