

**First Presbyterian Church
Chippewa Falls, WI
Worship Service
May 1, 2022 – 10:15 AM**

PRELUDE:

WELCOME:

Pastor Ken: Good Morning, welcome to worship here at First Presbyterian Church of Chippewa Falls. I am so glad that we can worship together, both in person and on ZOOM as well.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Session will meet in the library following worship today,

GATHERING SONG: **“Take, O Take Me As I Am”** **GTG698**

TIME OF CENTERING:

Pastor Ken: How are you doing today? How has your last week been? I hope we can set it aside for a few moments so we can invite God to make God’s presence known to us. I would like to invite you to sit back, relax and get comfortable. Take a couple of deep breaths, close your eyes, and think about God being present with you, where you are, right now. Slowly breathe in God’s peace, and slowly exhale your anxieties and fears. Breathe in God’s Peace, and exhale your anxieties and fears. Take a moment to savor that and to invite God’s Spirit to be present with you, and with each of us as we seek to worship God together. (PAUSE)

Centering Prayer:

Let your Spirit come,

Fall upon us now.

Let your Spirit come,

Fall upon us now.

Let your rain fall down,

Fall upon our souls,

Come and wash us now,

Come and make us whole.

Let your Spirit come,

Fall upon us now.

Let your Spirit come,

Fall upon us now. AMEN

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Psalm 30

One: Sing praises to the Lord, O you faithful ones; and give thanks for God's holy name.

All: God has turned mourning into dancing; we are girded with gladness and will thank God forever.

One: Let us worship God!

HYMN: "All Creatures of Our God and King"

No. 455 vs. 1-3

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

One: Jesus said, 'Come to me all you who labor and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light. Let us confess our sin before God and our neighbor. (Matt. 11:28-30)

All: Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you called us to be a servant people, but we do not do what you command. We are often silent when we should speak and useless when we could be useful. Have mercy on us, O God. Forgive us and free us from sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

One: Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us; Christ rose for us; Christ reigns in power for us; Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Friends, believe the gospel.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

SONG RESPONSE

"Gloria Patri"

No. 579

PASSING THE PEACE:

One: Peace be with you

All: And also with you

(There will be no individual expressions of Passing the Peace.)

BUILDING THE MORNING PRAYER

"In the mist of early morning, you are there;

In the fading light of evening, you are there;

You are there when we are joyful, you're there when we must grieve,

Yes in each and every moment, you are there."

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

HYMN OF PREPARATION: "Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore" No 377

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 30

I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up, and did not let my foes rejoice over me. O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me. O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.

Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name. For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved." By your favor, O Lord, you had established me as a strong mountain; you hid your face; I was dismayed. To you, O Lord, I cried, and to the Lord I made supplication: "What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness? Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me! O Lord, be my helper!"

You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 9: 1-19

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus.

SERMON:

“What If?”

Rev. Ken Ribe

HYMN OF PREPARATION FOR COMMUNION:

Hymn

“Here I am, Lord”

No 525 vs. 1,3

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS:

CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION:

BENEDICTION CHORUS: “Prayer of Good Courage”

POSTLUDE: