

**First Presbyterian Church
Chippewa Falls, WI
Worship Service
August 23, 2020 9:30 am**

Regulars and visitors alike, thank you for being here and bringing your worship to share with us. To enhance everyone's worship experience, please silence your cell phones. Thanks for helping.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: If it had not been the Lord who was on our side – let the people now say.

All: If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us.

One: The flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us;

All: We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

One: Let us worship God!

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

We give you all praise, O God of salvation. We come with devotion to you, O Christ, our redeemer. We honor you, O Holy Spirit, our source of encouragement: one God who sustains us with your love and your presence. Hear our words of reverence as we bow down before you. Grace us with your presence, that we may learn of your way.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Gracious God, forgive us for allowing living water to be fouled. There are times when we blame you for all our troubles, and cast upon you the waste in our lives. Our wants are insatiable through misuse of your mercy; we tap your good graces with unending requests. We let the waters of our baptism become barren and stagnant; new life cannot flourish when we don't do your will. Cleanse us through Christ, in whose name we confess to you, and bathe us with mercy to give us fresh hope.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

One: The words of Scripture remind us that "baptism now saves you, not as removal of dirt from the body by as an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ." Being baptized into Christ, we may approach God with assurance that Christ intercedes on our behalf, and we may hear once again that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OLD TESTAMENT READING:

Psalm 124

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side—let Israel now say—if it had not been the Lord who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us, then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us; then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us; then over us would have gone the raging waters. Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us as prey to their teeth. We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

GOSPEL READING:

Matthew 16: 13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

SERMON:

“Jesus The Rockhound”

Pastor Sandee Kosmo

CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION:

POSTLUDE: