

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF IONIA
MARCH 11, 2018
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

CHIMES OF THE HOUR

INTROIT (INSERT)

"You Are My Hiding Place"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his
steadfast love endures forever.

**Congregation: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
those he redeemed from trouble and
gathered in from all the lands.**

Pastor: Some were sick through their sinful ways, and
because of their iniquities endured affliction; they
loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the
gates of death.

*THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE STAND

**Congregation: Then they cried to the Lord in their
trouble, and he saved them from their
distress.**

Pastor: He sent forth his word and healed them, and
delivered them from destruction.

**Congregation: Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast
love, for his wonderful works to
humankind.**

Pastor: And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of
his deeds with songs of joy.

*HYMN (INSERT)

“All Are Welcome”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in Unison)

**Merciful God, in our deserts we hunger for amusements
that do not nourish and thirst for distractions that do
not satisfy. We speak against you because of the hard
places we are in, and complain about your provisions**

for us because they do not seem to be enough. In our anxiety, we allow drama to consume our days, and restlessness to disturb our nights. So rarely are we ready to accept your grace, because we are so used to our way but have no regard for your way. Forgive us for the sin of mistrust we commit against you, and save us from all our distress.

KYRIE HYMN 572

*“Lord, have mercy upon us, Christ have mercy upon us,
Lord have mercy upon us.”*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The Lord our Maker does indeed provide all our needs. He even calls us out of the deserts we make. Though God knows all our sins he chooses to be merciful and redeem. For this reason God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be

saved through him. Everyone who looks to him will not perish but have eternal life. In the name of the only Son of God, Jesus Christ, in whom we believe, I declare to you our sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: Christ has given us peace that surpasses all understanding. The peace of Christ be with you!

Congregation: The peace of Christ be with you also!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kathy VanSyckle

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Liturgist: *Numbers 21:4-9*

Page 134 Pew Bible

Liturgist: The word of the Lord!

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Pastor: *John 3:14-21*

Page 924 Pew Bible

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord!

Congregation: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

SERMON

"Impatient on the Way" - Dr. Chris Dorn

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Page 14 - Hymnal
The Apostles' Creed

*HYMN 85

"What Wondrous Love Is This"

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ending with "The Lord's
Prayer" Page 16 in Hymnal

OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY

Hymn 592

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 487

"When Morning Gilds the Skies"

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Please sign the red attendance folder in your pew, sharing your name with those near you and making formal your gift to God of this hour. If you give your complete address and phone number, we will keep you informed about upcoming events.

Serving in Worship Today:

Guest Speaker: Dr. Chris Dorn; *Liturgist:* Robert Sykes

Greeters and Ushers: Shelly Reglin, Bill Robinson, Evelyn

Ransom; Fellowship: Christian Ed

Serving in Worship next Sunday:

Guest Speaker: Dr. Chris Dorn; *Liturgist:* Marilyn McKay

Greeters and Ushers: Duane and Judi Emlinger, Lee

Hunsberger; Children's Message: Sue Thompson

Elders serving on Session: Dr. Jan Arnold, Judi Emlinger, Lavonna Hoover, Lee Hunsberger, Evelyn Ransom, Sue Reglin, Dr. Keith Sterner, Kathy VanSyckle, Mary Williams

Music Fund: Elder Bill Robinson

Shaver Children's Fund: Elder Judi Emlinger

Head Start Initiative: Elder Sue Thompson

Clerk, Margaret Gregory

Treasurers, Barb Klenk and Norma Kilpatrick

Music Leader

Mike Kaufman

Harkness Handbell Choir Director

Cindy Rozich

Administrative Assistant

Deb Montgomery

Custodian

Steve Slaughter

COME ENJOY!

Retirees Fellowship: Norma Kilpatrick, President (527-4144)

good friendship, good activities, 3rd Thursday

Quilters Fellowship: Carol Shier, Chairperson (616-755-0963)

fun, fellowship, and helping hearts 9:30 a.m. Wednesday

Prayer Shawl Group: Evelyn Ransom and Mary Williams, Co-

Chairs Making lap robes and shawls for those who need them

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Bless, O Lord, the one you are sending to be our next pastor.

When that person is joyful, guide that person to be prayerful.

When that person is tempted, stay by that person. In all seasons send that person the companions you intend and the good judgment and good heart to embrace them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Christian Education Committee hopes to receive your cans and bottles to redeem for their deposits, as well as your exhausted ink cartridges.

Your help is needed for Sunday Fellowship hour and altar flowers.

Please remember to sign up.

It is again time for our church to pay our Per Capita to Presbytery.

For members who would like to help out our church 2018 budget,

the per capita amount for 2018 is \$28.98 per member. The

apportionment rates are General Assembly \$7.73, Synod of the Covenant \$3.25 and Presbytery of Lake Michigan \$18.00. When paid, please indicate \$28.98 is for your per capita. Our per capita amount, which is due to presbytery January 20, 2018, and already paid, is \$2,231.46 and is based on 77 active members as of 12/31/16. Thank you.

During Lent the First Christian Church on Washington St., Ionia, will be hosting Lenten lunches at noon every Wednesday, featuring guest speakers and devotions.

We will be collecting items Sunday March 11th and March 18th for the IM3 Program. The Mission offering for March 4th will be for IM3 program also.

CALENDAR

- 3/11 Daylight Savings Time begins
8:30 A.M. Harkness Handbells practice
10:00 A.M. Worship - Guest speaker, Dr. Chris Dorn
Sunday School
11:00 A.M. Fellowship and Refreshments
- 3/14 9:30 A.M. Quilters
12:00 P.M. Lenten Lunch at First Christian Church
Deb out of the office
- 3/15 2-4 P.M. Prayer Shawl Group meets
Deb out of the office
- 3/18 8:30 A.M. Harkness Handbells practice
10:00 A.M. Worship - Guest speaker, Dr. Chris Dorn
Sunday School
11:00 A.M. Fellowship and Refreshments
- 3/19 7:00 P.M. Session Meets
- 3/20 9:00 A.M. Newsletter deadline for April newsletter
- 3/21 9:30 A.M. Quilters
12:00 P.M. Lenten Lunch at First Christian Church
- 3/22 2-4 P.M. Prayer Shawl Group meets

SEE WHO WE ARE

Christian Service Center

clothing and household goods we donate for neighbors

Crop Walk

walking or rocking we help to feed the world

Souper Bowl of Caring

homemade soup prepared and served to collect funds for local soup kitchen

March Into Reading

books we give to Head Start youngsters

Faithful Friends

Head Start classroom volunteers & family support

Ionia County Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen

groceries we collect and food we serve for a neighborhood center

Bear Buddies

near Christmas, we collect small stuffed animals for use in hospital emergency room, patrol cars of police officers, and spouse abuse center