

**First Presbyterian Church
Chippewa Falls, WI
Worship Service
September 26, 2021 – 10:15 AM**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise.

All: The prayer of faith will save the sick and whoever has committed sins will be forgiven.

One: Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed.

All: The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

One: Let us worship God!

INVITATION TO CONFESSION:

The proof of God's amazing love is this: while we were sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him we dare to approach God with confidence. Let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor. (Rom. 5:8 & Heb. 4:16)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

All: O God of mercy, you know our lives are but an illusion when we do not dwell in your favor. Our acts are but vapor when we do not obey your will. We boast of our good deeds, and flaunt righteous behavior, but they are conceived in arrogance and born of conceit. Forgive our deception and the damage it causes. By your mercy forgive us, and through Christ make us free.

One: Hear again the words of assurance. Christ is "the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, because a death has occurred that redeems them from transgressions.... For Christ entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf."

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 124:1-8

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side — let Israel now say — if it had not been the Lord who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us, then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us; then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us; then over us would have gone the raging waters.

Blessed be the Lord who has not given us as prey to their teeth. We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

GOSPEL:

Mark 9:38-50

John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

"For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

SERMON:

Rev. Gary Hedding

CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION:

POSTLUDE: