



United Presbyterian Church Plainfield
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March 12, 2023, Bulletin

PRELUDE – When Irish Eyes are Smiling

E. Ball

Welcome – Welcome to the United Presbyterian Church Plainfield, New Jersey. Please join me in the opening prayer.

OPENING PRAYER (An ancient prayer from the Book of Common Worship)

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us hear your word and obey it so we may become instruments of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Daily Lenten Devotions continue 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm via ZOOM.
2. One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) -
3. Midweek Service, Thursdays Noon – 1:00 pm (during Lent) via YouTube
4. UPC Annual Easter Egg Hunt will occur on Saturday, April 8, from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm.
5. 5. Good Friday service, April 7, 2023 – Fasting from daybreak till 3:00 pm. Prayer in the sanctuary from noon to 3:00 pm. A meal and joint evening service will take place later.

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Almighty, we acknowledge you as Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

We are gathered to worship you and to learn how to serve you better.

You are the Good Shepherd; we are your sheep.

Lead us into all truths.

You are the potter; we are the clay.

Melt us and mold us, so we reflect your goodness and grace.

Lord, you are all-powerful, all-knowing, and everywhere present.

Strengthen our resolve to serve you by following you.

OPENING HYMN (GTG) # 65

Guide me, O Thou Great Jehovah

RESPONSIVE READING

1 Chronicles 29: 8-9

So now in the sight of all Israel, the assembly of the LORD, and the hearing of our God, keep and seek out all the commandments of the LORD your God, so that you may possess this good land and leave it as an inheritance to your descendants forever.

As for you, Solomon, my son, know the God of your father and serve Him wholeheartedly and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches every heart and understands the intent of every thought. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING`

2 Timothy 3: 1-9

Understand this: In the last days, terrible times will come. For people will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, **unloving, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, without love of good, traitorous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. Turn away from such as these!**

They are the kind who worm their way into households and captivate vulnerable people who are weighed down with sins and led astray by various passions, who are always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.

Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, these people also oppose the truth. They are depraved in their mind and disqualified from the faith. But they will not advance much further. For just like Jannes and Jambres, their foolishness will be plain to everyone.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us humble ourselves in the sight of the Lord and confess our sins to God and before each other.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Based on Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins. Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. For I recognize my rebellion; it constantly haunts me. I have done what is evil in your sight. You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgment against me is just. Yet, I beseech you to have mercy on me and forgive me. Also, Lord, please create a clean heart and a right spirit in me, so I may worship you in spirit and truth. Let your will become mine, so your Holy Spirit controls my heart and mind. Then my ways will reflect your goodness -grace, mercy, forgiveness, patience, and self-control. In Jesus' mighty name, I pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE TEXT

John 12: 26

Anyone who wants to serve me must follow me because my servants must be where I am. And the Father will honor anyone who serves me.

THE MORNING MEDITATION

The Godly Servant

SILENT MEDITATION

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. Lead us away from temptation and deliver us from evil. For thine art the power, the kingdom, and the glory forever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN (GTG) # 430 Vs. 1, 3, 4

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

THE CONG. RESPONSE (GTG) # 601

Amen

POSTLUDE

My Wild Irish Rose

C. Olcott