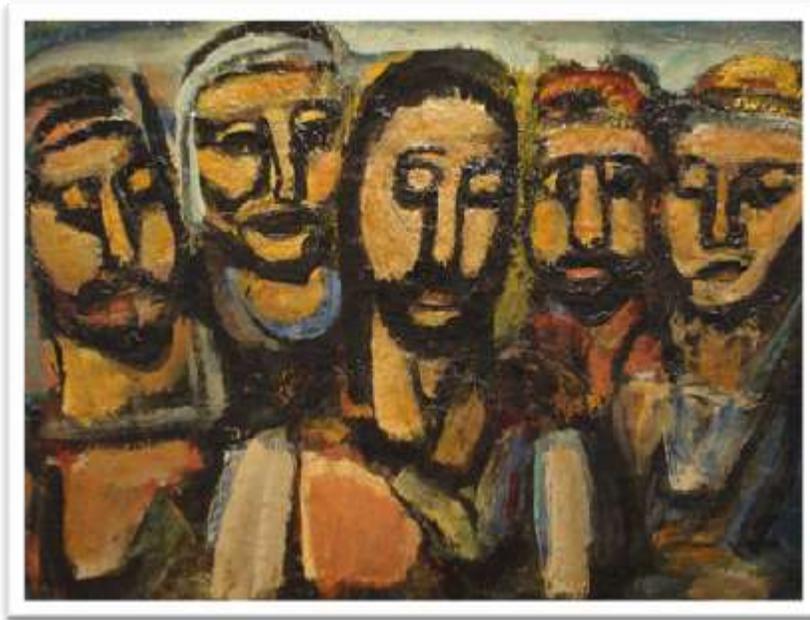


THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ISELIN

Minds, hearts, hands and voices in Christ



**Sunday, July 4, 2021
1295 Oak Tree Road
Iselin, NJ 08830
Tel: (732) 283-1188/1195
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To visit our website www.1stpresbyterianiselin.org
using your mobile device, scan QR Code



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THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ISELIN

Minds, hearts, hands and voices in Christ

Service and Message by: Rev. Chris Houtz

Liturgist: Elder Ron Stamboly

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

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

Sunday, July 4, 2021

10:30 A.M.

PRELUDE

Alaine Bolton, Director of Music

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder Ron Stamboly

CHORAL INTROIT (2x)

As We Gather in This Place

Gathering

Words and music by
Kevin Boyd

Musical score for the Choral Introit 'As We Gather in This Place'. The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: 'As we gath-er in this place We have come to seek your face. May our lives re - flect your grace As we gath-er in this place.' The chords are: D, Dmaj7, Em, A, D, F#m, Bm, Bm/A, Em, A, G, D.

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

Elder Ron Stamboly

God is mighty in word and deed.

God's mercy is everlasting.

Blessed be the one holy and living God.

Glory to God forever.

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

Elder Ron Stamboly

God of the covenant, in our baptism you called us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. Give us courage like you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life, in the name of Jesus Christ our

redeemer, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, on God, forever and ever. Amen.

***HYMN #377**

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Elder Ron Stamboly

Threats to life pierce us and cause us to doubt God's love. But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Let us confess our sins and receive new life.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Elder Ron Stamboly

Holy three, Holy One, triune God, we confess that we do not believe that you have overcome sin and death. We are more in touch with the pangs of our weakness than we are with the power of your love. In fear, we worship idols; in despair, we collapse in hopelessness; in rage, we seek to dominate others. O God of David, forgive us. O Son of God, have mercy on us. O Spirit of the Living God, grant us peace. Send us out with the good news: no changes withstand the victory of the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

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

Sisters and brothers, God's grace and mercy are never ending. Our sins are forgiven, therefore be at peace.

