

*** CHARGE AND BLESSING**

*** CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Give Praise to His Name. (Tune: No. 106)

*** POSTLUDE** "Trumpet Tune on Aurelia"—setting M. Helman

* The congregation may stand.

THE CONGREGATION'S MISSION:

"First Presbyterian Church of Red Wing is a congregation that seeks to grow in the love of Jesus Christ and to share that love with the community and the world."

PARTICIPANTS

In Ministry	The Congregation
Choir Director	Peter Dulak
Pianist	Lynn Dulak
Organist	JoAnne McNamara
Pastor	The Rev. Greg Bolt
Pastor	The Rev. Heidi Bolt
Lay Leader	John Plehal

FRIENDS AND GUESTS: Welcome to First Presbyterian Church. May God's presence be with us and God's blessings be upon us as we worship together today. Please join us for refreshments at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall (lower level).

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Blue Prayer Request cards may be completed and given to an usher or placed in the basket at the Sanctuary door.

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT ED DISCUSSION GROUP... meets every **Sunday morning at 9:15** (until 10:00) in the Conference Room. Each week a different topic is discussed, based upon relating current events, life issues, or theological topics to Christian faith. Come by and join in to deepen, broaden, and refresh your faith in Christ.

Welcome to Worship!

Fifth Sunday of Easter



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

503 West Sixth Street PH: 388-9584

May 14, 2017—10:30 a.m.

WORDS OF PREPARATION

Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in our lifetime; therefore we must be saved by hope. Nothing which is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history; therefore we must be saved by faith. Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone; therefore we must be saved by love. No virtuous act is quite as virtuous from the standpoint of our friend or foe as it is from our standpoint. Therefore we must be saved by the final form of love which is forgiveness. —Reinhold Niebuhr

ORGAN PRELUDE

"Cantabile"—arr. D. Lasky

(Paraphrase on a Chorus) "Judas Maccabaeus"—A. Guilmant

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Holy Risen One, we gather this day and we come as we are:

Many: we come from different places, we share one love.

One: Accept all we bring before you today.

Many: Accept our worship, we pray.

***HYMN OF PRAISE** No. 417

“Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”
(Prayer Request cards are collected by the Usher.)

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (unison)

Creator God, you made air and water, shape and movement, large and small, strong and weak. You gave your Son who laughed and wept, exposed and embraced, knew joy and pain, lived and died. Your Spirit moves wild and gentle, speaking and silent, challenging and affirming. Lord, we are inflexible: we cling to tradition, we resist change, we yearn for past securities, we reject risk, we are rooted in routine. Forgive us, Lord, and help us to let go of that which makes us hesitant, fearful, reluctant. May our praise today sing a new song. May our fellowship find harmony in your presence. And may we leave here holding on to nothing but your ever-changing, ever-faithful truth. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

***SILENT PRAYER**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: Christ is gracious and merciful, and does not hold our mistakes against us.

Many: **Let us rejoice once more at his promise to deliver us from all that enslaves, and let us rest in the assurance of his grace, which has always and will always be ours. Alleluia! Amen.**

***PRAYER RESPONSE** – Hymn No. 595

Alleluia, alleluia: alle, alleluia;
Alleluia, alleluia: alle, alleluia.

RECOGNITION OF MUSICIANS

A TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 19 (read responsively)

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Lead Me On!”—by Mary McDonald

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Acts 15:1-18

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

Rev. Heidi Bolt

***HYMN OF HOPE** (insert) “Lift Our Voices”

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (Brief Statement of Faith)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Petitions

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

(p. 16 in hymnal)

Response

WORSHIP THROUGH TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory: JuBELLation Ringers

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”—arr. B. Ingram

***Doxology**

No. 591

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

One: You have made no distinction, O God, between “them” and “us” in your new kingdom of mercy.

Many: **Accept our offerings and use them in the service of all, that all may know the one whose love sets them free, for the sake of Christ our Lord, Amen.**

*** HYMN OF TRUST**

No. 442

“The Church’s One Foundation”

Acts 15:1-18

15 Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, 'Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.' ² And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders. ³ So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the believers. ⁴ When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. ⁵ But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, 'It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses.'

