

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ISELIN

Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ

Minister: Rev. Chris Houtz

Liturgist: Sunday School

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

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

Sunday, October 31, 2021

10:30 A.M.

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR THE PROMISE

PRELUDE

Alaine Bolton, Director of Music

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School

CHORAL INTROIT

Great and Mighty

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

Sunday School

Fling wide the temple gates!

Open up the ancient doors!

The mighty and glorious one is coming.

Who is this mighty and glorious one?

This is the Lord for whom we have waited.

Let us be glad and rejoice in the Lord!

LITANY FOR ALL SAINTS' DAY

Rev. Chris Houtz

Be gracious to us; deliver your people.

Hear us, O God.

You loved us before the world was made. You rescued the people of your promise. You spoke through your prophets. You have your only Son for the life of the world.

Hear us, O God.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven and was born of the Virgin Mary; who by his cross and suffering redeemed the world and has washed us from our sins; who on the third day rose from the dead and has given us the victory; who ascended on high and intercedes for us at the right hand of God.

Great is your love.

For the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the one holy catholic and apostolic church. For the great cloud of witnesses into which we are baptized.

Thanks be to God.

For Paul Stauffer, Jr. and Cynthia Chandaria, **thanks be to God.**

For all holy men and women, our mothers and fathers in faith. For the noble band of the prophets. For the glorious company of the apostles. For the white-robed army of martyrs. For the cherubim and seraphim, Michael and the holy angles.

Thanks be to God.

Be gracious to us; deliver your people.

Hear us, O God.

Give new life to your servants by the grace of baptism. Strengthen all who bear the sign of the cross. Clothe us in compassion and love. Bring us with all your saints to the river of life.

Hear us, O God.

God of all the faithful, we rejoice that nothing in all creation can separate us from your love. Work out your good purpose in us and help us in our weakness as we await, with eager longing, the redemption of all things; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

*** HYMN #326 For All the Saints**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Sunday School

Jesus said: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Sunday School

Eternal God, in every age you have raised up men and women to live and die in faith. We confess that we are indifferent to your will. You call us to proclaim your name, but we are silent. You call us to do what is just, but we remain idle. You call us to live faithfully, but we are afraid. In your mercy, forgive us. Give us courage to follow in your way, that joined with those from ages past, who have served you with faith, hope, and love, we may inherit the kingdom you promised in Jesus Christ.

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

Jesus said: Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

*** THE RESPONSE #582 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me**

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Chris Houtz

ANTHEM **Dance in the Graveyard** (*Delta Rae, arr. Justin Havard, performed by the St. Olaf Chapel Choir*). [<https://youtu.be/IGC-SKx94DM>]

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Faithful God, how blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Sanctify us by your Word and Spirit so that we may glorify you in the company of the faithful; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Wisdom 3:1-9

3 But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and no torment will ever touch them.

2 In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,
and their departure was thought to be a disaster,

3 and their going from us to be their destruction;
but they are at peace.

4 For though in the sight of others they were punished,
their hope is full of immortality.

5 Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good,
because God tested them and found them worthy of himself;

6 like gold in the furnace he tried them,
and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them.

7 In the time of their visitation they will shine forth,
and will run like sparks through the stubble.

8 They will govern nations and rule over peoples,
and the Lord will reign over them forever.

9 Those who trust in him will understand truth,
and the faithful will abide with him in love,
because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones,
and he watches over his elect.

Revelation 21:1-6a

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. **2** And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.”

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶ Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

THE MESSAGE

An Eternal Dance

Rev. Chris Houtz

***HYMN #482**

Baptized in Water

Sacrament of Holy Baptism of Jordana Nicole Doodnauth

PRESENTATION

Minister:

Hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ:

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Hear also these words from holy scripture:

Clerk of Session:

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of you calling,
One Lord, one Faith, one baptism, on God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Minister:

Obedying the word of our Lord Jesus, and confident of his promises, we baptize those whom God has called. In baptism God claims us, and seals us to show that we belong to God. God frees us from sin and death, uniting us with Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection.

By water and the Holy Spirit, we are made members of the church, the body of Christ, and joined to Christ’s ministry of love, peace, and justice.

Let us remember with joy our own baptism, as we celebrate this sacrament.

Clerk of Session:

On behalf of the session, I present Jordana Nicole, child of Jeremy and Theresa, to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Minister:

Do you desire that Jordana be baptized?

Parents:

We do.

Minister:

Relying on God's grace, do you promise to live the Christian faith, and to teach that faith to your child?

Parents:

We do.

Minister to sponsors:

Bernadette, Jared, Paul, and Naomi, will you, by your prayers and witness, help Jordana to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Sponsors:

We will.

Minister to the congregation:

Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Jordana by word and deed, with love and prayer?

Congregation:

We do.

Minister:

Will you encourage her to know and follow Christ and to be faithful members of her church?

Congregation:

We will.

Minister to the children in the congregation:

Today, we celebrate that Jordana is becoming part of our church family. We are all God's children. These questions are for the children of the church.

Will you help Jordana remember that God loves her and we love her?

Children:

We will.

Minister:

Will you share the stories of Jesus with Jordana?

Children:

We will.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Minister:

Through the Sacrament of Baptism we enter the covenant God established in Jesus Christ. Within this covenant God gives us new life, strengthens us to resist evil, and nurtures us in love. Through this covenant, we choose whom we will serve, by turning from evil and turning to Jesus Christ.

Minister to Parents:

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

Parents:

We do.

Minister:

Who is your Lord and Savior?

Parents:

Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Minister:

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

Parents:

We will, with God's help.

Minister to congregation:

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

Do you believe in God the Father?

Congregation:

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

Minister:

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

Congregation:

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Minister:

Do you believe in God the Spirit?

Congregation:

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.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, Eternal God, for you nourish and sustain all living things by the gift of water. In the beginning of time, your Spirit moved over the watery chaos, calling forth order and life. In the time of Noah, you destroyed evil by the waters of the flood, giving righteousness a new beginning. You led Israel out of slavery, through the waters of the sea, into the freedom of the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus was baptized by John and anointed with your Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection, Christ set us free from sin and death, and opened the way to eternal life. We thank you, O God, for the water of baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. From it we are raised to share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Send your Spirit to move over this water that it may be a fountain of deliverance and rebirth. Wash away the sin of all who are cleansed by it. Raise them to new life, and graft them to the body of Christ. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon Jordana, that she may have power to do your will, and continue forever in the risen life of Christ. To you be all praise, honor, and glory; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns forever. Amen.

THE BAPTISM

Minister:

Jeremy and Theresa, how do you name your child?

Jordana Nicole, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANOINTING

Minister:

O Lord, uphold Jordana by your Holy Spirit. Give her the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen.

Jordana, child of the covenant, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism, and marked as Christ's own forever. Amen.

God who began a good work in you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. Amen.

WELCOME

Clerk of Session:

Jordana, you have been received into the one holy catholic and apostolic church through Baptism.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, you have become members of the household of God, to share with us in the ministry of Christ and the priesthood of all believers. With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into the body of Christ.

Congregation:

Alleluia! Amen!

Clerk of Session:

Live as a child of the light and let your light shine before others.

Congregation:

Amen.

Minister:

The peace of Christ be with you.

Congregation:

And also with you.

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 #608 Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow**

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

The earth belongs to you, O God, the world and all its people. For the blessings of this life and the gift of your salvation we give you thanks and praise. As you have sought us out to save us help us to seek your face among our neighbors so that all may know the wonder of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN #203 Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love**

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

THE POSTLUDE