

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ISELIN

Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ

Minister: Rev. Chris Houtz
Liturgist: Rose Anne Anthony

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

****Please rise in body or spirit.***

Sunday, December 26, 2021

10:30 A.M.



⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. – Luke 2:46-47

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR THE PROMISE

PRELUDE

Alaine Bolton, Director of Music

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rose Anne Anthony

CHORAL INTROIT #110 Love Has Come (vs. 2)

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

Rose Anne Anthony

There is good news of great joy for all!

Our Savior is born: the Messiah, the Lord.

Praise the Lord! Praise God in the heavens.

Praise the Lord from the earth!

Young and old alike,

Men and women together. Praise the Lord!

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

Rose Anne Anthony

Almighty God, you wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of Jesus Christ who came to share our humanity, and who now lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*** HYMN #133**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Rose Anne Anthony

Because we have passed through the waters of baptism, we dare to bare our souls before God and reveal the bitterness that dwells in our hearts. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Rose Anne Anthony

God of wonder, you surround us with signs of your glory and surprise us with your presence, yet we often miss the marvels you place before us. Forgive our dullness and make us alert to the ways you make yourself known, that we might be witnesses to your good news and proclaim your extravagant love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

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

In Jesus Christ God saved us, not because of any good works that we have done, but according to God's mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. People of God, rejoice! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

*** THE RESPONSE #133 Angels We Have Heard on High
(vs. 2 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

**Hymn Sing—Congregational Choice
(between #82-156)**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

By the breath of your Spirit inspire us, that in the hearing of your Word we may be filled with new understanding and fresh desire to please you in all we do, for the sake of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle Reading: Colossians 3:12-17

Rose Anne Anthony

¹² As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Psalter Reading (Responsive): Psalm 148

¹ Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

praise him in the heights!

² **Praise him, all his angels;**

praise him, all his host!

³ Praise him, sun and moon;

praise him, all you shining stars!

⁴ **Praise him, you highest heavens,**

and you waters above the heavens!

⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord,

for he commanded and they were created.

⁶ **He established them forever and ever;**

he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,
⁸ **fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!**
⁹ Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!
¹⁰ **Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!**
¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
¹² **Young men and women alike,
old and young together!**
¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.
¹⁴ **He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.**
Praise the Lord!

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:41-52

Rev. Chris Houtz

⁴¹ Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³ When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴ Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹ He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹ Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

THE MESSAGE A Reading from "Good News from North Haven" Rev. Chris Houtz
by Rev. Dr. Michael L. Lindvall

***HYMN #136 Go, Tell It On the Mountain**

***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 as follows: O God of Love, draw us together in 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

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)**

Loving God: We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Receive the gifts we offer in union with Christ's gift for us. Clothe us with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, that we may be Christ for others. In his name we pray. Amen.

***HYMN #134**

Joy to the World

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION #146

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child (vs. 1)

THE POSTLUDE

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 2022 is \$40.00.



*We wish everyone a blessed, healthy, and safe
New Year 2022!*

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