

**First Presbyterian Church
Chippewa Falls, WI
Worship Service
September 5, 2021 – 10:15 AM**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Incline your ear and hear my words, and apply your mind to my teaching.

All: It will be pleasant if you keep them within you, if all of them are ready on your lips.

One: So that your trust may be in the Lord, I have made them known to you today.

All: The rich and poor have this in common: the Lord is the maker of them all.

One: Let us worship God!

INVITATION TO CONFESSION:

If anyone sins, we have someone who pleads with the Father on our behalf—Jesus Christ, the righteous one. And Christ himself is the means by which our sins are forgiven, and not our sins only, but also the sins of everyone. Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

(I John 2:1,2).

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

All: O God, Giver of mercy, in Christ's name hear us as we confess our sin. We speak when we should listen; we hesitate when we should act. Anger prevents us from working your righteousness; selfishness inhibits our responding in faith. We are called to proclaim boldly the dawn of your kingdom. But our shouts turn out to be mere whispers. Cleanse us of wickedness, and fill us with meekness. Redeem us in Christ, in whose name we pray.

One: Remember that "As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." So live as free people abounding in the hope of the gospel, for in Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

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

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING:

Psalm 125

Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people, from this time on and forevermore. For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous, so that the righteous might not stretch out their hands to do wrong. Do good, O LORD, to those who are good, and to those who are upright in their hearts. But those who turn aside to their own crooked ways the LORD will lead away with evildoers. Peace be upon Israel!

GOSPEL:

Mark 7:31-37

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

SERMON:

“Friends”

Rev. Terri Koca

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS:

CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION:

POSTLUDE: