

August 8, 2021 – 10:15 AM

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Pastor Ken:** Good Morning, welcome worship here at First Presbyterian Church of Chippewa Falls. I am so glad that we can worship together, both in person and on ZOOM as well.

**Announcements:**

**Time of Centering:**

**Pastor Ken:** One of the things that I am working on most days, is to take just a few minutes to be quiet before God—and center my day thinking about God. It just slows down my pulse, and helps me to get a better focus for the day. So, I want to invite you to get comfortable, sit back and relax. Take a couple of deep breaths, close your eyes, and think about God being present with you, where you are, right now. Breathe in God’s peace, and slowly exhale your anxieties and fears. Breathe in God’s Peace, and exhale your anxieties and fears. Take a moment to savor that and to invite God’s Spirit to be present with you, and with each of us as we seek to worship God together. (PAUSE) **AMEN,**

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: So then, putting away falsehood let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors.

**All: Let no evil talk come out of our mouths, but only what is useful for building up.**

One: Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal.

**All: Let us be kind to one another, tenderhearted, and forgive one another.**

One: Let us worship god!

**INVITATION TO CONFESSION:**

If we claim that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But, if we confess our sin, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sin, and will cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us confess our sin before God and our neighbors. (I John 1; 8 & 9)

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**All: Merciful God, we confess that we have often failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love. We have not love our neighbors, and have refused to hear the cry of the needy. Forgive us we pray, and free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

(Take a moment for silent, personal confession).

**AMEN.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON:**

One: Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old is gone, the new has come. Friends, Hear and believe the Good News.

**All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

#### **FIRST SCRIPTURE READING:**

##### **2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33**

The king ordered Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, "Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom." And all the people heard when the king gave orders to all the commanders concerning Absalom.

So the army went out into the field against Israel; and the battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim. The men of Israel were defeated there by the servants of David, and the slaughter there was great on that day, twenty thousand men. The battle spread over the face of all the country; and the forest claimed more victims that day than the sword.

Absalom happened to meet the servants of David. Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak. His head caught fast in the oak, and he was left hanging between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on.

And ten young men, Joab's armor-bearers, surrounded Absalom and struck him, and killed him.

Then the Cushite came; and the Cushite said, "Good tidings for my lord the king! For the Lord has vindicated you this day, delivering you from the power of all who rose up against you." The king said to the Cushite, "Is it well with the young man Absalom?" The Cushite answered, "May the enemies of my lord the king, and all who rise up to do you harm, be like that young man."

The king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept; and as he went, he said, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

#### **SECOND SCRIPTURE:**

##### **Ephesians 4: 1-16**

###### ***To Be Mature***

**4: 1-3** In light of all this, here's what I want you to do. While I'm locked up here, a prisoner for the Master, I want you to get out there and walk—better yet, run!—on the road God called you to travel. I don't want any of you sitting around on your hands. I don't want anyone strolling off, down some path that goes nowhere. And mark that you do this with humility and discipline—not in fits and starts, but steadily, pouring yourselves out for each other in acts of love, alert at noticing differences and quick at mending fences.

**4-6** You were all called to travel on the same road and in the same direction, so stay together, both outwardly and inwardly. You have one Master, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who rules over all, works through all, and is present in all. Everything you are and think and do is permeated with Oneness.

**7-13** But that doesn't mean you should all look and speak and act the same. Out of the generosity of Christ, each of us is given his own gift. The text for this is,

He climbed the high mountain,

He captured the enemy and seized the booty,

He handed it all out in gifts to the people.

Is it not true that the One who climbed up also climbed down, down to the valley of earth? And the One who climbed down is the One who climbed back up, up to highest heaven. He handed out gifts above and below, filled heaven with his gifts, filled earth with his gifts. He handed out gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher to train Christ's followers in skilled servant work, working within Christ's body, the church, until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ.

**14-16** No prolonged infancies among us, please. We'll not tolerate babes in the woods, small children who are an easy mark for impostors. God wants us to grow up, to know the whole truth and tell it in love—like Christ in everything. We take our lead from Christ, who is the source of everything we do. He keeps us in step with each other. His very breath and blood flow through us, nourishing us so that we will grow up healthy in God, robust in love.

**SERMON:**

**“Do You Want to Dance?”**

**Rev. Ken Ribe**

**CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION:**

**POSTLUDE:**