

**First Presbyterian Church
Chippewa Falls, WI
Worship Service
Jan. 22, 2023**

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 15)

One: O Lord, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

All: Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right; and speak the truth from their heart.

One: Those who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends.

All: Those who do these things shall never be moved.

One: Let us worship God!

***HYMN “O Master, Let me Walk with Thee” (Verses 1&2) No.357**

***LITANY OF CONFESSION, PRAYER OF CONFESSION, ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: When the cross appears as folly instead of God’s Power;

All: Let those who boast, boast of the Lord.

One: When some demand signs and others seek wisdom;

All: Let those who boast, boast of the Lord.

One: When the favored of the world claim the favor of God;

All: Let those who boast, boast of the Lord.

One: We despise the weak and long to be strong;

All: God’s foolishness is wisdom; God’s weakness is strength.

One: We despise the ignorant and seek to be wise;

All: God’s foolishness is wisdom; God’s weakness is strength.

One: We despise the lowly and struggle for status;

All: God’s foolishness is wisdom; God’s weakness is strength.

One: 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. (Hebrews 4:14, 16)

One: The Lord is merciful and gracious; slow to get angry and full of unfailing love. God will not constantly accuse us, nor remain angry forever. God does not deal with us as we deserve, for God's unfailing love is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. Thanks be to God, that through Jesus Christ, God has removed our rebellious acts as far away as the east is from the west!

One: Friends, hear and believe the good news.

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

HYMN OF PREPERATION

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead us"

No. 387

NEW TESTAMENT: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. ²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

SERMON "Jesus Stump Speech" Ed Williams

***CLOSING HYMN "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"(Verses 1&2) No. 372**

*** CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**