

**First Presbyterian Church
Chippewa Falls, WI
Worship Service
October 25, 2020 10:15 am**

Regulars and visitors alike, thank you for being here and bringing your worship to share with us. To enhance everyone's worship experience, please silence your cell phones. Thanks for helping.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP – PSALM 123

One: To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

All: Have mercy on us, O God; have mercy on us, O God.

One: As the eyes of subjects look to the hand of their ruler,
so our eyes look to the Sovereign our God, until God has mercy upon us.

All: Have mercy on us, O God; have mercy on us, O God.

One: Have mercy upon us, O God, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt. Our soul has had more than its fill of the scorn of those who are at ease, and its fill of the contempt of the proud.

All: Have mercy on us, O God; have mercy on us, O God.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

The works of our hands are gifts of your mercy, O God, and everything we have a sign of your love. If we have strength it is because you uplift us; when we have joy, it is on account of your grace. We praise you when you comfort us. We are afraid when you judge us in anger. With Christ to intercede, accept now our worship. May it be worthy of the care you show us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and follow in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR MERCY (KYRIE)

One: Lord, have mercy.

All: Christ have mercy.

One: Lord, have mercy.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

GOSPEL: Luke 18: 9-14

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

SERMON: "Mercy, Mercy, Mercy"

Rev. James Mohr

“THERE’S A WIDENESS IN GOD’S MERCY”

**All: There’s a wideness in God’s mercy, like the wideness of the sea;
there’s a kindness in God’s justice, which is more than liberty.
There’s no place where earthly sorrows are more felt than in God’s heaven;
there’s no place where earthly failings have such kindly judgment given.**

**All: For the love of God is broader than the measures of our minds;
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God’s word;
and our lives would show thanksgiving for the goodness of our God.**

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

CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

