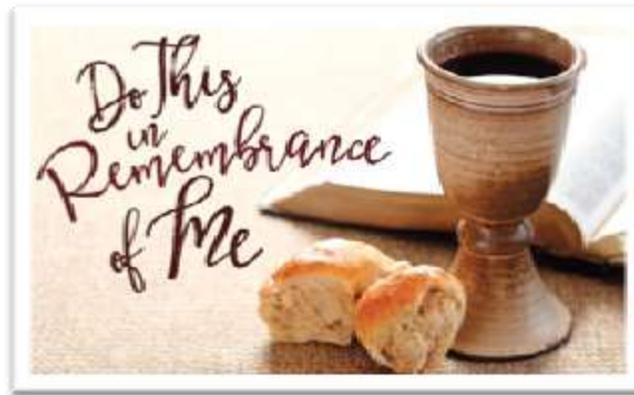


THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ISELIN

Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ



Minister: Rev. Chris Houtz
Liturgist: Elder Ron Stamboly

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

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

Sunday, June 6, 2021

10:30 A.M.

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR THE PROMISE

PRELUDE

Alaine Bolton, Director of Music

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder Ron Stamboly, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT (2X)

As We Gather in This Place

Gathering

Words and music by
Kevin Boyd

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.

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

Elder Ron Stamboly, Liturgist

Give thanks to the Lord with your whole heart.

On the day I called, you answered me.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Thanks be to God!

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

Elder Ron Stamboly, Liturgist

O God, you have assured the human family of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Savior. Deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in him, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***HYMN #846**

TRUSTING IN THE PROMISES OF GOD

Fight the Good Fight 846

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in a 2/2 time signature with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are as follows:

1 Fight the good fight with all thy might.
2 Run the straight race through God's good grace;
3 Cast care a - side; lean on thy guide.
4 Faint not nor fear: God's arms are near.

Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right.
lift up thine eyes, and seek Christ's face.
God's bound-less mer - cy will pro - vide.
God chang - eth not, and thou art dear.

Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Life with its way be - fore us lies;
Trust, and thy trust - ing soul shall prove
On - ly be - lieve, and thou shalt see

thy joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.
Christ is its life, and Christ its love.
that Christ is all in all to thee.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Elder Ron Stamboly, Liturgist

Let us confess our sins, for God has already forgiven us and is calling us to return to the Lord.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Elder Ron Stamboly, Liturgist

Gracious God, have mercy on us, for we have failed to be faithful to you, though you have been faithful to us. You show us your wisdom, but we prefer to go our own way. Our broken relationships with you and one another have created poverty in us and our neighbors. In your mercy, reconcile us to you and one another for the work of justice peace, and love, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer.

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

Sisters and brothers, do not lose heart. When we call, God hears us; when we confess, God forgives us. We believe and so we proclaim: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE #288

GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Spirit of the Living God 288

Musical score for the hymn "Spirit of the Living God" (number 288). The score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are: "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 piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Elder Ron Stamboly, Liturgist

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you. (*Please pass the peace of Christ to one another.*)

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Chris Houtz

ANTHEM

I Need Thee Every Hour/Abide With Me: 'Tis Eventide

(*Lowry & Hofford arr. Britt*)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Elder Ron Stamboly, Liturgist

Holy God, let your Spirit now move in us, to turn us away from the temporary and move us to your eternal love made visible in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

¹³ It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak,¹⁴ because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself.¹⁵ All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

5 For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

Mark 3:20-35

²⁰ and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat.²¹ When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind."²² And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons."²³ And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan?²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.²⁵ And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.²⁶ And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come.²⁷ But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.²⁸ "Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter;²⁹ but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"—³⁰ for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."³¹ Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him.³² A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you."³³ And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?"³⁴ And looking at those who

sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers!"³⁵ Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

THE MESSAGE

Looking in all the Wrong Places

Rev. Chris Houtz

***HYMN #829**

LIVING AND DYING IN CHRIST

My Faith Looks Up to Thee 829

1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray; take all my
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, O may my
be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day; wipe sor - row's
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love, fear and dis -

guilt a - way; O let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
love to thee pure, warm, and change - less be, a liv - ing fire!
tears a - way; nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
trust re - move; O bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God, The Father, the Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, The only Son of God,
Eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, Begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
 He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 And his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 Who with the Father and the Son Is worshiped and glorified,
 Who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 And the life of the world to come. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE OFFERING

*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)

Eternal God, your son Jesus teaches us that a house divided cannot stand. Together, we offer ourselves and our gifts, that they may be used to extend your grace to others for your glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN #801

LIVING AND DYING IN CHRIST
The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want 801
(Psalm 23)

1 The Lord's my shep-herd, I'll not want; he makes me down to lie
2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain, and me to walk doth make
3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear none ill,
4 My ta - ble thou hast fur - nish - ed in pres - ence of my foes;
5 Good - ness and mer - cy all my life shall sure - ly fol - low me,
in pas - tures green; he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by,
with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake.
for thou art with me; and thy rod and staff me com - fort still.
my head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing place shall be.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus said: Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if those who hear my voice opens the door, I will come in to them and eat with them, and they with me.

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy, holy, holy Lord— we praise you for your love: bringing order out of chaos, breathing life into dust, leading captives into freedom, calling wandering children home, giving bread to the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, raising the dead to life.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Thank you, Lord— we thank you for Jesus: Word made flesh, light of the world, living water, shepherd and gate, way and truth, bread of heaven, cup of salvation, resurrection and life. We give you thanks that on the night of his arrest Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. In the same way he took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Take this bread and cup, O God—a feast of grace; take our hearts and lives—an offering of praise. Christ is the bread of life.

When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the saving death of our risen Lord until he comes.

Spirit, come—come and live in us: in this bread, in this cup, in your people, one in the body, one in the blood; one with Christ, one in ministry, in this place, in every place; in this world, in the world to come. Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving, honor and power, forever and ever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

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

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Because there is one loaf, we, many as we are, are one body; for it is one loaf of which we partake. When we break the bread, is it not a sharing in the body Christ? When we give thanks over the cup, is it not a sharing in the blood Christ? Friends, these are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER SUPPER

God of grace, you invite us to your table and welcome us as part of your family. You feed us with your body and satisfy our deepest hunger. We thank you for these gifts. Now send us out into the world by the power of your Spirit that we may be your witnesses, sharing the life-giving news of the gospel. Amen.

***HYMN #700**

DEDICATION AND STEWARDSHIP

700 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

1 I'm gon-na live so (live so)
2 I'm gon-na work so (work so)
3 I'm gon-na pray so (pray so)
4 I'm gon-na sing so (sing so)

God can use me an - y -
where, Lord, an - y - time!
(an - y - time!)
I'm gon-na
I'm gon-na
I'm gon-na
I'm gon-na

live so (live so)
work so (work so)
pray so (pray so)
sing so (sing so)

God can use me an - y -
where, Lord, (my Lord,) an - y - time!
(an - y - time!)

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

***THE BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION As You Travel From This Place (2x)**

As You Travel from This Place

Departing/Benediction

Words and Music by
Jim Strothdee

Musical score for the hymn "As You Travel from This Place". The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is accompanied by chords indicated above the staff. 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 POSTLUDE

Cover Image: <https://events.rhema.org/do-this-in-remembrance-of-me/>

Friendly Reminders

Special Congregational Meeting today to elect Heather Meyers to the Session

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

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

Session 'in person' meeting: 3rd Sunday of the month, in person, except for July.

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