

# THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ISELIN

*Minds, hearts, hands and voices in Christ*

1295 Oak Tree Road, Iselin, NJ 08830

Service and Message by: 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, October 3, 2021

10:30 A.M.



## PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR THE PROMISE

PRELUDE

Alaine Bolton Director of Music

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder Ron Stamboly

CHORAL INTROIT

# Great and Mighty

Ps. 150  
Songs of Praise

Words and Music by  
Marlene Bigley

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 six staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Great and mighty is the Lord our God, Great and mighty in deed. Great and mighty is the Lord our God, Great and mighty in deed. Lift up your banner, let the anthems ring; praises ever sing! Great and mighty is the Lord our God, Great and mighty in deed, deed." The score includes various chord markings such as D, Em7, A, G/A, D, Em/A, D, Em7(4)D/F#, G, D, C6, B7, Em7(4), and A7. There are also first and second ending brackets at the end of the piece.

## **\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive) Elder Ron Stamboly**

Long ago, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets,  
**But in the last days God has spoken to us through God's Son, Jesus Christ.**

Jesus is the reflection of God's glory, and all things are sustained in the world through God's powerful Word.

**Therefore we will proclaim God's name. In the midst of the congregation, we will praise God.**

## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison) Elder Ron Stamboly**

**Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our**

**Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

**\*HYMN #666**

**O Splendor of God's Glory Bright**

**INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

**Elder Ron Stamboly**

In God, we find light for our darkness, and through that light we discover the things that separate us from God. And so we ask God to prove us and try us, and to test our hearts and minds, that we may receive forgiveness. Let us confess our sins together.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)**

**Elder Ron Stamboly**

**You gave us commandments, God of love, because you know the hardness of our hearts. You have created us to live in community, and still we oppress others and separate ourselves from each other and from you. Jesus loved the children, but there are still children in the world who live in hunger or fear, rejected and unloved. Forgive us, and call us to faithfulness. Bind all your children together as sisters and brothers, and nurture us with your love and forgiveness, that we might share what we have been given, and receive your kingdom with the wonder and gratitude of children.**

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! 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.**

**THE RESPONSE #582**

**Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me**

**THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**Elder Ron Stamboly**

The peace of Christ be with you.

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

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

**Presentation of Bibles**

**Heather Meyers**

**ANTHEM**

**One Bread, One Body** (*arr. Schrader*)

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Elder Ron Stamboly

Lord God, as you spoke long ago through the voices of your prophets, speak to us here, speak to us now, through the power of your Spirit and the promise of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

<sup>1</sup> Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, <sup>[a]</sup>whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup> He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains <sup>[b]</sup> all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup> having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

<sup>5</sup> Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. <sup>6</sup> But someone has testified somewhere,

“What are human beings that you are mindful of them,  
or mortals, that you care for them?

<sup>7</sup> You have made them for a little while lower than the angels;  
you have crowned them with glory and honor,

<sup>8</sup> subjecting all things under their feet.”

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, <sup>9</sup> but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

<sup>10</sup> It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. <sup>11</sup> For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, <sup>12</sup> saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

### Job 1:1; 2:1-10

<sup>1</sup> There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.

2 One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord. <sup>2</sup> The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the Lord, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." <sup>3</sup> The Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason." <sup>4</sup> Then Satan answered the Lord, "Skin for skin! All that people have they will give to save their lives. <sup>5</sup> But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face." <sup>6</sup> The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life."

<sup>7</sup> So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. <sup>8</sup> Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes.

<sup>9</sup> Then his wife said to him, "Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die." <sup>10</sup> But he said to her, "You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

## **THE MESSAGE**

## **Diving Into the Deep**

**Rev. Chris Houtz**

### **\*HYMN #451**

### **Open My Eyes, That I May See**

### **\*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**

Let us bring our tithes and our offerings back to the God from whom they came.

#### **\*THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE #608**

**Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow**

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

**Lord God, you have entrusted us with the works of your own hands. Now we return these gifts to you with thanksgiving and praise. Use them all for your glory and for the good of your world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

#### **\*HYMN #625**

**O Lord, My God**

#### **THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Jesus said: Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if those who hear my voice open 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.**

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,**

**Christ is risen,**

**Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

**Amen!**

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

**Amen!**

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

**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 of Christ?

When we give thanks over the cup, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ?

Friends, these are the gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

#### **PRAYER AFTER SUPPER**

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit to give ourselves for others in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*HYMN #4**

**Holy God, We Praise Your Name**

**\*THE BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL BENEDICTION**

# Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Songs of Praise

Music: Unknown  
Arr. Geoff Weaver

The musical score is written in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music with lyrics underneath. The first staff starts with a G chord and ends with a D/F# chord. The second staff starts with Em/D and C chords. The third staff starts with Am, D, and G chords. The fourth staff starts with D/F#, Em, and Am7 chords. The fifth staff starts with G/D and D chords, followed by a first ending (1.) with G, C, G/B, and Am chords, and a second ending (2.) with G, C/G, and G chords. The lyrics are: Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah! jah!

THE POSTLUDE



**Per Capita Apportionment for 2021 is \$40.45**

**REGULAR ACTIVITIES**

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

Prayer Shawl Ministry - Tuesdays at 12 noon

Bible Study - Wednesdays in Fellowship Hall at 11 am

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

Men's Breakfast - 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month at 8 am.

CLEF Ladies' Breakfast  
1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month at 9 am

Sunday Bible Study  
9:00 am

Session meeting every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month

Choir Rehearsal  
1<sup>st</sup> and last Sunday of the Month

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