

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of MASON CITY, IOWA

July 18, 2021

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Who is this God we have come to worship?

**God is the Creator of wind and water,
the one who calms storms and fears.**

Who is this Jesus we seek to follow?

**Jesus is the peace which fills our souls,
the companion of our hearts.**

Who is this Spirit who dwells within us?

**The Spirit fills us with grace,
so our hopes will not perish.**

HYMN "As the Deer"

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.
You alone are my strength, my shield, to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Loving God, in your presence we confess
how often we fall for the lies that promise us security;
how often we deny our limits and our need of your grace;
how often we desire things other than what you provide;
how often we wander from your way and disregard your love.
Forgive us, we pray.
Surround us with the abundance of your grace
so that we may be whole and hidden in you. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

In Jesus Christ, all is forgiven.
Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE #62

Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart.
Love the Lord, your God, with all your soul.
Love the Lord, your God, with all your mind.
Love the Lord, your God, with all that you are.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Unison)

Prepare our hearts, O God, to receive your Word.
Silence in us any voice but your own,
that, hearing, we may also obey your will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALTER Psalm 23 (Responsive)

The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right paths for your name's sake.

**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is overflowing.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

GOSPEL READING Mark 6: 30-32

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves.

SERMON "Come Away and Rest A While"

HYMN #182 "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give
The living water, thirsty one, stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;
Look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk till traveling days are done.

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.

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION (Unison)

Bless these gifts and our lives, O God.

We offer them in the name of the one who emptied himself that we might be filled;
who humbled himself that we might be lifted up.

We pray that these gifts be used to proclaim the gospel
which fills lives that are empty and lifts up those who need help.

With these gifts we offer our lives, for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

My shepherd will supply my need; Jehovah is his name.

In pastures fresh he makes me feed, beside the living stream.

He brings my wandering spirit back when I forsake his ways,

And leads me, for his mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death your presence is my stay;

One word of your supporting breath drives all my fears away.

Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my table spread;

My cup with blessings overflows; your oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days;

O may your house be my abode, and all my work be praise.

There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come;

No more a stranger, or a guest, but like a child at home.

SENDING

The vision of First Presbyterian Church is to glorify God by:

GATHERING as children of God;

GROWING together in faith, hope, and love; and

GOING out to make Christ known.

BLESSING

RESPONSE

God be with you till we meet again, God be in you, go in peace.

Loving counsels guide, uphold you, with a shepherd's care enfold you.

God be with you till we meet again, God be in you, go in peace.