

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Schaller, Iowa
January 26, 2025

10:00 A. M.
Third Sunday after Epiphany

Rev. Michael Sydnor

PRELUDE

Janice Ploeger, Organist

CANDLELIGHTING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Elder: As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

People: There is one body and one Spirit, just as we were called to the one hope of our calling.¹

Elder: Let us worship God!

*HYMN

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

#1

INVOCATION (Please be seated)

Pastor

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

Elder

Merciful and loving God, you have called us to be your people and claimed us for the service of Jesus Christ. We confess that we have not lived up to our calling to proclaim the good news in word and deed. We are quick to speak when we ought to listen and remain silent when it is time to speak. We put too much faith in our own actions and fail to trust the strength of your Spirit. O God, forgive our foolish and sinful ways. Strengthen us anew to follow Christ’s way in the world. By your Holy Spirit, give us the grace we need to be faithful disciples and fulfill our common calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.² (Time of silent prayer) Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor

*GLORIA PATRI #623

SCRIPTURE LESSON

First Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5

Elder

For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem’s sake I will not remain quiet, till her vindication shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch. The nations will see your vindication, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will bestow. You will be a crown of splendor in the LORD’s hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God. No longer will they call you Deserted, or name your land Desolate. But you will be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah; for the LORD will take delight in you, and your land will be married. As a young man marries a young woman, so will your Builder marry you; as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you.

Leader:

The Word of the Lord:

People:

Thanks be to God.

¹ Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 461). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

² Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 462). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." "Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now." What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

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

CHILDRENS TIME

HYMN "Amazing Grace" #202

SERMON "Abundantly Awesome"

A SERVICE OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION (see insert)

MINUTE FOR MISSION

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prayers of Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

Congregational Response #421 (Verse 1)

DISSOLUTION OF A PASTORAL CALL

The elder representing the session leads:

The church of Jesus Christ is constantly changing. Our church is changing as well. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. Loved ones and friends die. Newcomers join our community and our church. Others leave, moving on to new places and new opportunities. It is important that we recognize these times of change.

Today we say farewell to one who is leaving our fellowship. On February 1st, 2016, this congregation called Rev Michael Sydnor to serve with us as pastor.

Today that call comes to an end.

The pastor addresses the congregation:

I thank all of you, members and friends of Schaller First Presbyterian Church. Your kindness and support, your caring and love have sustained me, and I shall remember you with gratitude to God.

PRAYER

A representative of presbytery leads all present:

Let us pray for the saving presence of our living Lord:

Leader: In your world,

People: be present, Lord.

Leader: In this congregation,

People: be present, Lord.

Leader: In this community,

People: be present, Lord.

Leader: In this presbytery and the whole church,

People: be present, Lord.

Leader: In the homes and hearts of all your people,

People; be present, Lord.

The pastor leads this portion of the litany:

Let us pray for the mercy of the Lord:

Pastor: For work begun but not completed,

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For expectations not met,

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For wounds not healed,

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For gifts not shared,

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For promises not kept,

People: Lord, have mercy.

A session representative continues:

Elder: Let us give thanks for our journey together in this place:

For friendships made, for joys celebrated and for times of nurture and growth,

People: Thanks be to God.

Elder: For wounds healed, expectations met, gifts given and promises kept.

People: Thanks be to God.

Elder: For our fellowship in Jesus Christ, and for the love of God which has sustained us,

People: Thanks be to God.

THE DISSOLUTION

The presbytery representative addresses the congregation:

Do you, the members and friends of Schaller First Presbyterian Church, release Reverend Michael Sydnor from service as your pastor?

People; We do with thanks to God.

The presbytery representative addresses the pastor:

Do you, Michael, recognize and accept the completion of your ministry with this congregation?

I do with thanks to God.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY #625**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***HYMN "Take My Life" #379**

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION SONG "Freely, Freely" (V. 1) #447**

***POSTLUDE**

(*Those who are able please stand.)

A Service of Ordination and Installation

There are different gifts,

But it is the same Spirit who gives them.

There are different ways of serving God,

But it is the same Lord who is served.

God works through different people in different ways,

But it is the same God whose purpose is achieved through them all.

Each one is given a gift by the Spirit,

To use it for the common good.

Together we are the body of Christ,

And individually members of him.

Though we have different gifts ... Whoever among you wants to be great must become the servant of all.

Just as the son of man came not to be served, but to serve and to give his life to set others free.

(After the questions to the candidates an elder will ask the questions of the congregation.)

Unison Prayer

God of grace, who called us to a common ministry as ambassadors of Christ, trusting us with the message of reconciliation: give us courage and discipline to follow where your servants rightly lead us; that together we may declare your wonderful deeds and show your love to the world; through Jesus Christ the lord of all. Amen.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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;

he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;

he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on 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 holy catholic Church; the communion of saints;

the forgiveness of sins;

the resurrection of the body;

and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Resting in Jesus



An old hymn declares:

**I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Come unto me and rest.
Lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast.”
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn and sad.
I found in him a resting-place, and he has made me glad. (Horatius Bonar, 1846)**

Many people these days feel exhausted by division, the news, hatred that seems louder than love. More than ever, we who are “weary, worn, and sad” need to hear Jesus say, “Come unto me and rest.”

Jesus wants to be our resting place — but not so we can hide forever from reality. Instead, he offers a place of refreshment where we can relax long enough to remember that not everything is bad; there is gospel to share. Not everything is hatred; God’s love is stronger.

Resting in Jesus, we focus on God’s goodness. We are reminded of love shown by kind people to those in trouble, bold voices speaking for justice, warm friendships that brighten our days. Gladdened by rest, we rise again. Jesus walks with us, as always. We can lean on him every step of the way.

—Heidi Hyland Mann