

# THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ISELIN

*Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ*

Minister: Rev. Chris Houtz

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

*\*Please rise in body or spirit.*

Sunday, April 24, 2022

10:30 A.M.



## *Gathering for Worship*

**PRELUDE**

**Alaine Bolton, Director of Music**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Liturgist**

**CHORAL INTROIT**

**He is Lord**

He is Lord, He is Lord,  
He is risen from the dead  
And he is Lord.  
Every knee shall bow,  
Every tongue confess  
That Jesus Christ is Lord.

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

**Liturgist**

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!**

Alleluia! Celebrate God in this sacred space! Celebrate God in all places under heaven!

**Give praise for God's mighty deeds! Give praise for God's resurrecting power!**

Praise God with a fanfare of trumpets.

**Praise God with the harp and the cello!**

Praise God with tambourines and dancing!

**Praise God with flutes and guitars!**

Praise God with cymbals and drums!

**Let everything with life and breath praise God!**

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

**Liturgist**

**Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**\* HYMN #245 Christ the Lord is Risen Today!**

## 232 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day,  
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 But the pains which he en - dured,  
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove,

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day,  
 un - to Christ, our heaven - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured.  
 praise e - ter - nal as God's love.

who did once up - on the cross,  
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Now a - bove the sky he's King,  
 Praise our God, ye heaven - ly host,

suf - fer to re - deem our loss.  
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 where the an - gels ev - er sing.  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

## **INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

**Liturgist**

When we keep our fears and faults locked up inside us, it is hard to be healed and receive new life. So let us open ourselves to God in confession, trusting the Lord's desire to give us peace.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)**

**Liturgist**

**God of the empty tomb and our empty hearts, when we are afraid to speak our faith in the world, forgive us and help us to find our voice. When we are afraid to forgive and to love again, forgive us and give us the power to forgive. When we are afraid to stand up to misguided authority, join with the weak to make us all strong. When we are confined by our hurts, touch us with your wounded hands and set us free. When we are locked behind our doubts and fears, pass through our barricades, open our hearts, and give us peace.**

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**

Christ comes with healing light into our locked places and shadowy hurts, resurrecting our spirits and breathing into us new life. As God's own forgiven people, go to bring peace, forgiveness, and new life to the world in the name of Jesus Christ. Friends, in the name of our risen Lord: we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God!**

**\* THE RESPONSE #519    You Are My All in All**

# You Are My Strength When I Am Weak 519

## You Are My All in All

Capo 5: (C) (G) (Am7) (Em) (C)  
F C Dm7 Am F

You are my strength when I am weak; you are the trea- sure that I

seek; you are my all in all. When I fall down, you pick me

up; when I am dry, you fill my cup; you are my all in all.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name!

Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name!

### \*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)*

# Hearing and Responding to the Word Proclaimed

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

**Rev. Chris Houtz**

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**Liturgist**

Living God, as the risen Christ came into the locked room of the first disciples, may your Word enter into us, by the power of your Holy Spirit, so that we who have not seen may yet believe. Amen.

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Epistle Reading:**

**Liturgist**

### **Acts 5:27-32**

**27** When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, **28** saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." **29** But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. **30** The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. **31** God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. **32** And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

**Psalm Reading (Responsive):**

**Liturgist**

### **Psalm 150**

**1** Praise the Lord!

Praise God in his sanctuary;  
praise him in his mighty firmament!

**2 Praise him for his mighty deeds;  
praise him according to his surpassing greatness!**

**3** Praise him with trumpet sound;  
praise him with lute and harp!

**4 Praise him with tambourine and dance;  
praise him with strings and pipe!**

**5** Praise him with clanging cymbals;  
praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

**6 Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!  
Praise the Lord!**

**HYMN #633**

**Praise Ye the Lord**

# Praise Ye the Lord

(Psalm 150)

633

*Refrain*      D                                  G D      Em                                  D/A A7 D      *Fine*

Praise ye the Lord, Hal-le-lu-jah!      Ev-ery-bod-y praise the Lord.

B $\flat$                                   F                                  B $\flat$

1 Praise God with the sound of the trum - pet.      Praise God with the  
 2 Praise God with ho - ly cym - bals.      Praise God with  
 3 Praise God in the ho - ly tem - ple.      Praise God for al -  
 4 Praise God on top of the moun - tains.      Praise God both

D                                  B $\flat$

lute and the harp.      Praise God with tim - brel and danc -  
 strings and with pipes.      Praise God with clash - ing cym -  
 might - y deeds.      Praise God for those boun - ti - ful mer -  
 day and night.      Praise God down in the low val -

F                                  B $\flat$                                   A7      *to Refrain*

- ing.      Praise God wher - ev - er you are.  
 - bals.      Praise God with all of your might.  
 - cies,      for God ful - fills our needs.  
 - leys.      Praise God be - cause it's all right.

Like the original psalm, this paraphrase of Psalm 150 ranges widely through lists of how, why, and where to praise God. Couched in a syncopated African American gospel style, the setting invites the addition of instruments, though the voices of singers remain most important.