6 The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. ⁷ After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, 'My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. ⁸ And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; ⁹ and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. ¹⁰ Now therefore why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? ¹¹ On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.'

12 The whole assembly kept silence, and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they told of all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the Gentiles. ¹³ After they finished speaking, James replied, 'My brothers, listen to me. ¹⁴ Simeon has related how God first looked favourably on the Gentiles, to take from among them a people for his name. ¹⁵ This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written, ¹⁶ "After this I will return, and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen; from its ruins I will rebuild it, and I will set it up, ¹⁷ so that all other peoples may seek the Lord—even all the Gentiles over whom my name has been called. Thus says the Lord, who has been making these things ¹⁸ known from long ago."

Psalms 19 (read responsively)

- ¹ The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
- ² **Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.**
- ³ There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
- ⁴ **yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.
In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,**
- ⁵ which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.
- ⁶ **Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hidden from its heat.**
- ⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the LORD are sure,
making wise the simple;
- ⁸ **the precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear,
enlightening the eyes;**
- ⁹ the fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring for ever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true
and righteous altogether.
- ¹⁰ **More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb.**
- ¹¹ Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.
- ¹² **But who can detect their errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.**
- ¹³ Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.
Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.
- ¹⁴ **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

“Happy Mother’s Day to all moms!”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST PREZ HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK:

TODAY, 9:15 a.m. – Sunday School
10:30 a.m. – Worship
11:30 a.m. – Fellowship
Mon., 05/15, 10:00 a.m.—Coffee @ Mandy's Café
7:00 p.m. –Goodhue County Horticulture Society
Wed., 05/17, 6:15 a.m. – Men's Book Study
Thur., 05/18, 7:30 a.m.—Women's Book Study @ St. James
Fri., 05/19 7:00 p.m. –Faith in Action presents "Christmas With the
Kranks" at the Sheldon Theater

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!! If you are able to help out on Sunday mornings by either being an usher, greeter or lay leader, please let Susan Crocker (Usher coordinator), Bonnie Lohmann (Greeter coordinator), or Chris Rayner (Lay leader coordinator) know. Also, there is a sign-up sheet for hosting Fellowship located on the kiosk next to the flower calendar for anyone wishing to help out. Your help is much needed and greatly appreciated!

GREETERS: Jane Ward

USHER: Mark Fairbairn

FLOWERS: Bit Skaar in memory of Marv

FELLOWSHIP: Betty and Jennifer Beck, Abigail and Georgia Schmaltz

REMINDER: The **deadline** for articles for the PreBits June/July issue are due on Tuesday, May 23 at **noon**.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE—Beginning Sunday, May 28, the worship service begins at **9:30 a.m.** We will worship at this hour every Sunday through September 3 (Labor Day weekend).

Food Shelf News

May's goal is to collect 75 cans of assorted fruit. Please be generous and help others have healthy meals. The cans of food items and/or financial donations may be left on the shelf in the lounge. Thank you for your help, support and generosity!

Join us for two Special Sundays in May

May 21— Youth and Confirmation Sunday

Join as we celebrate our youth and welcome into membership our two confirmands:

Justin Scheerer

David Scheerer

May 28 — Graduation Sunday

Join us as we celebrate our graduating seniors:

Shelby Chalmers Maggie Engnes Anna Kohlnhofer Emma Krajna

Nina Kriese Anika Nybo Kolbey Wiles

MAY NEWSLETTER: Hello all! We have recently updated the format of the PresBits Newsletter. With Easter and installation and illness, this one took longer than anticipated, but that's not unexpected. We also are working on creating an email version that may not be implemented until the next one. Thank you all for your patience and understanding.
--Julie Eastling, Chair of Communications and Media

So Blessed by You, Mom

*A mother who always cares,
A mother who's always there.
A mother who always prays,
A mother who always stays.*

*When things get rough,
When life gets tough,
When all is too much to bear,
God's Word she shares.
God's light she shines.*

So blessed God made this mother mine.

--Author Unknown