

First Presbyterian Church - Lake Park, Iowa

www.fpclakepark.org Worship Service 10:30 am
Jan. 15, 2023 – 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Musical Prelude – Time to prepare your heart for Worship

Announcements

Call to Worship: "Psalm 66:1-4" (*read responsively, stand if able*)

L: Shout joyfully to God, all you on earth

C: Sing of his glorious name; give him glorious praise

L: Say to God: 'How awesome are your deeds! Before your great strength your enemies cringe.'

C: All on earth fall in worship before you; they sing of you, sing of your name!

Hymn of Praise: "Come, Christians Join to Sing" #225 (*remain standing*)

Call to Confession: (*read responsively, remain standing if able*)

As children, let us humbly approach God's throne of grace to confess our sins and present ourselves honestly before our Lord and Savior.

Prayer of Confession:

Lord, you call us every day to be your disciples and to be a beacon of light to other people, for it is in the faces of others that we see Your face. With humility, we beg your forgiveness for the times we don't heed Your call to discipleship, or even friendship with some people. Humble us in our own assurance and arrogance and remind us of the power of Your love, for we know it can soften our hardened hearts and bring us into the light of Your glory. AMEN.

Assurance of Pardon: (*read responsively, remain standing if able*)

Lord, just as we are standing here before You today in this, Your house of worship, we know that You can and will forgive us our shortcomings if we meet You halfway. We don't deserve it, but we are grateful for the love You pour out on us, Your children. Help us to seek your guidance and understand your unconditional love for each of us. Thank you for loving us. AMEN.

Gloria Patri: # 812

Special Music

Prayer for Illumination: (*read responsively*)

Heavenly Father, as we hear the words You want us to hear today, please open our hearts and minds to what You are trying to say to us. Keep us ever mindful that we cannot bring Your word into the world if we don't first sit and listen to it and reflect upon it. Help us come to the mountainside to hear what You would tell us if you walked the earth today, just as Jesus did. AMEN.

Reading of Scriptures

Old Testament: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

New Testament: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Hymn: "Thy Word" #184

Gospel Lesson:

John 1:29-34 Page #1647

Sermon: "Following the Light"

Affirmation of Faith: (*read responsively*)

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death or life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor power, nor height, nor depth nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. AMEN.

Offertory:

Doxology #815

Prayer for Tithes and Offering

Prayers: Sharing of Joys and Concerns; Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Thanksgiving: (Psalm 96: 1-2, 6, 16)

L: It is good to give thanks to the Lord

C: To sing praise to Your name, Most High

L: To proclaim Your love in the morning, and Your faithfulness at night

C: How great are Your works, O Lord, how profound Your purpose

L: As they proclaim, 'The Lord is just'

C: Our rock, in Whom there is no wrong.

Benediction

Closing Hymn: "They'll Know We Are Christians" # 429 (*stand if able*)

MINISTRY LEADERS

Worship Music: Denise Lev **Worship Leader:** Karen Schwaller
+ All members are ministers of Jesus Christ +

1/8/23 - Attendance: 18 Regular Offering: \$937.75

***Reminder: Per Capita for 2023 is \$48.35** 2023 Paid: 6



From our Presbytery: Pray for First, Schaller – Rev.
Michael Sydnor

If you have Pastoral Needs, please call the Office 712-832-3401

Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday 8:00 – 11:00 am

For urgent matters outside of office hours contact
Church Secretary Marcy Troendle (712) 320-3508

WATCH FOR new information in this area for the
church's office hours – new things are happening, stay tuned!



DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **Mon Jan. 16, 2023 – Martin Luther King Jr Day Observed**
Most Banks and Postal Service closed for business
- **Wed Jan. 18, 2023 – Wed Jan. 25, 2023: Week of Prayer**
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – see further details in bulletin
- **Sun Jan. 22, 2023: Sunday Worship Service**
SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 am Worship Leader – Rev Mark Volkers
COMMUNION SUNDAY – Setup Dick McClain, Assistant Jim Kessler
ANNUAL MEETING immediately following worship

Birthdays to Remember this week:

Loretta McClain – January 19th

Mike McClain – January 20th

Brian Kessler – January 20th

River Kelly – January 22nd

ATTENTION:

Annual Meeting – Will be held on Sunday, January 22nd, immediately following church service to review the past year's activities, look ahead to the New Year, elect new Elders and Deacons, and install the newly elected leaders. Annual reports and new church directories are available TODAY. No reports will be mailed, if you would like a copy they will be available this week during office hours 8-11 AM Tues-Fri.

Want to honor a special event or loved one thru sponsorship?

Reserve your special events for 2023. Sponsor a Newsletter: \$50.00 or a Sunday Worship Bulletin: \$25.00. Currently **most dates are available** to sponsor a bulletin or newsletter dates are available starting in March. Please contact the Church Office to be put on the calendar, or drop your payment in the offering plate in a separate envelope with the details we'll need. Thank you for helping our church with our weekly and monthly expenses!

THEME FOR WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 1/18-1/25

Do Good; Seek Justice (Isaiah 1:17)

Could any theme be more specific and more necessary at this moment? Whether we are tackling world unity, unity in our area, or within our congregation here as we seek to make changes with our upcoming annual meeting, as we undertake the prayers created for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, let us bring the honest questions and reflections that come when the gospel informs the truth of our past, present and future. As we seek greater unity, may it be in service to the love and justice God has revealed in Jesus.

See the additional handout for at home prayers, bible studies, and challenges for the upcoming week.

DAY 1) Learning to do the right thing

DAY 2) When justice is done

DAY 3) Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly

DAY 4) Look, the tears of the oppressed

DAY 5) Singing the Lord's song as strangers in the land

DAY 6) Just as you did it to one of the least of these... you did it to me

DAY 7) What is now does not have to be

DAY 8) The justice that restores communion

Sunday thought to Ponder

In light of the upcoming week of prayer for unity, and with next week's annual meeting where everyone will be focused on how to move our church forward for the good of the whole, consider these quotes:

Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced – James Baldwin

The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new - Socrates