

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ISELIN

Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ

Minister: Rev. Chris Houtz

Liturgist: Elder Rich Zavali

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

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

Sunday, June 13, 2021

10:30 A.M.

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR THE PROMISE

PRELUDE

Alaine Bolton, Director of Music

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder Rich Zavali, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT (2x)

As We Gather in This Place

Gathering

Words and music by
Kevin Boyd

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 three staves of music. The first staff begins with a D chord and contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: 'As we gath-er in this place We have'. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics 'come to seek your face. May our lives re - flect your'. The third staff concludes the piece with lyrics 'grace As we gath-er in this place.' and ends with a double bar line. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: D, Dmaj7, Em, A, D, F#m, Bm, Bm/A, Em, A, G, D.

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

Elder Rich Zavali, Liturgist

Small as a mustard seed and lofty as a cedar:

The kingdom of God is growing.

While we sleep and rise night and day:

The kingdom of God is growing.

The low are brought high; the high are brought low:

The kingdom of God is growing; its large branches are home to all kinds of people!

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

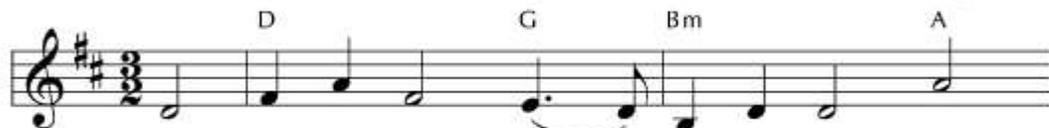
Elder Rich Zavali, Liturgist

All-powerful God, in Jesus Christ you turned death into life, and defeat into victory. Increase our faith and trust in him, that we may triumph over all evil, in the strength of 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.

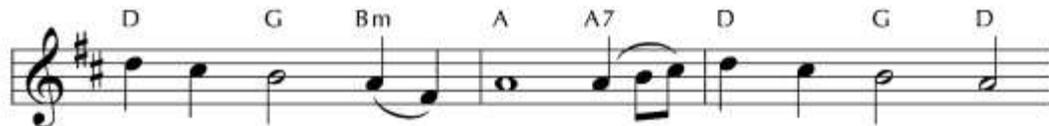
*** HYMN #817**

LIVING AND DYING IN CHRIST

817 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
 2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
 4 And when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
 fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
 may our faith a - bound to call on you when
 realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
 we re - joice and cry, "My Lord and God!"
 you are near and seek where you are found.
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Elder Rich Zavali, Liturgist

God will not count our trespasses against us, longing instead for us to be reconciled. We come before God, then, in honesty, humility, and hope.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Elder Rich Zavali, Liturgist

Gracious God, we so often miss your kingdom at work among us. Captivated by power and prestige, we overlook the mustard seeds you have planted all around. Forgive us for failing to notice where and how you are at work. Forgive us when we work against your plans and purposes—fostering divisions when you have called us to a ministry of reconciliation; beset by apathy when the world has such deep needs; building walls to keep people out when your branches offer generous nests. Help us to grow in faithfulness, we pray, so that we might reach our fullest height of faith.

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

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 **We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight** (*Oakwood University Aeolians*)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, we walk by faith and not by sight. So guide our steps in your Word today that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are kept from falling and find our way in your way. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

2 Corinthians 5:6-17

⁶ So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— ⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸ Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹ So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰ For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

¹¹ Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. ¹² We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. ¹³ For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴ For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Mark 4:26-34

²⁶ He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷ and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸ The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

³⁰ He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³² yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

³³ With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴ he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

THE MESSAGE

God's Grace Will Provide

Rev. Chris Houtz

HYMN #22

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

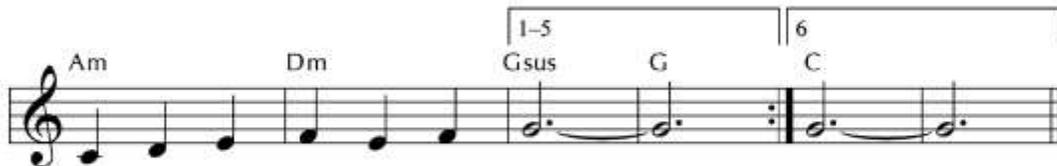
22 God of the Sparrow



1	God	of	the	spar - row	God	of	the	whale	God	of	the
2	God	of	the	earth - quake	God	of	the	storm	God	of	the
3	God	of	the	rain - bow	God	of	the	cross	God	of	the
4	God	of	the	hun - gry	God	of	the	sick	God	of	the
5	God	of	the	neigh - bor	God	of	the	foe	God	of	the
6	God	of	the	a - ges	God	near	at	hand	God	of	the



swirl - ing	stars	How	does	the	crea - ture	say	Awe
trum - pet	blast	How	does	the	crea - ture	cry	Woe
emp - ty	grave	How	does	the	crea - ture	say	Grace
prod - i - gal		How	does	the	crea - ture	say	Care
prun - ing	hook	How	does	the	crea - ture	say	Love
lov - ing	heart	How	do	your	chil - dren	say	Joy



How	does	the	crea - ture	say	Praise
How	does	the	crea - ture	cry	Save
How	does	the	crea - ture	say	Thanks
How	does	the	crea - ture	say	Life
How	does	the	crea - ture	say	Peace
How	do	your	chil - dren	say	Home

SERVICE OF INSTALLATION

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

Rev. Chris Houtz

There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served.