## **Gospel Reading:**

### **John 20:19-31**

**19** When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." **20** After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. **21** Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." **22** When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. **23** If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

**24** But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. **25** So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

**26** A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." **27** Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." **28** Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" **29** Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

**THE MESSAGE**

**The Ragman** (*by Walter Wangerin, Jr.*)

**Rev. Chris Houtz**

**\*HYMN #817 We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight**

## 817 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

D G Bm A

1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with  
 2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor  
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and  
 4 And when our life of faith is done, in

D G Bm A A7 D G D

gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as  
 fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise  
 may our faith a - bound to call on you when  
 realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you

Bm G F#m A D

none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."  
 we re - joice and cry, "My Lord and God!"  
 you are near and seek where you are found.  
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

### \*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 by saying, "As you sent Christ, **now send us.**"*

## 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.

## Thanksgiving

## THE OFFERING

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

## \*THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE #697 Take My Life

DEDICATION AND STEWARDSHIP

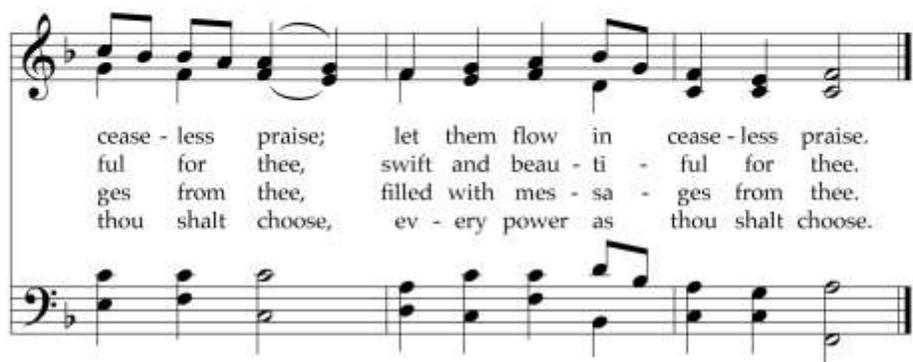
## Take My Life 697



1 Take my life and let it be con-se - crat-ed, Lord, to thee;  
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;  
3 Take my voice and let me sing al-ways, on - ly, for my King;  
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold; not a mite would I with-hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in  
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti -  
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sa -  
take my in - tel - lect and use ev - ery power as



cease - less praise; let them flow in cease - less praise.  
ful for thee, swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.  
ges from thee, filled with mes - sa - ges from thee.  
thou shalt choose, ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.

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

**Holy One, bless our offerings and transform them into healing for the wounded, hope for the disheartened, courage for the frightened, and faith for the embittered. In the name of Jesus Christ, your faithful witness, the first resurrected, and ruler of the sovereigns of the earth. Amen.**

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

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.**

Eternal God, creator of the world and giver of all good, we thank you for the earth, our home, and for the gift of life. We praise you for your love in Jesus Christ, who came to heal this broken world, who died rejected on the cross, and rose triumphant from the dead. Because he lives, we live to praise you, our God forever.

**Gracious God, who called us from death to life, we give ourselves to you; and with the church through all ages we thank you for your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Sending Us into the World*

**\*HYMN #35 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty**

# 35 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

1 Praise ye the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -  
 2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous - ly  
 3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy  
 reign - eth, shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so  
 dore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with

health and sal - va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his  
 gen - tly sus - tain - eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de -  
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his

tem - ple draw near; join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
 sires e'er have been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?  
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for aye we a - dore him.

This very strong 17th-century German hymn employs many phrases from the psalms, especially Psalms 150 and 103:1-6. It did not receive an effective English translation until the mid-19th century, but has remained popular ever since, thanks in part to its stirring tune.

## BENEDICTION

### CHORAL BENEDICTION

### Lord I Lift Your Name on High

Lord, I lift your name on high;  
Lord, I love to sing your praises.  
I'm so glad you're in my life;  
I'm so glad you came to save us.  
You came from heaven to earth, to show the way,  
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay,  
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;  
Lord I lift your name on high.

## THE POSTLUDE

### *Friendly Reminders*

Rev. Chris Houtz vacation: 4/25/22 – 5/2/22  
(The Thursday Congregational Call has been posted to Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>)

Men's and CLEF Ladies' Breakfast  
Saturday, May 7, 2022 at 9 am

Margarita Estrada vacation: 5/13/22 and 5/16/22

Per capita for 2022 is \$40.

### *Vacation Bible School*

*Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup> – Friday July 29<sup>th</sup>*

**Volunteers Needed!**

Exciting News! This year, we will be joining with The First Presbyterian Church of Avenel for Vacation Bible School (VBS). VBS will take place July 25-29, 9:00 A.M. - 12:15 P.M. at the FPresAvenel, 621 Woodbridge Avenue, Avenel, NJ. It is open to students preschool (age 4)-5th grade (information on registration will be provided soon). **They are currently looking for both teenage (having completed 6<sup>th</sup> grade or higher) and adult volunteers.** If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Elder Heather Meyers at 732-762-3552 or [hellohmm@aol.com](mailto:hellohmm@aol.com).

## *Regular Activities*

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

Wednesday Morning Bible Study at 11 am

Rev. Chris' Congregational Call - Every Thursday at 11 am  
(updated phone number and pin will be provided upon Rev. Chris' return)

Prayer Shawl Ministry – Thursdays, 7-9 pm

Men's Breakfast & 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 practice: 1<sup>st</sup> 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,*



Visit our website [www.1stpresbyterianiselin.org](http://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, @FPresIselinNJ

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