

**First Presbyterian Church
Chippewa Falls, WI
Worship Service
January 3, 2021 – 10:15 AM**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away.

All: They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion; they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord.

One: I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

All: For thus says the Lord: proclaim, give praise, and say, “Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel.”

One: Let us worship God!

HYMN: “We Three Kings of Orient Are” vs. 1 and 4 #66

INVITATION TO CONFESSION:

One: It is good to sing you our praises, O God, for you are gracious and a song of praise is fitting. You heal the brokenhearted and bind up their wounds. You determine the number of stars and give them their names. Your greatness abounds and your understanding is beyond measure. We will sing to you hymns of thanksgiving and make melody with songs of praise. As you take pleasure in those who hope in your steadfast love, be pleased with our worship as we lift our voices in glad adoration.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

All: Gracious God, you chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless, yet we do not love our brothers and sisters as he taught. You destined us for adoption as your children through Jesus Christ, yet we take our status for granted and fail to obey Christ when he calls us to follow. With all wisdom and insight you have made known to us the mystery of your will, yet we stubbornly refuse to study your Word. Forgive our sin, O God, and help us set our hope on Christ that we may live for the praise of his glory.

One: In Christ, when we heard the word of truth, the gospel of our salvation, and believed in him, we were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit. This is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God’s own people, to the praise of his glory. In this promise lies our assurance, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

HYMN: "As with Gladness Men of Old"

vs. 1 and 2

63

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING:

Jeremiah 31: 7-14

For thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

GOSPEL:

John 1 (1-9) 10-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

SERMON: “Grace at the Gym”

Rev. Gary Hedding

HYMN: “Angels We Have Heard on High”

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CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION:

POSTLUDE: