

# THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ISELIN

*Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ*

Minister: Rev. Chris Houtz

Liturgist: Elder Betsy Christensen

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



*\*Please rise in body or spirit.*

Sunday, May 9, 2021

10:30 A.M.

## PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR THE PROMISE

**PRELUDE**

**Alaine Bolton, Director of Music**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Elder Betsy Christensen, 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 Betsy Christensen, Liturgist**

Sing to our God a new song.

**God has done marvelous things!**

Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

**Break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

Let the sea roar and all that fills it.

**Let the world and its people sing together for joy!**

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

**Elder Betsy Christensen, Liturgist**

**O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you, that, loving you above all else, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

\* HYMN #276

# Sing a New Song unto the Lord 276

(Psalm 98)

*Refrain*

Sing a new song un - to the Lord; let your song be  
 sung from moun - tain's high. Sing a new song  
 un - to the Lord, sing - ing hal - le - lu - jah!  
 1 Shout with glad - ness! Dance for joy! O come be -  
 2 Rise, O chil - dren, from your sleep; your Sav - ior  
 3 Glad my soul for I have seen the glo - ry  
 fore the Lord. And play for God on  
 now has come. He has turned your  
 of the Lord. The trum - pet sounds; the  
 glad tam - bou - rines, and let your trum - pet sound.  
 sor - row to joy, and filled your soul with song.  
 dead shall be raised. I know my Sav - ior lives.

This loose paraphrase effectively conveys the joyful tone of Psalm 98, largely by incorporating allusions to many other Scriptures, such as Psalm 149:3, Romans 13:11, Psalm 16:9, 1 Corinthians 15:52, and Job 19:25. These familiar echoes help to give the text depth and breadth.

TEXT and MUSIC: Daniel L. Schutte, 1972, alt.  
 Text and Music © 1972, 2000 Daniel L. Schutte (Published by OCP)

SING A NEW SONG  
 Irregular

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Elder Betsy Christensen, Liturgist

When we pass through deep waters or go through times of fiery trial, the Lord our God is with us. With confidence in God, our creator and redeemer, let us confess our sin.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Elder Betsy Christensen, Liturgist

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love. We have not loved our neighbors, and we have refused to hear the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience.

Merciful God, hear now our own personal confessions that we lift up to you in silence.

## PERSONAL CONFESSION

In the strong name of Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

Rev. Chris Houtz

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news! Hope does not disappoint us, for God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us in baptism. Believe this good news and give thanks: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God.**

Rev. Chris Houtz

## \* THE RESPONSE

### Glory Be to the Father 581

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 of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. 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 - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men, a - men." The score ends with a double bar line and a fermata over the final notes.

## \*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

**Because He Lives** (*Gloria Gaither, William J. Gaither*)

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O God, by your Holy Spirit tell us what we need to hear and show us what we ought to do to obey Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Acts 10:44-48

<sup>44</sup> While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup> The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup> for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup> “Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” <sup>48</sup> So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

### Revelation 7:9-17

<sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

<sup>11</sup> And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup> singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom  
and thanksgiving and honor  
and power and might  
be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

<sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” <sup>14</sup> I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup> For this reason they are before the throne of God,  
and worship him day and night within his temple,  
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

<sup>16</sup> They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;  
the sun will not strike them,  
nor any scorching heat;

<sup>17</sup> for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,  
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,  
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

## \*HYMN

## Blest Be the Tie That Binds 306

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in  
 2 Be - fore our \*Fa - ther's throne we pour our  
 3 We share our mu - tual woes; our mu - tual  
 4 When we are called to part, it gives us  
 5 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we

Chris - tian love. The fel - low - ship of  
 ar - dent prayers. Our fears, our hopes, our  
 bur - dens bear. And of - ten for each  
 in - ward pain; but we shall still be  
 shall be free; and per - fect love and

kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.  
 aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.  
 oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
 joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.  
 friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## \*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

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 (B-flat). It consists of six systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

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

Holy God, in Christ you have chosen us to be your friends and to know your will in the world. Therefore we pray in Jesus' name that these tithes and offerings spread your love near and far. Amen.

**\*HYMN**

JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

Called as Partners in Christ's Service 761

1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,  
2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,  
3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,  
4 So God grant us for to - mor-row ways to or-der hu - man life

we re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.  
help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.  
that sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-ques-tries strife.

May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,  
Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,  
Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,  
Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,

e - qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.  
blend-ing hu-man skills to-gether gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.  
bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.  
mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.

The musical score consists of four systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are placed between the staves.

## ENEDICTION

### 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

Happy Mother's Day to all mothers, those you love like mothers,  
and pet moms.

### Friendly Reminders

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

Rev. Chris and Tanya will be on vacation from  
Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup>\*

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 (except 5/13\*) at 11 am

Sunday Bible Study  
9:00 am

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

**Beginning Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 11 am**  
Bible Study in Fellowship Hall

*Cover Image by: Steve Hollaway, Harbor Church, November 5, 2017*