

**First Presbyterian Church  
Chippewa Falls, WI  
Worship Service  
December 26, 2021 – 10:15 AM**

**PRELUDE:**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights!

**All: All the shining stars praise you, O God, for you commanded and they were created.**

One: Praise the Lord from the earth, young men and women alike, old and young together!

**All: Let everyone praise the name of the Lord, for your glory is above earth and heaven.**

One: Let us worship God!

**INVITATION TO CONFESSION, PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON:**

One: 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)

**All: Eternal God, our judge and redeemer, we confess that we have tried to hide from you, for we have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves, and turned from our neighbors. We have refused to bear the troubles of others. We have ignored the pain of the world, and passed by the hungry, the poor and the oppressed.**

**O God, in your great mercy forgive our sin and free us from selfishness, that we may choose your will and obey your commandments; through Jesus Christ our Savior.**

One: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. May the God of mercy, who forgives us all our sins strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

**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:**

**Psalm 148**

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host! Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created. He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command! Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven. He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, or the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the Lord!

**GOSPEL:**

**Luke 2:41-52**

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

**SERMON:**

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**Rev. Gary Hedding**

**CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION:**

**POSTLUDE:**