

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, January 16, 2022

10:30 A.M.

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR THE PROMISE



We Celebrate the Fruits of the Spirit!

PRELUDE

Alaine Bolton, Director of Music

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder Andrea Harrison

CHORAL INTROIT #482

Baptized in Water

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

Elder Andrea Harrison

How precious is the steadfast love of God.

All people may take refuge in the shadow of God's embrace.

Christ is the fountain of life.

In Christ we behold the Light of God.

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

Elder Andrea Harrison

Almighty God, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world. May your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for he lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*** HYMN #300**

We Are One in the Spirit

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Elder Andrea Harrison

In the light of Christ, we see the darkness of our world and of our hearts. Trusting in God's saving love, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Elder Andrea Harrison

Almighty God, we confess that we have been led astray by the idols of our world. We have depended on our possessions and have not placed our trust in your grace. We have carelessly consumed the gifts you offer and have failed to be faithful stewards of the earth's resources. We have sought security in the might of the sword rather than the strength of your Holy Spirit. Forgive us, we pray. Lead us to true repentance that we may serve you faithfully.

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

Hear the good news: Christ unmaskes idols of our world and frees us from slavery to all that would oppress us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

*** THE RESPONSE #408**

There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit (vs. 1)

***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)

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Chris Houtz

ANTHEM

Above All (LeBlanc & Beloche, arr. Hayes)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, by the power of the Holy Spirit, quicken our understanding that we may receive the testimony of Scripture and believe in the signs that reveal your presence. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

12 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. ³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

Psalm Reading (responsive): Psalm 36:5-10

⁵Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.

**⁶Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,
your judgments are like the great deep;
you save humans and animals alike, O Lord.**

⁷How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

**⁸They feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.**

⁹For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light.

**¹⁰O continue your steadfast love to those who know you,
and your salvation to the upright of heart!**

Gospel Reading: John 2:1-11

2 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. **2** Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. **3** When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." **4** And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." **5** His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." **6** Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. **7** Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. **8** He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. **9** When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom **10** and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." **11** Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

THE MESSAGE

The Joy of it All

Rev. Chris Houtz

***HYMN #729**

Lord, I Want to Be A Christian

***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

*Each petition will end: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

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 #712**

As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought (vs. 1)

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

At the wedding feast at Cana you gladdened the guests with divine generosity, filled to the brim and flowing over. We offer our gifts with grateful hearts. Bless them and our lives to your service, that they may reveal your glory, nurture faith, and manifest the common good. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***HYMN #39**

Great is Thy Faithfulness

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION #765

May the God of Hope Go with Us

THE POSTLUDE

Friendly Reminders

Pastor Chris will be out of the office on Thursday, January 20th; therefore, the **next congregational call** will be the following **Thursday, January 27th**.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is Monday, January 17th. The office will be closed and normal activities will resume on Tuesday, January 18th.

Annual Congregational Meeting is Sunday, January 23, 2022.

Per Capita for 2022 is \$40.

Regular Activities

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

Prayer Shawl Ministry - Tuesdays at 12 noon

Wednesday Morning Bible Study at 11 am

Rev. Chris' Congregational Call - Every Thursday at 11 am

Men's Breakfast - 1st Saturday of the month at 8 am.

CLEF Ladies' Breakfast - 1st Saturday of the month at 9 am

Sunday Bible Study - 9:00 am

Session meeting every 3rd Sunday of the month

Choir practice: 1st and last Sunday of the Month at 9:30 am

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

Our Mission Statement

We are a friendly, multi-cultural congregation that welcomes all to worship with us as we glorify our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; sing praises to God, the Father; and let the Holy Spirit guide our footsteps. As faithful witnesses to our Christian beliefs, we dedicate ourselves to worship, stewardship and discipleship. We will always endeavor to nurture the youth in our congregation to grow in their commitment to God and the Church and to become active participants in the life and work of the Church.

We commit ourselves to evangelism and mission to spread the good news of Jesus Christ to all people in a variety of ways in our community and beyond.

We will continue to be open to God's presence, leading us into new pathways of ministry and service for the betterment of the community and to the glory of Jesus Christ our Savior.

-ratified by congregational vote, January 27, 2008

Dear Members and Guests, if you'd like to know more information about the latest news,



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