

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.*

Sunday, August 29, 2021

10:30 A.M.

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR THE PROMISE

PRELUDE

Alaine Bolton, Director of Music

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder Betsy Christensen

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

2.
D Em7/A D Em7/A rit. D
Mam-bo Je - su nyu. _____

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

Elder Betsy Christensen

Who may abide in the presence of God?

All those who walk blamelessly and do what is right.

Who may live on God's holy mountain?

All those who speak truth from their heart.

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

Elder Betsy Christensen

O God, author and giver of all good things, plant in our hearts the love of your name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

*** HYMN #32**

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Elder Betsy Christensen

With sincere hearts and minds, let us confess our sins before God and the world, trusting in God's mercy to forgive.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Elder Betsy Christensen

God of light, we confess that we live in the shadows of hypocrisy and self-righteousness. We honor you with our lips, but we have not served you in our hearts. We are satisfied with human traditions and norms and avoid your liberating truth. We have confused meekness with weakness, holiness with social conformity, and anger with righteousness. Forgive us, we pray. By the power of your word save us from the prison of our conceit so that we may serve you with sincere hearts.

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

Friends, do not despair:

God renews us by the word of truth, that we might become the first fruits of God's creation. 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 with friends and loved-ones.)

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Chris Houtz

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, by the power of your Spirit open our hearts and minds to receive your Word that we not forget the wonders you have done nor neglect to make them known to our children, nor fail to tell them to the world. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

James 1:17-27

¹⁷ Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹ You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹ Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²² But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³ For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴ for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵ But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶ If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

7 Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, ² they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³ (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴ and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵ So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" ⁶ He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

'This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
⁷ in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.'

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

THE MESSAGE

Getting Passed Normal

Rev. Chris Houtz

***HYMN #442**

Just As I Am, Without One Plea

***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)**

Lord, receive these gifts for the work of your church. With these gifts we dedicate ourselves to live in the truth of your word, and follow your commandments with sincere hearts; through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN #630**

Fairest Lord Jesus

COMMISSIONING SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

There is one body and one Spirit, just as we were called to the one hope of our calling, **one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.**

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

We are called by God to be the church of Jesus Christ, a sign in the world today of what God intends for all humankind.

The great ends of the Church are the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

The call of Christ is to a willing, dedicated discipleship. Our discipleship is a manifestation of the new life we enter through baptism. Discipleship is both a gift and a commitment, an offering and a responsibility.

QUESTIONS FOR THE TEACHERS

The grace bestowed on you in baptism is sufficient for your calling because it is God's grace. By God's grace we are saved, and enabled to grow in the faith and to commit our lives in ways that serve Christ.

God has called you to particular service. Show your purpose by answering these questions.

Who is your Lord and Savior?

Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?

I will, with God's help.

Do you welcome the responsibility of this service because you are determined to follow the Lord Jesus, to love neighbors, and to work for the reconciling of the world?

I do.

Will you serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, relying on God's mercy and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit?

I will, with God's help.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH

Do you, members of the First Presbyterian Church of Iselin, confirm the call of God to these teachers in the service of Jesus Christ?

We do.

Will you support and encourage them in this ministry?

We will.

COMMISSIONING PRAYER

Faithful God, in baptism you claimed us; and by your Holy Spirit you are working in our lives, empowering us to live a life worthy of our calling. We thank you for leading them to this time and place. Establish them in your truth, and guide them by your Holy Spirit, that in your service they may grow in faith, hope, and love, and be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever.

Almighty God, you have given your law to guide us in a life of love, and you have appointed teachers to interpret your will. Create in those who instruct your people a mind to study your word, and good understanding, so that we may all learn your truth and do it gladly; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Master. Amen.

BENEDICTION

May the God of peace make you holy in every way, and keep your whole being, spirit, soul, and body, free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

You are commissioned to service as teachers. Everyone, join them in that whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through him. Amen.

CHORAL BENEDICTION (2x)

Go with God
Rom. 8:14
Departing/Benediction
Words and Music by
Isaiah Jones, Jr.

F B♭ E♭ Dm7 G7
Go with God, Go with God. As you

Cm E♭/F F B♭ E♭/F
leave this place, go with God. God will di-

B♭ B♭7/D E♭maj7 Cm7
rect your way, God will light ev-'ry day.

B♭/F F7 B♭ (E♭/F)
As you leave this place, go with God.

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THE POSTLUDE

Friendly Reminders!

Margarita Estrada Vacation Day – Coverage will be provided.
Friday, September 3rd

Rev. Chris will be on vacation from
September 4th through September 12th.
Rev. Ken McCari will be delivering the message for September 5th;
September 12th 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

Wednesdays – Bible Study in Fellowship Hall 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

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