God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.

Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

STATEMENT ON INSTALLATION

Betsy Christensen, Clerk of Session

Representing the one holy catholic and apostolic church, the session of the First Presbyterian Church of Iselin, having previously ordained Heather Myers to ministry as a ruling elder, now installs her to active service in this congregation.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Rev. Chris Houtz

As God calls some to particular forms of ministry, God calls us all to bear gladly the yoke of Christ given in the covenant of Baptism. Let us, therefore, reaffirm our baptismal vows, renouncing all that opposes God and God's rule and affirming the faith of the holy Catholic Church.

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

I do.

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love?

I do.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

I will, with God's help.

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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 to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

Rev. Chris Houtz

QUESTIONS FOR CONGREGATION

Betsy Christensen, Clerk of Session

Do we, the members of the church, accept Heather as ruling elder, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

We do.

Do we agree to pray for her, to encourage her, to respect her decisions, and to follow as she guides us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church? **We do.**

PRAYER FOR INSTALLATION

Rev. Chris Houtz

Gracious and eternal God, with joy we give you thanks and praise. Throughout the ages and in every place you have chosen servants from among your people to point the way to salvation by your grace. We are grateful for ancestors in the faith who followed without fear, placing their trust in you alone—for judges and monarchs who ruled in righteousness and peace; for prophets and apostles who spoke your bold words of mercy and of truth; for leaders and teachers in every age who have nurtured your people in faith and faithfulness.

Above all, we praise you for Jesus Christ, who came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life to set others free. Anointed by your Holy Spirit, he proclaimed your reign on earth, revealing your saving love in all he said and did. Gracious God, we also give you thanks for your servant, Heather, as she continues in the ministry to which you have called her. Help her to rely on the gifts of your Spirit and to follow Christ faithfully in this calling.

By the gifts of your Holy Spirit empower her to build up the church, to strengthen the common life of your people, and to lead with compassion and vision. In the walk of faith and for the work of ministry, give to all your servants gladness and strength, discipline and hope, humility, humor, and courage, and an abiding sense of your presence. Gracious God, pour out your Spirit of power and truth upon the whole church, that we may be for you a holy people baptized to serve you in the world.

Sustain your church in ministry. Ground us in the gospel, secure our hope in Christ, strengthen our service to the outcast, and increase our love for one another. Show us the transforming power of your grace in our life together, that we may be effective servants of the gospel, offering a compelling witness in the world to the good news of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

DECLARATION OF INSTALLATION

Rev. Chris Houtz

Heather, you are a ruling elder, ordained to ministries of service and governance in the church of Jesus Christ and for this congregation. Be faithful and true in your ministry so that your whole life will bear witness to the crucified and risen Christ's. Amen.

CHARGE TO THE INSTALLED

Rev. Chris Houtz

1 Peter 4:7-11

7 The end of all things is near; therefore be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. **8** Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. **9** Be hospitable to one another without complaining. **10** Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. **11** Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must

do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION

Betsy Christensen, Clerk of Session

2 Timothy 1:13-14

13 Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. **14** Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

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**

What Shall I Render to the Lord (vs. 1)

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)

Life-giving God, we know that you will accomplish everything you pursue. Accept, we pray, these offerings from our hands. May they contribute to what you are doing so that life may flourish. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*HYMN #36

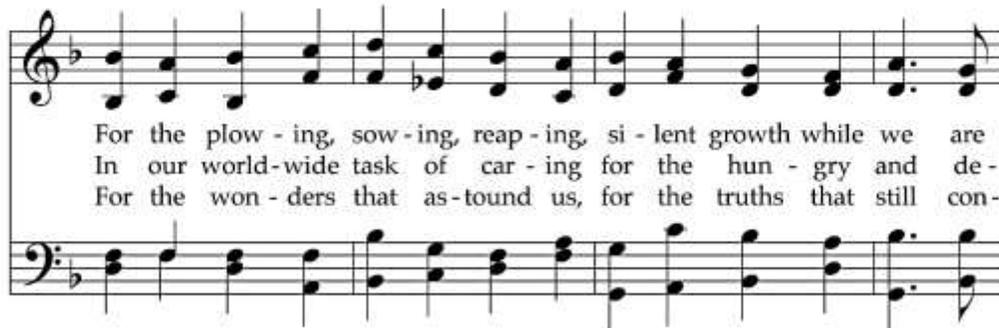
For the Fruit of All Creation 36



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For the gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will be done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de -
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con -



sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 spair - ing, in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will be done.
 found us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

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

As You Travel from This Place

Departing/Benediction

Words and Music by
Jim Strathdee

The musical 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 travel from this place our love is with you, When you journey near at hand or far a broad. All the life we've shared together will continue, As you grow in the knowledge, learn of the wisdom, and live in the spirit of our God." The chords used are: (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

Prayer Shawl Ministry
Tuesdays at 2 pm

Wednesdays – Bible Study in Fellowship Hall at 11 am

Thursday Congregational Call
Every Thursday at 11 am

Session Meeting
Thursday, June 17 at 7 pm via Zoom

Sunday Bible Study
9:00 am

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