

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ISELIN

Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ

Minister: Rev. Chris Houtz

Liturgist: Elder Andrea Harrison

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

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

Sunday, September 26, 2021

10:30 A.M.

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR THE PROMISE

PRELUDE

Alaine Bolton, Director of Music

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder Andrea Harrison, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT

Great and Mighty
Ps. 150
Songs of Praise
Words and Music by
Marlene Bigley

D
Great and might - y is the Lord our God,
Em7 A
Great and might - y in - deed.
Em7
Great and might - y is the Lord our God,
A G/A D Em/A D
Great and might - y in - deed. Lift up your
Em7(4) D/F#
ban-ner, let the an-thems ring; prais - es ev - er
G D C6 B7
sing! Great and might - y is the Lord our God,
Em7(4) A7 1. D G/A A 2. D
Great and might - y in - deed. deed.

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

Elder Andrea Harrison, Liturgist

If it had not been for God, who was on our side, we would have fallen prey to those who want to harm us; we would have been swept away by sadness and fear.

Blessed be the Lord, our protector!

God has broken the snare that took away our freedom. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Blessed be God's holy name.

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

Elder Andrea Harrison, Liturgist

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly cares, but to love that which is above, and even now, while we live among transient things, to hold fast to those things that shall endure; 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 #645**

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Elder Andrea Harrison, Liturgist

In faithful prayer there is power to save the sick; anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore let us confess our sins and pray for one another so that we may be healed.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Elder Andrea Harrison, Liturgist

God, our strength and savior, you know our great transgressions, our hidden faults, our secret sins. With our hands we grasp at power; with our feet we stumble into evil; with our eyes we look out for ourselves. Forgive us, gracious God, and lead us in your holy way of life and love and peace; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Though we wander from the truth, God brings us back and saves our souls from death. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

*** THE RESPONSE #582**

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

***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.)

ANTHEM**Who Am I** (*arr. Chinn*)**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Lord God, by the power of your Spirit, enlighten our eyes, instruct our minds, rejoice our hearts, and revive our souls so that our lips and our lives may bear witness to your Word. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS**Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22**

7 ¹ So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. ² On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." ³ Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. ⁴ For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king." ⁵ Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" ⁶ Esther said, "A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

⁹ Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." ¹⁰ So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

²⁰ Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, ²¹ enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, ²² as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

Mark 9:38-50

³⁸ John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." ³⁹ But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰ Whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹ For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

⁴² “If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. ⁴³ If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. ⁴⁵ And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷ And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸ where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. ⁴⁹ “For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰ Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

THE MESSAGE

All Ye Who Enter Here

Rev. Chris Houtz

***HYMN #291**

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

***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)**

Blessed be the Lord, for God is good, and God’s love endures forever. Our Creator, help us to mirror your goodness through this offering, in the world. Amen.

***HYMN #330**

Our Help is in the Name of God

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah
Songs of Praise

Music: Unknown
Arr. Geoff Weaver

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah!

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah!

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah!

le - lu - jah! jah!

THE POSTLUDE



MESSAGE FROM ALAINE BOLTON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Choir will rehearse the first and last Sunday's of the month at 9:30am and will sing for the service on the first Sunday (Communion Sunday) of every month. Hope to see you there!

Per Capita Apportionment for 2021 is \$40.45

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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

Prayer Shawl Ministry - Tuesdays at 12 noon

Bible Study - Wednesdays 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