

# THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ISELIN

*Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ*

Minister: Rev. Chris Houtz

Liturgist: Elder Chris Madsen and Cayleigh Madsen-Ortiz

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

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

Sunday, August 22, 2021

10:30 A.M.

## PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR THE PROMISE

PRELUDE

Alaine Bolton, Director of Music

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder Chris Madsen & Cayleigh Madsen-Ortiz

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 1.  
we are here for you.  
ta - wa pa - no mu zi - ta re

12. rit. D Em7/A D Em7/A D  
Mam-bo Je - su nyu.

**\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive) Elder Chris Madsen & Cayleigh Madsen-Ortiz**

The Lord redeems the life of God's servants.

**Thanks be to God!**

No one who takes refuge in the Lord will be condemned.

**Praise the Lord!**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison) Elder Chris Madsen & Cayleigh Madsen-Ortiz**  
Almighty God, you have taught us that all our deeds without love are worth nothing. Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the very bond of peace and of all goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**\* HYMN #839 Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine**

**INVITATION TO CONFESSION Elder Chris Madsen and Cayleigh Madsen-Ortiz**  
Let us confess our sins to the One whose eyes are open day and night to heed our cry and our prayer.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison) Elder Chris Madsen & Cayleigh Madsen-Ortiz**  
Watchful God, you know our plight. Offended, we have not believed your words. Complaining, we have betrayed your love. We are weak, estranged, wandering, and lost. Seeking to stand in our own strength, we fall. Strangers to your holiness, we wander. Defenseless against evil within and without, we are lost. Shine your light in our darkness, and guide us back to our place in you.

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: Christ himself is the Word that offers eternal life to all who receive him. This proves his love for us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**\* THE RESPONSE #633** **Praise Ye the Lord (refrain)**  
*Praise Ye the Lord, Hallelujah! Everybody praise the Lord.*

**\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**  
The peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

*(Please pass the peace by waving.)*

**CHILDREN'S TIME** **Rev. Chris Houtz**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** **Elder Chris Madsen & Cayleigh Madsen-Ortiz**  
Lord Jesus Christ, as we hear the reading of Holy Scripture, speak to us your words of spirit and life. Amen.

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **John 6:56-69**

<sup>56</sup> Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup> Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup> This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” <sup>59</sup> He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. <sup>60</sup> When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” <sup>61</sup> But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup> Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup> It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup> But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. <sup>65</sup> And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.” <sup>66</sup> Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. <sup>67</sup> So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” <sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup> We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

### **Ephesians 4:25-5:2**

<sup>25</sup> So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. <sup>26</sup> Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup> and do not make room for the devil. <sup>28</sup> Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. <sup>29</sup> Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, <sup>32</sup> and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. **5** <sup>1</sup> Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, <sup>2</sup> and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

**THE MESSAGE**

**Living in the Love of Christ**

**Rev. Chris Houtz**

**\*HYMN #366**

**Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**

**\*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)**

**Almighty God, we dedicate ourselves to serve you, for you alone are our God. Receive, O God, the gifts we offer, and with these gifts accept the offering of our lives; through Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**\*HYMN #846**

**Fight the Good Fight**

## **BENEDICTION**

**CHORAL BENEDICTION**

**Go with God (2x)**

# Go with God

Rom. 8:14  
Departing/Benediction

Words and Music by  
Isaiah Jones, Jr.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb) and a common time signature (C). It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The first staff has lyrics: "Go with God. Go with God. As you". The second staff has lyrics: "leave this place, go with God. God will di -". The third staff has lyrics: "rect your way, God will light ev - 'ry day.". The fourth staff has lyrics: "As you leave this place, go with God." Above the notes, various chords are indicated: F, Bb, Eb, Dm7, G7, Cm, Eb/F, F, Bb, Eb/F, Bb, Bb7/D, Ebmaj7, Cm7, Bb/F, F7, Bb, and (Eb/F).

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## THE POSTLUDE

# Friendly Reminders!

Margarita Estrada Vacation Day – Coverage will be provided.  
Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup>

Men's Breakfast – None in September  
August 28<sup>th</sup> at 8 am

CLEF Ladies' Breakfast – None in September  
August 28<sup>th</sup> at 9 am

Rev. Chris will be on vacation from  
September 4<sup>th</sup> through September 12<sup>th</sup>.  
Rev. Ken McCari will be delivering the message for September 5<sup>th</sup>;  
September 12<sup>th</sup> is yet to be determined

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 12 noon – starting next week through end of October  
November, 2021, back to 2 pm

Wednesdays – Bible Study 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 'in-person' meeting every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month

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