THE RESPONSE #288

Spirit of the Living God

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Elder Ron Stamboly

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you. (*Please pass the peace of Christ to one another.*)

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Chris Houtz

ANTHEM

Be Still My Soul (*Jean Sibelius, arr. Howlett*)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Elder Ron Stamboly

Come, Holy Spirit; when we become stubborn and unbelieving, open our hearts to receive your Word that sets us free to follow in the power of Christ's love. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mark 6:1-13

6 He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ² On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds

of power are being done by his hands! ³ Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary^[a] and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense^[b] at him. ⁴ Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." ⁵ And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. ⁶ And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷ He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸ He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; ⁹ but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰ He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹ If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." ¹² So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³ They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

2 Cor. 12:2-10

² I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. ³ And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows— ⁴ was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. ⁵ On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶ But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, ⁷ even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸ Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, ⁹ but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰ Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

THE MESSAGE Paul: One Man, One Vision, One Mission

Rev. Chris Houtz

***HYMN #625**

O Lord My God

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God,
The Father, the Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
Of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
The only Son of God,
Eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God,
Begotten, not made,
Of one Being with the Father;
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
He came down from heaven,
Was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
And became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
In accordance with the Scriptures;
He ascended into heaven
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
And his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
Who with the Father and the Son
Is worshiped and glorified,
Who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
And the life of the world to come. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE OFFERING

***THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE #655**

What Shall I Render to the Lord (v. 1)

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

Divine Giver, all that we have is a gift from you, and your grace is our sufficiency. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may increase your blessing to others, through the grace and mercy of Christ. Amen.

***HYMN #525**

Let Us Break Bread Together

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to praise you, O God, creator of the universe. In your wisdom, you made all things and sustain them by your power. You formed us in your image to love and serve you and to live in peace with your creation. When we rebelled against you, you did not abandon us, but sent prophets to call us back to your way. Then in the fullness of time, you sent your only Son to redeem us and heal our brokenness. Therefore we join our voices with the choirs of heaven and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever praise your name.

Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty, who was and is and is to come.

Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever!

Holy God, we thank you for Jesus Christ, your Son. In Jesus, born of Mary, your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. He lived as one of us, knowing joy and sorrow. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, welcomed sinners, and proclaimed good news to the poor. Dying on the cross, he gave himself for the life of the world. Rising from the grave, he won for us victory over death. Seated at your right hand, he reigns with you in glory and will come again to make all things new.

We give you thanks that on the night of his arrest Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it do this in remembrance of me.

Remembering the risen Christ, we take from your creation this bread and wine as we live for the day of his coming. With thanksgiving we offer you now the sacrifice of our lives, for great is the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast, united in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

In union with your Church in heaven and on earth, we pray, O God, that you will fulfill your eternal purpose in us and in all the world. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in

final victory, and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

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

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Because there is one loaf, we, many as we are, are one body; for it is one loaf of which we partake.

When we break the bread, is it not a sharing in the body Christ?

When we give thanks over the cup, is it not a sharing in the blood Christ?

Friends, these are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER SUPPER

Gracious God, how can we thank you for such a gift? For you have met us, fed us, drawn us to you, and bound us to one another. Now send us out to share your love and proclaim our hope until Christ comes again. Amen.

***HYMN #388**

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

***THE BENEDICTION**

CHORAL BENEDICTION (2x)

As You Travel from This Place

Departing/Benediction

Words and Music by
Jim Strathdee

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. It consists of five lines of music with lyrics underneath. Chord symbols are placed above the notes. The lyrics are: "As you travel from this place our love is with you, When your journey near at hand or far a broad. All the life we've shared together will continue, As you grow in the knowledge, learn of the wisdom, and live in the spirit of our God."

(A) D A
As you trav - el from this place our love is

Bm Em Bm
with you, When you jour - ney near at hand or far a -

A F#m F#m7
broad. All the life we've shared to - geth - er will con -

Bm7 Em7 A
tin - ue, As you grow in the know - ledge,

G A Em7 A D (A)
learn of the wis - dom, and live in the spir - it of our God.

THE POSTLUDE

Friendly Reminders

Sue Figueroa and Gary Ramirez Wedding today at 2pm

Rev. Chris will be on vacation from
Thursday, July 8th to Thursday, July 15th*

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

(Note: Margarita Estrada will be off Friday, July 2nd, coverage will be provided)

Office will be closed on Monday, July 5th,
in observance of Independence Day.

Prayer Shawl Ministry
Tuesdays at 2 pm

Wednesdays – Bible Study in Fellowship Hall at 11 am

Thursday Congregational Call
Next call will be Thursday, July 22nd at 11 am*

Sunday Bible Study
9:00 am

Session 'in person' meeting: 3rd Sunday of the month, in person,
except for July.

Men's Breakfast – Saturday, July 10th at 8 am

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

Cover image by Domini Canes: <https://dominicanes.me/tag/mark-61-13/>



**We wish everyone a happy
and safe Independence
Day!**