

**First Presbyterian Church
Chippewa Falls, WI
Worship Service
August 29, 2021 – 10:15 AM**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to anger.

All: Let us welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save our souls.

One: Be doers of the word, and not merely hearers, so you may be blessed in all you do.

All: Pure religion is to care for orphans and widows and not to be stained by the world.

One: Let us worship God!

INVITATION TO CONFESSION:

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need. Let us ask God to forgive us. (Heb. 4:14, 16)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

All: God of strength and might, we confess our neglect of salvation's armor. We have not girded our loins with truth. The breastplate of righteousness is tarnished by our lax behavior. Our feet are caked with mud from battles fought unshod by the gospel of peace. We have laid aside the shield of faith, and weakened our defense in a hostile world. Help us once again to don the helmet of salvation and to raise the sword of the word against the powers that oppose you, so that in all our struggles we may rely solely on your strength.

One: Hear for your comfort the words of Paul: "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Accept your forgiveness and rejoice in a love stronger than our sin.

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

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING:**Song of Solomon 2:8-13**

The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills. My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look, there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice. My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away."

GOSPEL:**Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition." Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile."

"For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

SERMON:**Gene Peissig****CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION:****POSTLUDE:**