

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ISELIN

Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ

Minister: Rev. Chris Houtz

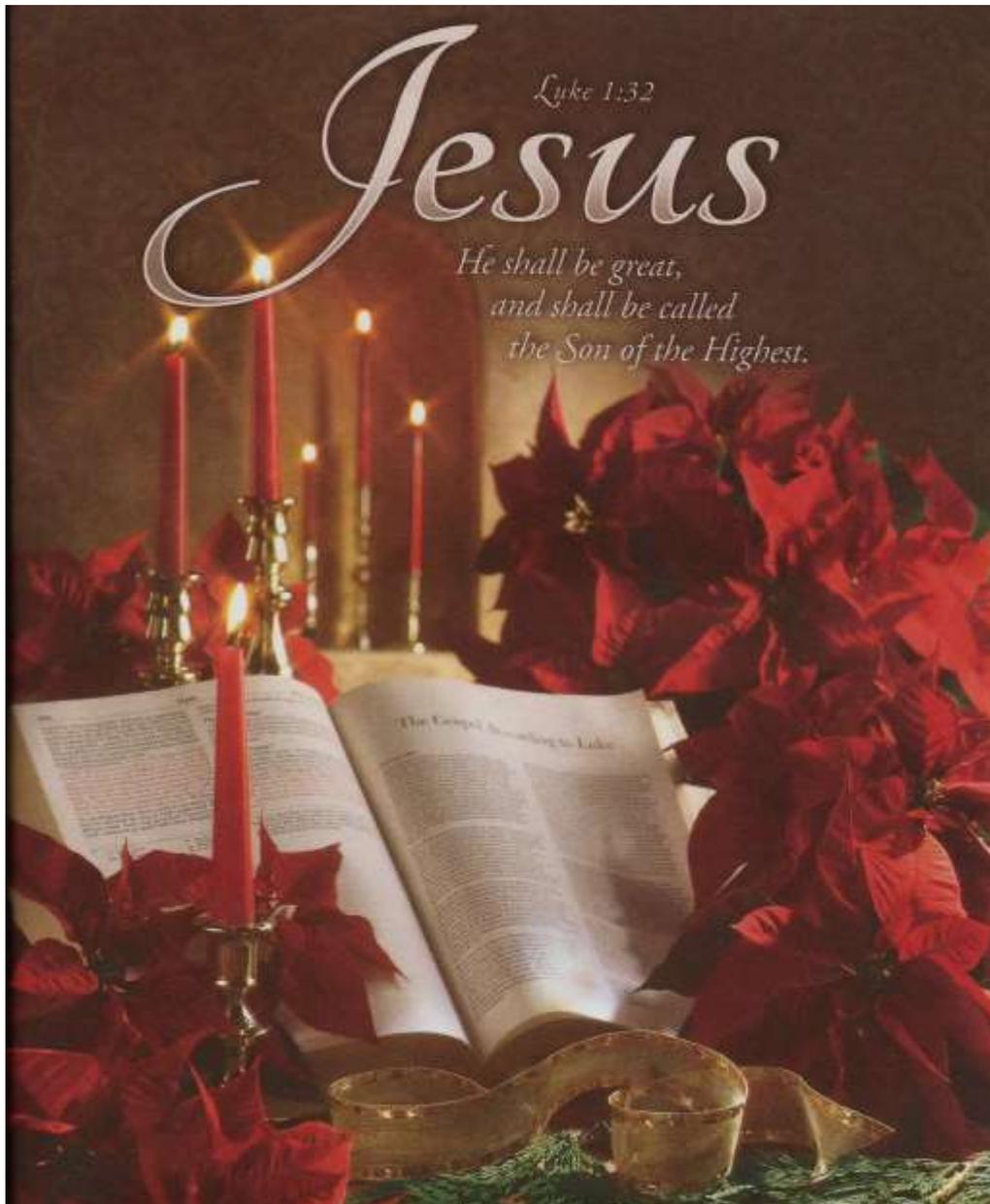
Liturgist: Elder Betsy Christensen

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

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

Friday, December 24, 2021

7:00 p.m.



Christmas Eve

LITANY FOR CHRISTMAS

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

Glory to God in the highest!

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Glory to God in the highest!

For a child has been born for us, a Son has been given to us.

Glory to God in the highest!

He is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Glory to God in the highest!

To us is born in the city of David a Savior, a Messiah, the Lord.

Glory to God in the highest!

And the Word became flesh and lived among us.

Glory to God in the highest!

Christ is born! Give him glory! Christ has come down from heaven! Receive him! Christ is now on earth! Exalt him! O earth, sing to the Lord! O you nations, praise him in joy, for he has been glorified! **Amen.**

RESPONSE #113 Angels We Have Heard on High (vs. 1 and refrain)

***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 **Once Upon A Christmas Night** (*arr. Martin*)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Glorious God, in Jesus your grace appears, bringing salvation to all. Help us to ponder your words of love by the light of your Spirit, that we may proclaim glad tidings of peace and welcome Christ in our world. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

Elder Betsy Christensen

⁷ How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
⁸ Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.
⁹ Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
¹⁰ The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Psalter Reading (Responsive): Psalm 98

Elder Betsy Christensen

¹ O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm
have gotten him victory.
² **The Lord has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.**
³ He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.
⁴ **Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**
⁵ Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.
⁶ **With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.**
⁷ Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.
⁸ **Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy**

⁹ at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming to judge the earth.

**He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.**

New Testament Reading: John 1:1-14

Rev. Chris Houtz

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

THE MESSAGE Dona Nobis Pacem

Rev. Chris Houtz

***HYMN #119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—A Christmas Creed**

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem.

I believe in the One whose Spirit glorified a little town; and whose Spirit still brings music to persons all over the world, in villages and towns, in cities both large and small.

I believe in the One for whom long ago the crowded inn could find no room, and I confess that today my crowded heart sometimes has trouble finding room for Christ.

I believe in the One, who made the rulers of earth tremble, and whom the proud never could understand; who welcomed children, and took them on his knee, whose life was spent among common people, whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts.

I believe in the One who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible and everlasting.

I believe in the truth of the One whose whole life story proclaimed that we are made for one chief purpose: to glorify God, and so to experience joy.

I believe in the One whose cradle was his mother's arms, whose modest home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth, who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw in them, who brought sinners back to purity, and lifted human weakness to meet the strength of God.

I confess my everlasting need of God: The need of forgiveness for small-mindedness, selfishness and greed; the need of a new start, and new hope for barren, empty souls, the need of love's light for hearts grown dark and dank and cold.

I believe in God who gives us the best of himself, and gives us power to be our best selves.

I believe in Jesus, the Son of the living God, born in Bethlehem long ago, active and relevant today, for me and for the world. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Each petition will end as follows: Shine upon them, **and give them peace.***

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

A Simple Stable (*Besig & Price*)

With grateful hearts, let us bring our tithes and offerings to the God from whom they came.

***THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE #606**

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

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

God of every good and perfect gift, we thank you for your greatest gift, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. In this season when so many gifts are given and received, we pray that you will receive the gifts we offer now. Use them according to your purposes and plans, bringing your good news of great joy to all people; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

***HYMN #134**

Joy to the World!

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION #122

Silent Night (candle-lighting)

THE POSTLUDE

Mary, did you know?

(Lowry and Greene)

Mary, did you know that your baby boy,
would one day walk on water?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy,
would save our sons and daughters?

Did you know that your baby boy
has come to make you new:

This Child that you delivered will soon deliver you?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy,
will give sight to a blind man

Mary, did you know that your baby boy,
would calm a storm with His hand?

Did you know that your baby boy,
has walked where angels trod,

and when you kiss your little baby, you've kissed the face of God?

Mary, did you know?

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again.

The lame will leap, the dumb will speak, the praises of the Lamb!

Mary, did you know that your baby boy
is Lord all creation?

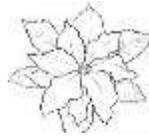
Mary, did you know that your baby boy,
will one day rule the nations?

Did you know that your baby boy was Heaven's perfect Lamb,
and the sleeping Child you're holding

Is the great, the Great I AM?

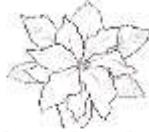
Oh, Mary, Mary, did you know?

Christmas Poinsettia Dedications!



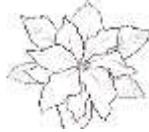
(Please pick up your flowers based on the indications shown above)

Betsy Christensen



In Loving Memory of my husband, Carl Christensen

The Durgana Family



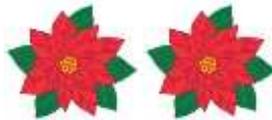
In Memory of James Durgana
Beloved Husband, Father, Grandfather, and Great-Grandfather

Margarita Estrada



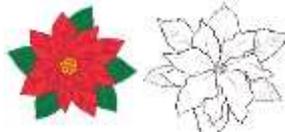
In Loving Memory of my father, Juan Estrada, Sr.
and my dear friends, Juan Rivera, Cally Pivano, and Mary Herrera

The Hayase Family



In Memory of Loved Ones

Amy Jones



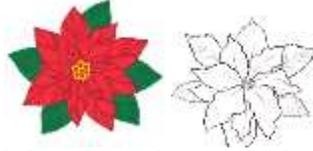
For the Glory of Christ

John and Patricia Lillie



In Loving Memory of John & Joan Lillie
Nicholas and Mary Kira

The Madsen Family



All for the Glory of Christ

The Meyers Family



In Memory of Our Loved Ones

Katherine Pintak



In Memory of Loved Ones

Friendly Reminders!

Office Closed 12/27 & 1/3/2022 in observance of day after Christmas and New Year's Day.

ChildFund is the Mission Focus for December, 2021.

The Board of Deacons' Ministry of Compassion is asking for donations of whole chickens or turkeys to include in our holiday food baskets. Also needed is canned sweet potatoes, boxed stuffing mixes, cranberry sauce, canned vegetables, pasta and canned broth. Please leave all donations in the church kitchen labeled for food pantry. Thank you everyone for your generous donations. Your Ministry of Compassion

Margarita Estrada on vacation 12/25/21 to 1/5/22. Back to work 1/6/22.
Coverage will be provided.

Men's Breakfast is Saturday, January 8th, 2022 at 8 am.

CLEF Ladies Breakfast is Saturday, January 8th, 2022 at 9 am.

Annual Congregational Meeting is Sunday, January 23, 2022.

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

Per Capita Apportionment for 2021 is \$40.45



Merry Christmas &

Be well and be safe!

Important Dates 2022



Men's Breakfast
Saturday, January 8th
at 8 am

**CLEF
Ladies Breakfast**
Saturday, January 8th
at 9:00 am



**Congregational
Meeting**
Sunday, January 23, 2022

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,



Visit our website www.1stpresbyterianiselin.org using your mobile device, scan QR Code. To participate with us on social media, "Like" us on Facebook & Instagram, or follow us on Twitter, @FPresIselin