

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ISELIN

Minds, hearts, hands and voices in Christ

Service and Message by: Jennifer Ring

Liturgist: Rev. Chris Houtz

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

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

Sunday, July 18, 2021

10:30 am

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR THE PROMISE

PRELUDE

Alaine Bolton, Director of Music

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Chris Houtz

CHORAL INTROIT (2x)

Jesus, We Are Here
Gathering

Words and Music by
Patrick Matsikenyiri

D A Em/A
je - sus, we are here, je - sus,
je - su ta - wa pa - no, je - su

D/A Dmaj7 D D7 G
we are here, je - sus, we are here,
ta - wa pa - no, je - su ta - wa pa - no,

D/A A9 A7 D Em7/A
we are here _____ for _____ you.
ta - wa pa - no mu zi - ta re

D D Em7/A D Em7/A D
Mam-bo je - su nyu. _____

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

Rev. Chris Houtz

Come into the presence of the Most High God with songs of praise and shouts of thanksgiving.

For our Savior frees us from slavery; our Savior heals our diseases; our Savior is our peace.

You are a holy temple in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Come; let us worship God.

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

Rev. Chris Houtz

Eternal God, Author of our life and End of our pilgrimage: Guide us by Word and Spirit amid all perils and temptations, that we may not wander from your way, nor stumble in the darkness; but may finish our course in safety, and come to our eternal rest in you; through the grace and merit of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*** HYMN #310 I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Rev. Chris Houtz

Let us confess our sin, confident in God's love for us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Rev. Chris Houtz

Eternal God, your steadfast love endures forever. We confess that we act as if we are in control, as if you will bless whatever we do. If we think of others at all, it is with an eye toward their usefulness to us. If we consider your creation, it is to ponder what benefits us. We have failed to show your love or to do justice in obedience to you. We have no right to be called your children. Have mercy on us, God of grace. Forgive our sins, we humbly pray. Put the mind of Christ within us, O God, so that our lives take the form of a cross. Use us to break down walls of hostility within the church, among the nations, around the world. Equip us to do your will, giving you glory, honor, and praise together with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

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

Our Lord Jesus gives us rest and peace. Our Lord's touch heals us, and his shed blood is our salvation. Hear the good news: In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

*** THE RESPONSE #633 Praise Ye the Lord (refrain only)**

***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, either by calling, texting, or honking if you are outside!)

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Chris Houtz

ANTHEM**Psalm 23 (Surely Goodness, Surely Mercy)***Shane & Shane, YouTube***PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION****Rev. Chris Houtz**

May the reading of your Word draw near to you those of us once far off. May the hearing of your Word break down the dividing walls between us, for Jesus Christ, your living Word, is at peace. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS**Old Testament Reading: Psalm 23****Rev. Chris Houtz**

¹The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. ²He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; ³he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. ⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God**New Testament Reading: Ephesians 2: 11-22****Jennifer Ring**

¹¹So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision” – a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands – ¹²remember that you are at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. ¹⁵He has abolished the law that with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. ¹⁷So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²²in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God**THE MESSAGE****Enemies in Bad Faith****Jennifer Ring*****HYMN #761 Called as Partner's in Christ's Service**

***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

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)**

God of green pastures and still waters, bless these gifts that we have been given, that they may become part of your banquet for the world. Amen.

***HYMN #302 When Hands Reach Out and Fingers Trace**

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION (2x)

Go with God

Rom. 8:14
Departing/Benediction

Words and Music by
Isaiah Jones, Jr.

The musical score is written on four staves in a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are: "Go with God. Go with God. As you leave this place, go with God. God will direct your way, God will light every day. As you leave this place, go with God." The chords are: F, Bb, Eb, Dm7, G7, Cm, Eb/F, F, Bb, Eb/F, Bb, Bb7/D, Ebmaj7, Cm7, Bb/F, F7, Bb, (Eb/F).

© Copyright 1991 Isaiah Jones, Jr. III's Praise Music Company (ASCAP).
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

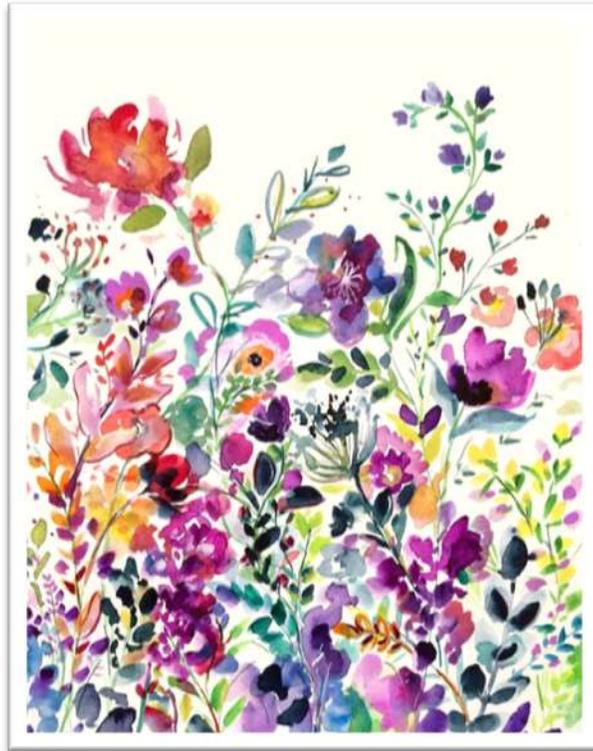
THE POSTLUDE

Message from Today's Guest Speaker



Good Morning FPC Iselin, my name is Jennifer Ring and just relocated to Princeton after completing my first year of Seminary remotely in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. I am interning at FPC Metuchen and preaching at surrounding churches each Sunday. I am embarking on a second career after realizing God was pushing me away from my career in Finance. I am excited to finally be in New Jersey and look forward to becoming a part of the

Community.



In Loving Memory

The flowers gracing our sanctuary this morning were donated by Ruth Davie, in memory of

Kim Staryak, daughter
Emilie Lochner, mother
Virginia Roglen, friend

Friendly Reminders!

Tamil Christian Worship VBS
Tuesday, July 20th to Friday, July 23rd
10 am to 1 pm

India Independence Day and Flag Hoisting Ceremony
Saturday, August 14th in the church parking lot.
All are welcome!

Next Session Meeting, Sunday, August 15th

Per Capita Apportionment for 2021 is \$40.45

As of 6/28/21, 42 members have reimbursed the church for per capita responsibilities! Thank you!

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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

Prayer Shawl Ministry
Tuesdays at 2 pm

Wednesdays – Bible Study in Fellowship Hall at 11 am

Rev. Chris' Congregational Call
Every Thursday at 11 am

Sunday Bible Study
9:00 am

Session 'in-person' meeting every 3rd Sunday of the month

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

Cover Graphic from Moss Vale Presbyterian Church: <https://mvpc.org.au/sermons/ephesians-211-22-the-third-race/>