

**First Presbyterian Church
Chippewa Falls, WI
Worship Service
January 15, 2023 – 10: 15 AM**

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: When I waited patiently for you, O God, you bent down to me and heard my cry.

All: You put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.

One: I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O Lord.

All: Do not, O Lord, withhold your mercy from me; let your steadfast love and faithfulness keep me safe forever.

One: Let us worship God!

HYMN

“Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine!”

No.341

INVITATION TO CONFESSION, PRAYER OF CONFESSION, 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: Our desire is to do your will, O God; your law is in our hearts. But when misfortunes beyond counting press from all sides, and iniquities overtake us, our sight fails. When we are tempted by the vain promises of a life full of ease, our courage forsakes us and we submit to their charm. When enemies overpower us and mock our faith, we shrink back in disgrace and abandon what Christ taught. O God, we are poor and in need. You are our help and salvation. Come to our aid and make no delay.

One: Hear the good news. This statement is true and should be universally accepted. Christ Jesus came into the world to rescue sinners. He personally bore our sin in his body on the cross so that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good. Friends hear and believe the Good News: (I Timothy 1:15 and I Peter 2:24)

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

SONG RESPONSE

“Gloria Patri”

No.579

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: Having received forgiveness and grace, let us share the peace of Christ with one another. May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, THE LORD’S PRAYER

GOSPEL:**John 1:29-42****[Pew Bible N.T. p.92]**

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

NEW TESTAMENT:**Ephesians 1:13-23**

[The Message Translation]

It’s in Christ that you, once you heard the truth and believed it (this Message of your salvation), found yourselves home free, signed, sealed, and delivered by the Holy Spirit. This down payment from God is the first installment on what’s coming, a reminder that we’ll get everything God has planned for us, a praising and glorious life.

That’s why, when I heard of the solid trust you have in the Master Jesus and your outpouring of love to all the followers of Jesus, I couldn’t stop thanking God for you—every time I prayed, I’d think of you and give thanks. But I do more than thank. I ask—ask the God of our Master, Jesus Christ, the God of glory—to make you intelligent and discerning in knowing him personally, your eyes focused and clear, so that you can see exactly what it is he is calling you to do, grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life he has for his followers, oh, the utter extravagance of his work in us who trust him—endless energy, boundless strength!

All this energy issues from Christ: God raised him from death and set him on a throne in deep heaven, in charge of running the universe, everything from galaxies to governments, no name and no power exempt from his rule. And not just for the time being, but forever. He is in charge of it all, has the final word on everything. At the center of all this, Christ rules the church. The church, you see, is not peripheral to the world; the world is peripheral to the church. The church is Christ’s body, in which he speaks and acts, by which he fills everything with his presence.

SERMON**“Jesus’s Church”****Ed Williams**

CLOSING HYMN “What a Friend we have in Jesus”

No. 403

CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE